

On Election Day November 8, 2022 there is a ballot proposal from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for a countywide transit system 10-year millage that is .95 Mills for each of the 61 Oakland County communities.

The first year it will generate \$66,163,000 for this proposed transit system. No community has the ability to opt out. If it is a majority vote on November 8th, then every Oakland County community is in, period.

Waterford Township currently has our own transit system with Western Oakland Transportation Authority (WOTA) with White Lake, Highland, and Walled Lake. This system serves senior citizens aged 55 and older, and disabled adults 18 and older to get them to where they need to go Monday-Friday each week except for government holidays when WOTA is closed.

For 2023, Waterford Township’s contribution to WOTA will be \$270,000 out of the Township’s general fund. If the countywide transit millage passes for .95 mills, then Waterford will pay \$2,460,907 – nearly 10 times what we are currently paying.

Please look at the chart below with the numbers for where we are, where we could be, and the significance in the increase in cost to Waterford Township as a community.

Oakland County Commissioners Transit Ballot Proposal	.95 Mills
Year-One Projected Revenue	\$66,163,000
61 Oakland County Municipalities CVT Avg. Per	\$1,084,639
Waterford Township 1 Mill	\$2,603,445
Waterford Township 1 Mill adjusted 99.5%	\$2,590,428
.95 Mill of adjusted	\$2,460,907
Proposed to WOTA - Min	\$2,000,000
Waterford's WOTA Portion	\$861,300
Waterford Current WOTA Contribution (Gen Fund)	\$270,000
Waterford Resident Properties	28,397
Waterford Average Taxable Value	\$73,181
Oakland County Transit Millage	.95 Mills
Tax \$ Per Average Parcel	\$69.53
2023 WOTA Cost	\$270,000
Total Parcels	32,063
Average Cost Per Parcel	\$8.42

\$8.42 is 12.11% of the projected average millage proposed tax of \$69.53

\$270,000 is 10.98% of the projected .95 Mill revenue of \$2,460,907

\$861,300 is 34.99% of the .95 Mill revenue of \$2,460,907

WOTA will remain in operation. If this new transit proposal passes, WOTA will receive no less than \$2 million the first year. The 2022 WOTA budget for all four communities is \$1,600,000.

If approved, the proposed countywide transit system would serve all people who need or want transportation.

Waterford Township is the most populated Township in all of Oakland County and having seen no statistics as to what Waterford Township's ridership increase is projected to be and the service area to which it will expand, makes it hard to imagine that a 25% increase in revenue will be sufficient to fund Waterford's expanded transit services. Remember, Waterford will be paying nearly 10 times more than we currently pay for this new expanded transit system.

The following is the current Waterford operating millage compared to the current Oakland County operating millage paid by Waterford taxpayers.

Waterford Operating Millage	3.5451 Mills	\$9,183,326
Oakland County Operating Millage	3.9686 Mills	\$10,280,373

The Oakland County Operating Millage is \$1,097,047 or 11.946% more than Waterford's Operating Millage.

Oakland County Parks Millage	0.3431 Mills	\$888,776
Proposed Oakland County Transit Millage	0.9500 Mills	\$2,460,907

Combined Oakland County Millages Paid by Waterford Taxpayers	\$13,360,056
Combined total greater than Waterford Operating Millage	\$4,446,730
Combined total % greater than Waterford Operating Millage	48.422%

The Oakland County operating millage and Oakland County parks millage are already in place. We already pay and have been paying those for years. As for the transit millage, Waterford already has a transit system in place with WOTA and it serves our community's needs. It is not broken and we do not need to fix it.

A countywide transit system is definitely in the very near future. We need to get together as an entire united County with each of the 61 communities' representatives and come up with a countywide plan that will work and service the entire county, not just a specific portion of our county. If everyone has to pay, then everyone should be able to benefit from such a millage.

Questions & Answers

Q. Why is there an Oakland County Transit Millage on the November 8th general election ballot?

A. On August 10, 2022 the Oakland County Board of Commissioners had a majority vote to place a countywide transit millage for .95 mills on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot.

Q. What will this millage cost me if it passes?

A. The proposed millage will cost taxpayers \$95 for every \$100,000 of taxable value on their property.

Q. How long does this millage last?

A. If this millage passes, it will be in place for 10 years.

Q. What will be the overall cost for this transit millage for Waterford Township taxpayers?

A. The first year, this proposed millage will cost Waterford taxpayers \$2,460,907. As property values go up, so will the amount of taxes generated by this millage.

Q. Can we opt out of this proposed millage?

A. The way this millage was proposed allows no community the ability to opt out. If it passes, every community in Oakland County will be taxed .95 mills.

Q. What kind of services will our residents in need get from this proposed millage?

A. The current door-to-door transit services that we offer Waterford residents through WOTA will continue, but at a cost of nearly 10 times what we are currently paying in tax dollars.

Q. How will this be a benefit to Waterford Township residents?

A. The way this millage is proposed, it will not be any more of a benefit to Waterford residents than it currently is, and again, at a cost of nearly 10 times what we are now paying in tax dollars.