

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MILLAGE OF 0.0400 OF A MILL PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 88 OF 1913 (MCLA 46.161) TO PROMOTE THE AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND TOURIST ADVANTAGES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY TO BE LEVIED IN DECEMBER, 2009 FOR USE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2010

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 21, 2009

WHEREAS, under Michigan law (Public Act 88 of 1913; MCLA 46.161), Michigan counties may levy a millage to promote economic activity in the county, region or state through several activities including advertising agricultural and industrial advantages, exhibiting products and industries, encouraging immigration and increased trade and advertising for tourists; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County and Michigan are experiencing an economic downturn that has resulted in high unemployment rates, the loss of over 8,000 jobs in the past three years, and reduced revenues for public needs; and there is an opportunity to provide funding for attracting economic development to the county and promoting agriculture and expanding businesses; and

WHEREAS, a levy of 0.0400 mills pursuant to Act 88 of 1913 would provide approximately \$603,000 annually in economic development revenue and cost a homeowner \$4.00 for every \$100,000 of his/her taxable value; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners is considering the levy of this millage to ensure continued support of economic development activities while enabling a comparable amount of general fund dollars to be redeployed to other public projects and services; and

WHEREAS, it is now proposed that the Board of Commissioners approve a millage of 0.0400 mills to promote the agricultural, industrial and tourist advantages of Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed that the 0.0400 mills, which will generate approximately \$603,000 be assessed and collected in December, 2009 to fund the following programs in calendar year 2010: \$200,000 for Ann Arbor SPARK; \$50,000 for SPARK East; \$100,000 for Eastern Leaders Group; \$59,000 for 4-H activities; \$27,000 for Horticulture Programming; \$15,000 for Agricultural Innovation; \$15,000 for the Food Systems Economic Partnership; and \$137,000 for the Department of Economic Development and Energy activities; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this millage is not subject to the popular vote requirement of the Headlee Amendment to the State Constitution (Article 9, Sec. 31), because the Legislative authorization for the agriculture and economic development millage predates the Headlee Amendment by 65 years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to the authorization of Public Act 88 of 1913 (MCLA 46.161), the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approves a millage of 0.0400 mills to be levied against all real property in the County, which will generate approximately \$603,000 to be collected in December, 2009 for use in calendar year 2010 to promote the Agricultural, Industrial and Tourist advantages of Washtenaw County with the proceeds of such millage to be placed into the County's Economic Development and Agriculture Millage Fund.