



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

1675 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

TEL 734.662.3246 800.653.2483
FAX 734.662.8083
WEB www.mml.org

Contact:

Matt Bach, Communications Director
Michigan Municipal League
734-669-6317
mbach@mml.org
www.mml.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 10, 2011

Statewide Millage Successes Show Michigan Residents Willing to Support Important Services in Local Communities

ANN ARBOR, Michigan - An analysis of statewide poll results on May 3 showed Michigan voters passed an overwhelming 80 percent of the millage requests before them, with 16 of 20 proposals in cities and villages having success in seeking tax increases for everything from police and public transit to libraries and mosquito control.

“This shows people are concerned about their local communities and are willing to invest in them,” said Carol Shafto, Michigan Municipal League board president and mayor of Alpena. “There is a general outcry for cutting taxes at every level of government—yet on issues that are important to them, the people of Michigan have shown they are willing to step up to the plate. This is proof positive that people will pay for what they care about, especially when they can see the value at their local level.”

Unfortunately, communities where millage proposals failed could see massive service cuts leading to a diminished quality of place at a time when Michigan is trying to attract and retain a population of all ages, especially our youth who are relocating at a record-breaking pace, said Shafto.

The trend of local millage requests is increasing because the state has disinvested in its own communities and refuses to help raise revenue, forcing municipalities to pick up the slack by whatever means they can, said League CEO and Executive Director Dan Gilmartin.

“Michigan voters proved once again that they trust their local governments more than they trust their state government,” Gilmartin said. “As the Legislature works to improve the state tax code, they need to consider giving voters more options for funding local initiatives. The results of this most recent election illustrate that.”

###

About the MML

The Michigan Municipal League advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services. For more information, visit www.mml.org.