

## Hartland Property Taxes May Rise Nearly 10% Vote August 3, 2010

Two ballot proposals totaling 2.21 mils will be voted on 8/3/2010. The current mil rate in Hartland is about 24 mils. An increase of 2.21 mils raises your taxes by 9.2%. These proposed tax increases are for a new library expansion and paving a few gravel roads.

**Is now the time to increase your property taxes by nearly 10% to fund new building projects?** Citizens have described these new projects as “nice to have” but not “absolutely necessary.” As a voter it’s up to *you* to decide.

**Local officials often schedule ballot questions to increase property taxes when voter turnout is expected to be low.** For example, in February a special election was held to decide a school bond proposal. Less than 16% of registered voters came out to vote. **That property tax increase passed by just 121 votes** (1492 to 1371). Can you afford to not vote and let others increase *your* taxes?

**Be aware that many municipalities in Livingston County are under financial stress due to the poor economy.** This was reported in Bloomberg News, a business and financial media organization. Here are some excerpts about Hartland Township from the June 23, 2010 article:

*“Hartland Township . . . came up \$951,000 short in collecting special assessments last year, representing 40 percent of what it is owed on debt service, according to a April 2009 report by Standard & Poor’s.”*

*“We still have to make the bond payments,’ said Wickman. ‘It may be an issue that we don’t have enough money to make that payment.’”*

*“Hartland Township will use loans from reserves to cover bond payments if taxes don’t generate enough revenue to cover debt service, he said.”*

Read the online article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-23/bond-defaults-stalk-wealthiest-michigan-communities-as-development-crashes.html>

**Will Hartland Twp need to soon increase your property taxes AGAIN to fund its debt obligations?** The answer to this question is not known, however, it may be best if we did not overextend ourselves given the state of Michigan’s economy.

### IS NOW THE TIME TO INCREASE YOUR PROPERTY TAXES?

**Get your absentee ballot at the Hartland Twp Clerk’s office: 810-632-7498**

Emailable flyer: <http://www.limitgovnow.com/hartland-property-tax-increase/>  
Email a flyer to your friends and neighbors. Print flyers and distribute in your neighborhood. Exercise your voting rights.

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