

# The Truth about the Cromaine Library Bond Issue

Untruths are being spread about the Cromaine Library bond ballot proposal. Know the straight facts before voting:

## Two Proposals for Cromaine Library:

1. Renewal of the current operating millage  
~ does not increase your taxes
2. Renovate and Expand the Village Library  
~ **necessary to preserve and maintain the buildings** and to control long-term operating costs, not "nice to have"

Maintenance costs should come out of operating millage revenue. A new tax should not need to be imposed for maintenance. Citizens are paying taxes already to maintain the library.

### They say:

- ♦ "We still have to make the bond payments," said James 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."

### The Truth is:

- ♦ Cromaine District Library is not part of the Hartland School District bonds or Hartland Township bonds. Cromaine Library's only outstanding debt is \$30,000 for the sewer assessment which was approved June 17 for ~~pay off~~ this fiscal year 2010-2011. **The Bloomberg article refers only to Hartland Township, not Cromaine.**

Citizens of Hartland need to be concerned about the financial health at all levels of government. An informed taxpayer should consider the entirety of his/hers tax obligation before committing to pay new taxes. The Bloomberg article specifically mentions the financial problems of Livingston County and Hartland Township. These problems could lead to a future tax increase. Taxpayers need to consider this as they decide whether or not to increase their taxes now.

### They say:

- ♦ "Will Hartland Twp need to soon increase your property taxes AGAIN to fund its debt obligations?"

This doesn't mean that Livingston County or Hartland Twp won't need to raise taxes to prevent a bond default.

### The Truth is:

- ♦ **Cromaine will not need to return to voters to increase property taxes** to pay the bond payments - it is a general unlimited obligation bond which meets each bond payment each year for its 25-year life.

All citizens of voting age should be afforded an opportunity to vote. Voting should not be targeted to only those groups referenced here. Elected leaders know holding the vote in August rather than in November guarantees a lower voter turnout. Is this how a democracy should work?

### They say:

- ♦ "Local officials often schedule ballot questions to increase property taxes when voter turnout is expected to be low."

### The Truth is:

- ♦ The August 3 primary election was chosen because this is when **our largest library user groups - older adults and young families** - are most actively using the library and most likely aware of the vote.

This is the key question that voters will decide.

### They say:

- ♦ **"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."

### The Truth is:

- ♦ The renovation and expansion has been in development for over 10 years - **now** is the **best time for construction costs and to create jobs.**

With Michigan citizens under economic stress, is now the best time to take on \$24,000,000.00 of new debt?

## Exercise your voting rights. Know the facts.

This flyer provides additional perspective regarding the upcoming millage vote on Aug 3. This flyer suggests that it contains "the facts" and that other points of view are considered "untruths."

It is unfortunate that providing voters with additional perspective is deemed to be "untruths" by the authors of this flyer. Voters will make the best decision for their community when civic leaders have done all they can to maximize voter turnout, and when voters have heard all points of view. In the case of this tax increase neither has occurred. Our leaders chose to hold the vote at a time when voter turnout is known to be low. Further, our leaders overlooked some key points of view that voters should to be made aware of.

With respect to creating jobs, Americans have already seen first hand that government stimulus programs, such as the trillion dollar package passed earlier this year, have done little to create jobs.