



2026 Millage Proposals

Park Millage and Police & Fire Protection Millage

Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet

(Last Updated 8/4/26)

1. What are the proposed millage renewals?

The **Park Millage** was originally adopted in 1984 and was last approved by voters in August 2014. The millage is dedicated to the maintenance and management of Meridian Township's extensive park system, pathway networks, and recreational facilities. The Park Millage expired in 2025 and is needed for ongoing facility investments and operations. The Park Millage would be 0.6503 mills for 2026.

The **Police and Fire Protection Millage** was originally adopted in 2017 and is used to fund police and fire personnel, equipment purchases, and address long-term pension obligations. The 2017 Police and Fire Protection millage expires in 2026 and is critical to maintaining the current police and fire services. The Police and Fire Protection Millage is 1.4563 for 2026.

2. How does the Township utilize these funds?

The Park Millage is utilized to maintain and enhance the Township's 30 parks and facilities. A few examples of recent improvements include new play structures at Marshall Park, Ottawa Hills Park, and Towner Road Park; five floating islands and wetland buffer in Central Park South; upgraded bathrooms with heat at Marketplace on the Green; new shade structure at Towner Road Park pickleball courts; Central Park pavilion remodel; and Harris Nature Center upgrades including a new split rail fence, railings on overlook deck, indoor classroom, and new features in the nature exploration area. In addition to these capital improvements, funds are also used for operational expenses, including staff.

The Police and Fire Protection Millage is used to support staff and operations of the Police and Fire Departments. When it was proposed in 2017, the millage was intended to support the hiring of two additional police officers and two additional firefighters. Those hires were made and are necessary to sustain the current level of service. The Police Department had 38 sworn officers in 2017, today it has 41 sworn officers. Calls for service increased from 17,926 to 21,173 during that same time, an 18% increase. Largely due to more robust traffic enforcement, citations also increased from 2,188 to 3,559, a 63% increase.

In 2017, the Fire Department had 5,169 calls for service, and in 2025 that increased to 6,805, a 32% increase. The millage supported two additional firefighters/EMS, and the department added another four firefighters/EMS, taking the current complement to 36 from 30 in 2017. The millage has also allowed the replacement of aging fire apparatus, including two fire engines, a ladder truck, and three ambulances. The current level of service helps the Township maintain a Class 3 public protection rating (Class 1 being the best, 10 the worst). This high rating helps reduce home insurance rates.

The Police and Fire Protection Millage has also been utilized to reduce unfunded pension liability. In 2017, the pension liability was only 58% funded and increased to 80% funded in 2025. While progress has been made, additional contributions will be necessary for at least another decade.

3. If the millages pass, how much would I be expected to pay as a property owner?

The average taxable value of single-family detached homes in Meridian Township is \$152,864. A home with this average value would pay \$322 per year (\$99 for the Park Millage and \$223 for the Police and Fire Protection Safety Millage). The average value of condominiums is \$91,599. A condominium with this average value would pay \$193 per year (\$60 for the Park Millage and \$133 for the Police and Fire Protection Safety Millage).

The following table shows approximately how much property owners would pay annually under these two millages. Please note that taxable value is often less than half of market value and cannot exceed 50% of market value. Therefore, the following figures are the maximum amounts a property owner would pay under these two millages. Most property owners would pay less than the figures shown because their taxable value is less than 50% of market value:

Property Taxes Based on Market Value of Home				
Market Value	Taxable Value	Park Millage	Police & Fire Millage	Total
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$65	\$146	\$211
\$250,000	\$125,000	\$81	\$182	\$263
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$98	\$218	\$316
\$350,000	\$175,000	\$114	\$255	\$369
\$400,000	\$200,000	\$130	\$291	\$421
\$500,000	\$250,000	\$163	\$364	\$527

You can calculate exactly how much you would pay by looking up your current taxable value by dividing it by 1,000 and multiplying it by 2.1066 (0.6503 Park Millage; 1.4563 Police & Fire Millage).

$$\text{Taxable Value}/1000 * 2.1066 = \text{millage cost per year}$$

How to Look Up Your Taxable Value:

1. Go online to this web address: bsaonline.com/?uid=1274
2. Enter your address, name, or parcel number and hit *Search*
3. Click on your property address
4. Scroll down to the *General Information for Tax Year 2026* tab
5. Look at the amount in the *Taxable Value* row

Both millage requests are renewals of existing millages, so their respective millage rates will be subject to reduction in future years due to state taxation laws, known as the [Headlee Amendment](#).

4. How does this millage affect the overall Township tax rate?

Since both these millages are renewals, the overall Township tax rate will not increase. The Township tax rate over the past several years, as compared to the 2026 rate, is on the following page.

Year	Township Combined Millage Rate*
2026	9.9373
2025	9.9610
2024	10.0682
2023	10.4227

** 2026 rate if the Park Millage renewal is approved*

Please note the Township Combined Rate does not include other taxing jurisdictions' millages, such as the State of Michigan, local schools, Ingham County, Capital Area District Library (CADL), and Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA).

5. When would the millages start and how long would they last?

Both millages would be 10 years. A renewed Park Millage would be in place from 2026 through 2035. The Police and Fire Protection Millage is still in effect for 2026, and the renewal would be in place from 2027 through 2036.

6. What happens if one or both millages fail?

If either or both millages fail, the Township would need to make budget cuts to address the revenue shortfall. The Park Millage will generate approximately \$1.6 million in 2026 and the Police and Fire Protection millage \$3.6 million. Since personnel costs represent 78% of Township expenses, losing this revenue would likely require reductions in personnel. Any personnel cuts would have implications for Township services.

7. Where can I learn more about the millages?

To learn more about the millages, please visit www.meridian.mi.us/Millages. This web page will go live after the August 4 Primary Election.

8. Who can vote on the millages, and where and when can I vote?

These millages will be voted on during the **November 3, 2026 General Election**, not the upcoming August 2026 Primary Election. All qualified, verified, and registered voters in Meridian Township can vote on these millages. To check where you are currently registered to vote, change your voter registration, find your polling location, or view sample ballots, please visit www.michigan.gov/vote. Information about early voting, how to return your absentee ballot, and overseas/military voting can be found at www.meridian.mi.us/vote.

9. Will there be early voting offered?

Before Election Day on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, all qualified, verified, and registered voters in Meridian Township will have the opportunity to vote early at an in-person location. Early voting for the November 3 General Election will take place from Saturday, October 24 through Sunday, November 1. Residents can vote from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on these days. The early voting site is located in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Township Municipal Building (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos). An early voting site operates similarly to a polling location that voters would use on Election Day. Early voters will be issued a ballot to cast their vote and insert it into the tabulator. Voters can also insert their absentee ballots into the vote tabulator at the early voting site.

For questions about early voting, please contact the Meridian Township Clerk's office at 517.853.4300 or clerksoffice@meridian.mi.us.

10. Where can I find more information about the November election?

For more information about upcoming elections, please visit:

- www.michigan.gov/vote
- www.meridian.mi.us/vote

11. Who can I contact for questions about the ballot proposals?

For all questions regarding the ballot proposals, please contact proposals@meridian.mi.us or 517.853.4258. Questions regarding voting can be directed to the Clerk's office at 517.853.4300 or clerksoffice@meridian.mi.us.

12. What percentage of the property taxes that we pay go to the Township?

About 20% of the property taxes paid by Township property owners are used to support Township services. The remaining 80% is distributed to schools, CATA, Ingham County, and other public services that rely on property tax funding. For a visual representation of how tax dollars are allocated, please click the link here: [Meridian Township Tax Bill Summary](#).

13. What is the ballot language for this proposal?

PARK MILLAGE RENEWAL

Shall the previously authorized millage to fund park development, maintenance and operations, established at 0.667 mill (\$0.667 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the Charter Township of Meridian and reduced to 0.6503 mill by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at a rate of 0.6503 mill, and levied for an additional ten (10) years, 2026 through 2035 inclusive, raising an estimated \$1,614,000 in 2026 of which a portion will be disbursed to other local units as provided by law?

Yes ___ No ___

POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION MILLAGE

Shall the millage previously authorized in 2017 to provide police and fire protection, established at 1.4830 mills (\$1.483 per \$1,000 of your taxable personal and real property) in the Charter Township of Meridian and reduced to 1.4563 mills by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at a rate of 1.4563 mills, and levied for an additional ten (10) years, 2027 through 2036 inclusive, raising approximately \$3,705,000 in 2027 of which a portion will be disbursed to other local units as required by law?

Yes ___ No ___