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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Kalamazoo County Special Education Millage Renewal on May 5 Ballot

On **May 5, 2026**, voters in Kalamazoo County will decide whether to **renew the Kalamazoo RESA Special Education Millage** for another six years. This is not a new tax. The proposal continues an existing **1.5 mills property tax** that has been in place since 2015 and renewed in 2021. This millage renewal would generate \$16.8 million annually to support mandated special education services in local school districts in Kalamazoo County. This renewal does **not** represent a new tax or an increase in the millage rate previously approved by voters.

#### How the Millage Supports Local Districts

Special education services are required by federal and state law. The millage helps districts cover the gap between the cost of mandated services and the amount they receive through state and federal funding. These funds support programs such as:

- School psychologists, speech and physical therapists
- Special education teachers and paraprofessionals
- Assistive technology and specialized instructional services

If the millage is not renewed, districts would still be responsible for all special education costs and would need to use **general fund dollars**, potentially affecting other instructional programs.

#### Election Information

Election Day is **May 5, 2026**. Voters can find polling locations, registration information, or apply for an absentee ballot through the **Michigan Voter Information Center at [Michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote)**. The deadline to register to vote online or by mail is **April 20, 2026**. In-person registration is available through Election Day.

#### More Information

Kalamazoo RESA has published additional information at **[KRESA.org/millage](https://kresa.org/millage)**, including a detailed FAQ, ballot language, and voting resources.

**About Kalamazoo RESA** – The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) is a critical part of Michigan’s education system serving the Greater Kalamazoo region and provides specialized services to schools and communities and optimizes resources by centralizing innovative programs and services. We partner with school districts and the broader community to offer essential programs including early childhood education, special education, career learning, and educator development, ensuring that learners of all ages receive the support they need. For more information, visit [kresa.org](https://kresa.org).

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