



1375 S County Farm Dr.
Ithaca MI 48847
989-875-7505 (Business)
989-875-2929 (Fax)
www.gratiotmi.com

Subject: Important Announcement Regarding 9-1-1 Millage

Dear Residents of Gratiot County,

We at Gratiot County 9-1-1 hope this letter finds you well. We are reaching out to you today to provide important information regarding the 9-1-1 millage proposal on the August 6th ballot.

As you may be aware, the 9-1-1 emergency service plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. It serves as the first point of contact in times of emergencies, connecting individuals to the emergency response teams, such as police, fire, or emergency medical services.

I would like to give some history of the funding of 9-1-1 in Michigan and Gratiot County so that you can understand why this question was placed on the ballot. Initially, funding for 9-1-1 services in Michigan came primarily from local and state government budgets. However, as the demand for enhanced emergency communication capabilities grew, it became apparent that a dedicated funding source was necessary to support the infrastructure and ongoing operation of 9-1-1 services.

In response to this need, Michigan implemented a 9-1-1 surcharge on landline telephone services in the early 1980s. This surcharge, typically a small fee added to monthly phone bills, was designed to generate revenue specifically earmarked for 9-1-1 operations and improvements.

With the rise of wireless and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technologies, which became increasingly prevalent in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, Michigan updated its legislation to include these services under the 9-1-1 surcharge umbrella. This ensured that funding kept pace with advancements in telecommunications technology and the changing landscape of emergency communication.

In recent years, Michigan has also focused on modernizing its 9-1-1 infrastructure to support Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) capabilities. These efforts aim to enhance the accuracy, reliability, and efficiency of emergency communication systems by integrating advanced technologies such as text-to-911, multimedia messaging, and enhanced location services.

In 2018 residents were asked to approve a surcharge rate of \$3.00 for all landline, wireless, VoIP devices to help fund Gratiot County 9-1-1. That ballot question was approved by the voters and remains in place to this date. This surcharge currently is the only funding source for the 9-1-1 center. In order to maintain and enhance the quality of 9-1-1 services, it has become necessary to address certain funding challenges. After careful consideration and evaluation, the decision has been made to propose a millage dedicated solely to supporting your Gratiot County 9-1-1 emergency services.



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We understand that any increase in taxes is a significant decision and not one that is made lightly. For the average home price of \$160,000.00 the proposed millage would result in an additional \$48 a year. However, we believe that the benefits of investing in our 9-1-1 emergency services far outweigh the costs.

Yours in Public Safety,

David Rapacz
Director