

School Resource Officer Millage Proposal

School Resource Officers

Understanding the millage ballot proposal

The School Resource Officer Millage Proposal

This proposal seeks to levy up to 0.4 mills over the next 4 years to provide licensed school resource officers in all Midland County public high schools. In its first year, the millage will raise **\$1.3 million** to provide start-up costs for the program, including vehicle and equipment needs and personnel expenses.

What is a School Resource Officer (SRO)?

According to the National Association of School Resource Officers, an SRO is “a law enforcement officer with sworn authority who is deployed by their employing police department or agency in a community-oriented assignment to work in one or more schools”. SROs also receive additional special training before working in their schools.

Job Duties of a School Resource Officer

Most often, SROs take on a mentor role with their students: serving as a positive role model, fostering positive relationships between youth and police, helping with problem solving, and providing a safe and supportive environment. However, as a licensed law enforcement officer, SROs have the training and authority to act and protect students and staff in emergency situations.

Schools that will receive SROs:

School resource officers will be provided by Midland Police Department and the Midland County Sheriff's Office. This millage will provide 5 new SROs as well as support the 2 current SROs in MPS high schools.

Planned allocation of SROs includes:

- Bullock Creek Schools (1)
- Coleman Community Schools (1)
- Meridian Public Schools (1)
- Midland Public Schools (4):
 - H.H. Dow High School
 - Midland High School
 - Jefferson Middle School
 - Northeast Middle School



Vote November 6

SRO Fast Facts

FAQs

7

School resource officers provided by millage

\$1.3

Million to be generated in the first year

\$30

Average yearly cost to taxpayers on a \$150,000 home

0

Cost to the school systems for this program

A two-year study from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario completed in 2018 found that for every dollar invested in the region's SRO program, \$11.13 of social and economic value was created.

Why are 7 officers needed?

The NASRO recommends 1 SRO be employed for each 1,000 students. To achieve this ratio, 7 officers are needed, including one at each MPS high school and middle school.

Will Midland residents be paying twice for the existing SROs if this proposal passes?

No. As a result of the millage being passed, Midland County will absorb the full cost of all SROs and the City of Midland will amend its 2018-2019 budget to offset the cost.

Can each school district vote separately instead of a county-wide proposal?

No. By law, the election cannot be split by school district, so the proposal must appear on all Midland County ballots.

When will the officers start in the schools?

Midland Police Department officers could begin in Midland Public Schools on January 1, 2019. Midland County Sheriff's Office deputies could be available as early as September 2019 in Midland County secondary schools.

Are other funding sources available, such as grants?

The City and County of Midland will take advantage of every opportunity for additional funding sources. If additional funding is found, the millage would be updated to reflect this.



For more information:



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