



Governments, Jails Take Biggest Hit In Local Proposals

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The \$1.9 billion in local ballot measures up for grabs and tracked by *MIRS* saw two categories of property tax proposals that failed more than others. They were money for local governments and jails.

Jails saw two-thirds of their millage requests fail in the *MIRS* [local ballot spreadsheet](#) after two of the three failed, but local governments saw a 57 percent failure rate after 11 of the 19 millage proposals were shot down on election night.

The big winner of the night was the ambulances and emergency medical services. All 22 local millage proposals dealing with EMS services passed. All 18 millages to support local senior citizens passed. Millages asking for services for veterans also hit 100 percent with four passing, and animal control hit the same with two asks.

Most millages on election night came through the traditional ask for local school districts.

There were 97 in total and there was a 77 percent passage rate with 22 proposals failing to reach a majority vote.

There were 77 total millages dealing with roads, sidewalks, or other portions of the streets.

Of these, 15 percent failed after 65 of the road millages were approved.

Of the large portion of local millages, those asked for by fire departments fared the best.

There were 64 proposals between public safety departments and fire equipment asks, which saw a 7 percent failure rate with 5 failing.

Libraries also fared well with just a 4 percent failure rate with only one of the 24 millages failing.

The cannabis space in Michigan grew during the Nov. 5 election with four new municipalities approving language that would allow them to opt-in to recreational marijuana. Royal Oak Township fended off an attempt to opt-out of the cannabis space.

The success rate for cannabis, however, was low with only 38 percent passing among the 13 proposals across Michigan.

Marijuana wasn't the only intoxicant on the ballot, with two proposals, one in Hadley in

Lapeer County and the second in Franklin in Oakland County, which would allow for the sale of alcoholic spirits at a location in the municipality.

A temporary moratorium on wind and solar power in Speaker Township passed in Sanilac County.

Another unique zoning ordinance also passed in the city of Sturgis allowing residents to keep up to six chickens on their property.

The housing millage for Ingham County, modeled after Kalamazoo County's attempt to help the homeless, also passed, but the attempt to raise the hotel tax rates failed (See "[Ingham County Patterns Housing Millage After Kalamazoo](#)," 10/23/24).

The final tally for the local ballot property taxes saw nearly \$421 million fail and more than \$1.56 billion pass out of the more than \$1.91 billion up for grabs (See "[More Than \\$1.55B In Local Property Tax, Bonds Pass So Far](#)," 11/5/24).