

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q** What are voters being asked to consider?

**A** The five Grosse Pointe cities and the city of Harper Woods are asking voters to consider a 6-year 0.35 millage proposal that, if approved by voters, will provide necessary resources and support to promote and protect the health and well-being of senior citizens in the community.

### **Q** What would the millage pay for?

**A** It will fund essential senior services like Meals on Wheels, transportation, care coordination and help provide additional services like a much-needed adult day program in the community, more home visits and taking programs to people where they live.

### **Q** How much would this cost me?

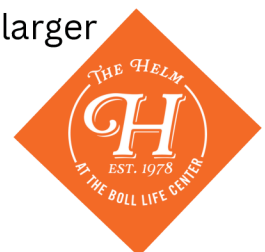
**A** If the millage is approved, a resident whose home has a taxable value of \$100,000 will be assessed approximately \$35 annually.

### **Q** What is my taxable value?

**A** The taxable value of your home is listed on your property tax bill, as well as the annual Notice of Assessment that taxpayers receive from their city assessor.

### **Q** Why is the millage needed?

**A** A millage is needed to enable The Helm to continue to support and increase health and wellness outcomes for our senior population. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments predicts that by 2028, citizens older than age 65 will outnumber citizens under the age of 17, a major demographic reversal. By 2030, 22 percent of the population in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods will be 60 and older. The Helm is challenged by its dependence on private donations. It is not feasible to continue relying on donations to meet current needs, let alone those created by a larger population.



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**Q** Do other communities have a millage for senior services?

**A** Currently, 72 of 83 counties in Michigan provide funding through a millage for senior services with additional communities covered through municipal millages or municipal budgets. Wayne County has not sought to raise money for senior services through a millage.

**Q** What happens if the millage is not passed in all six cities?

**A** If voters in four or more cities approve the millage, the millage will be levied in those cities. Residents in the cities where the millage proposal was not approved will pay higher fees for certain senior services provided by The Helm.

The millage will not be levied if the proposal fails to pass in at least four of the six communities.

**Q** Who will administer the millage funds?

**A** A commission established by an inter-local agreement among the six participating cities will provide oversight and accountability for millage funds. The commission will consist of one appointee from each city. An additional at-large representative will be appointed by one city according to a rotation schedule.

**Q** The Helm has done just fine for more than 45 years providing these services. Why can't you just do what you've always done?

**A** Philanthropic donations nationally have decreased about 2 percent year over year since 2020 and this decline is expected to continue for several more years. Any reduction in income will substantially affect what The Helm can provide at a time when the senior population continues to grow. To ensure we can provide these essential services, we must have a guaranteed income source.

