



Regional Transportation Millage Set to be on November Ballot in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties

The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) has developed a Regional Transit Master Plan, with the goal of providing a modern, reliable regional public transit system that connects residents in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties to jobs, medical care, shopping and more. The RTA's Master Plan can be viewed on their website at the following link: <http://www.rtamichigan.org/masterplan/>. Individuals can request printed copies of the plan by calling the RTA at (313)402-1020.

Key components of the master plan include:

- Increased funding for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Paratransit service, which provide transportation options for seniors and people with disabilities
- No option for single communities to opt out of the plan
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Woodward, Gratiot, Michigan Avenues
- Cross County Connector Bus Service
- Airport Express Service to population centers
- Regional Fare Cards

On November 8th, voters in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties will be asked to fund the RTA's master plan with a 1.2 property tax millage. This will cost about \$95 per year for a home with a taxable value of \$78,752, which is the average taxable value for homeowners in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties.

The RTA states that if the plan is fully funded, the new regional transit system will provide high-quality, transit access (within ¼ mile) to: over 946,150 jobs, over 1,125,450 residents, 23 colleges and 310 schools, 22 hospitals, over 100 grocery stores, 410 parks and 47 libraries, while also enhancing transportation options for seniors and individuals with disabilities, enabling more individuals to get around their communities independently.

For more information, or to find out how you can become involved in advocacy efforts supporting the plan, please contact Roberta Habowski, Mobility Project Manager at the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, at rhabowski@aaa1b.com or 248-262-9211.

Also in this Issue:

Are you ready to vote?

Check out the Senior Voting Guide on page two to make sure your voice will be heard in this November's Election.



November
8th is
Election
Day!

VOTING IN MICHIGAN

A GUIDE FOR SENIORS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Oct. 11th
is the voter
registration
deadline

Who can register to vote?

To register to vote, you must be:

- ★ A U.S. citizen,
- ★ At least 18 years old by Election Day, and
- ★ A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote.

How can I register?

You can register to vote for federal, state and local elections by mail, at your county, city or township clerk's office, or by visiting any Secretary of State office.

What if I have moved since the last election?

If your address has changed, you will need to update your voter registration using the State of Michigan Voter Registration Application. Mail the completed form into your city or township clerk's office.

What if I'm not sure if I'm registered?

You can check your registration status online at www.michigan.gov/vote or by calling your county, city or township clerk's office.

GETTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Nov. 5th
is the
deadline to
request an
absentee
ballot

What is an absentee ballot?

An absentee ballot is a ballot completed and typically mailed in advance of an election by a voter who is unable to be present at the polls.

Who can vote using an absentee ballot?

In Michigan, registered voters are able to request a absentee ballot if they are age 60 or older, unable to vote without assistance at the polls or expecting to be out of town on election day.

How can I request an absentee ballot?

If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you, your Absent Voter Ballot Application must be received by 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 5th. Make your request early to allow for delivery time.

How do I return my absentee ballot?

All completed absentee ballots must be received by the clerk's office no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 8th.

Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to your clerk's office.

GOING TO THE POLLS

Your Voter Identification Card, which voters receive in the mail after registering to vote, lists the address of the voter's local polling place. This information can also be found by calling the local county, city or township clerk's office. State law requires voters to show a picture ID or sign a form stating that they don't have a photo ID in order to vote. On November 8th, polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If a voter requires assistance to vote, the election workers can help. Two inspectors will assist voters in the voting station. A voter who has a disability may be assisted with their ballot by any person of the voter's choice.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have other questions about voting, more information can be found by calling your county, city or township clerk's office or visiting www.michigan.gov/vote.