

Ballot Language

Shall the Ionia Community Library, County of Ionia, Michigan, be authorized to levy a new additional millage in an amount not to exceed .98 mill (\$0.98 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) annually against all taxable property within the Ionia Community Library district for a period of twenty (20) years, 2022 to 2041, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for all district library purposes authorized by law, including but not limited to renovating, operating and maintaining a new library building? The estimate of the revenue the Ionia Community Library will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the Ionia Community Library in the first year (2022) is approximately \$426,000. By law, a portion of the millage collected may be subject to capture by the Ionia County and City of Ionia Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA)

Michigan Election Law mandates that any "capturing authorities" be listed in the millage language. Period. **ICL would be in violation of election law and could forfeit a ballot win if the BRA language was not included.**

From the *Michigan Economic Development Corporation*, The Brownfield Redevelopment Act PA 381 of 1996, as amended, allows a municipality to create a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to redevelop blighted property and contaminated parcels. A BRA is a resource that may use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as a tool for property redevelopment.

STATE OF MICHIGAN GENERAL PROPERTY TAX ACT

According to Sec. 24f. (1) If a taxing unit submits a proposal on the question of authorizing the issuance of bonds, imposing a new millage, or increasing or renewing an existing millage, the ballot shall fully disclose each local unit of government to which the revenue from that millage will be disbursed. *

*All legal counsel, including Foster Swift (the ICL's lawyer) have determined that the two Brownfields **MUST** be included in the millage question language because of this clause.

The City of Ionia confirms that it is not capturing any money from its one BRA property in 2022.

In 2008, when the Ionia County BRA was initiated, nine properties were put into the program, including one in the ICL District. At the time, the tax capture against the ICL was estimated to be \$27.21 over a 15-year period, or about **\$1.81 per year**. ICL concurs with this estimate.

For the entire report, see the [Ionia County Brownfield Development Plan](#)

