

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Oct. 31, 2024**

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Email: melissa@kingmedianow.comWebsite: KingMediaNow.com**“Eleventh-Hour” Complaint Dismissed**

ST. JOHNS, MI: A legal challenge seeking to remove a City of St. Johns millage proposal from the Nov. 5 ballot has been dismissed.

The [Headlee Override](#) millage proposal was originally approved by the St. Johns City Commission on Jun. 24, as reflected in the Commission’s [meeting minutes](#). The complaint, which alleges a violation of Michigan election law, was filed Oct. 18 with subsequent motions on Oct. 24 and 25. The City argued at a hearing on Oct. 30 that it followed the prescribed process as required by law, and that the Headlee Override [proposal](#) relies on language used across Michigan for navigating Headlee rollbacks.

In her [decision](#), Judge Shannon L. W. Schlegel cited the Michigan Court of Appeals which held, “A party guilty of laches is estopped [prohibited] from asserting a right it could have and should have asserted earlier,” calling the improper delay an “eleventh-hour challenge,” with the potential of “disenfranchising thousands of St. Johns voters.” Judge Schlegel dismissed the Plaintiff’s complaint in its entirety.

“We’re pleased by the swift decision by the Court. These laws are in place to prevent unjust claims intended to influence elections,” says Gamble, who adds, “The Democratic process and residents’ rights to vote on issues directly impacting the City of St. Johns have been preserved today.”

The City of St. Johns has a maximum tax rate of 10 mill. If the Headlee Override proposal passes, the City’s tax rate will increase 0.2182 mills restoring the City’s tax rate to 10 mill. This equates to an increase of about \$1.82/month for a property with \$100,000 taxable value. If the proposal fails, the City’s tax rate will remain at its reduced rate of 9.7818 mill. There is no circumstance under which the resulting millage rate will exceed 10 mill.

“For context, the amount of the rollback equates to the City’s entire recreational programming budget, or the starting salary for a police officer,” explains Gamble.

The City of St. Johns, Michigan is a historic community founded in 1856. Known as the Mint City due to its unique agricultural heritage, St. Johns honors its roots while also planting the seeds for thriving small businesses and industry hubs. The best of both worlds, the city offers a charming, small-town feel with an easy commute to downtown Lansing. St. Johns serves as the

Clinton County seat and provides a full range of municipal services to about 8,000 residents. Learn more at cityofstjohnsmi.com.

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