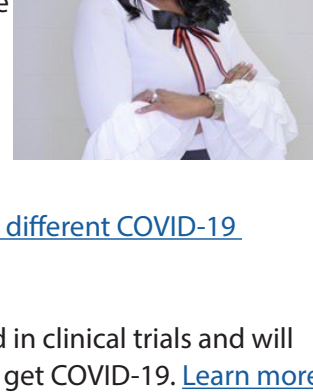




FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

BENEFITS OF GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE

On January 5, 2021, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released an article noting the benefits to obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination. In that article 3 main benefits were listed:



COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19. [Learn more about the different COVID-19 vaccines.](#)
- All COVID-19 vaccines that are in development are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and will be authorized or approved only if they make it substantially less likely you'll get COVID-19. [Learn more about how federal partners are ensuring COVID-19 vaccines work.](#)
- Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, [particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.](#)
- Experts continue to conduct more studies about the effect of COVID-19 vaccination on severity of illness from COVID-19, as well as its ability to keep people from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

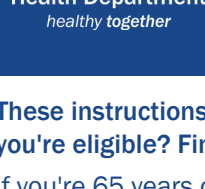
COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection

- COVID-19 can have [serious, life-threatening complications](#), and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you.
- Clinical trials of all vaccines must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use, including COVID-19 vaccines. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine for use under what is known as an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Watch a video on what an EUA is.
- Getting COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as immunity. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. However, experts don't know for sure how long this protection lasts, and the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without having to experience sickness.
- Both natural immunity and immunity produced by a vaccine are important parts of COVID-19 disease that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic

- Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.
- The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.
- Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. As experts learn more about how COVID-19 vaccination may help reduce spread of the disease in communities, CDC will continue to update the recommendations to protect communities using the latest science.

How to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine with WCHD



Last updated: 2/1/21

- These instructions are for those who are eligible to schedule a vaccine appointment. Not sure if you're eligible? Find out online at <http://bit.ly/wchdvaxsignup>
- If you're 65 years or older and a patient with Michigan Medicine, St. Joseph Mercy, the VA, or IHA we expect your health care provider to give you your vaccine. Please wait for them to contact you with an appointment.
- If you're 65 years or older and do not have a primary health care provider or are not a patient of the providers listed, you can complete a request with WCHD. See instructions below.

Here's how it should work:

1. Complete an appointment request online: <http://bit.ly/wchdvaxsignup> or call us if you need to request an appointment over the phone (734-544-6700). Please reserve phone lines for those who cannot use online resources.
2. If you are currently eligible, your survey will be accepted & you will be "in line" to receive a link (or call) to schedule an appointment. You will see a confirmation screen & receive an email if your survey is accepted. Check your junk or spam folder if you don't see your confirmation email.

It may be weeks before you receive a scheduling link. We do not have enough vaccine to schedule everyone eligible.

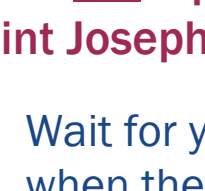
Things to know:

- If you receive a link to schedule an appointment, please do not share it. Scheduling links are meant for the person or group who receives them, so that we can be certain an appointment is available for those prioritized first under state guidance. We are working to improve the security of links & to correct scheduling errors.
- All vaccination is by appointment only. Do NOT show up at any vaccination site without an appointment. (No doses are wasted. Do NOT show up to request an unused dose.)
- Please be patient. Our staff is focused on giving vaccines. We're working to answer individual emails and calls as quickly as possible. Responses may be delayed.

Vaccine supplies are limited everywhere right now. Please be patient when waiting for an appointment. It may be weeks away, depending on supplies.

PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OTHERS. washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Seniors (65+)



COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and can help protect you and your family!

If you are a patient with Michigan Medicine, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, the VA, or IHA:

- Wait for your doctor to contact you. They will contact you when they have a vaccine appointment available!

If you are not a patient with these health care providers:

- Complete our Health Department appointment request form online: <http://bit.ly/wchdvaxsignup> (if you need help with the online form, please call us: 734-544-6700)
- Once you complete this form, you will be "in line" to receive an appointment. When we are ready to schedule you, we will call or email you.

If you need assistance at your appointment, please let us know!

Vaccine supplies are limited everywhere right now. Please be patient when waiting for an appointment. It may be weeks away, depending on supplies.

PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OTHERS. washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine

COVID-19 SUPPLIES

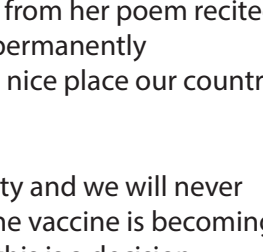
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Sign up to receive free adult or kids face masks, toilet paper, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, and/or paper towel.

First come, first serve. While supplies last. City Residents Only.

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON

Greetings,



Wow, the month of January has been anything but quiet and mundane. The first three Wednesdays have been turbulent, history making, and a turning of the page. We actually can call them the three "I's": Insurrection, something this nation has never seen before and something we can hope it never sees again; Impeachment, the second impeachment of a U.S. sitting President, something that has never happened before; and Inauguration a beautiful calm day for a turning of a page for our country, a transfer of leadership, something that happens every four or eight years. Sometimes we get our choice and sometimes we don't but the change still happens. Either way we must work together to protect our democracy, which gives us the right to have free choice. Unprotected democracy can be shallow and fragile. We must stand strong. In the words of the first youth national poet laureate from her poem recited at the inauguration, "While democracy can be periodically delayed it can never be permanently defeated." Let's all make a commitment to work together to get through this not so nice place our country finds itself. Things will get better.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is still with us. We have lost members of our community and we will never forget them. We are told it is going to get worse before it gets better. Fortunately, the vaccine is becoming available; help is on the way. I would like to see that everyone gets vaccinated, but this is a decision everyone must make for themselves. [Here is the current vaccination plan issued by the state.](#) Be strong and of good courage, we will get through this.

We want to acknowledge and extend our thanks to all of our board and commission members. We appreciate and are grateful for all of your service to our city. The city could not run without you. At this time we are looking for members of the community to serve on several of our commissions. We are accepting resumes. All information can be found on the city's website or you may call any councilmember or myself, we will direct you to the right form. We hope to hear from some of you.

As we are entering the love month, February, let's all take every opportunity to extend love to all those we encounter.

Wishing us all a fantastic month ahead. Stay safe, stay well and wear your mask, please.

Love is the answer,
Mayor Lois

MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER RHEAGAN BASABICA, CPA, CGFM

Local units that have a population of 4,000 or more are required to have a yearly audit. In the last census conducted, the City's population was at 19,435, which requires us to have an audit every year. For the FY ended June 30, 2020, the Financial Statement of the City was audited by Rehmann and has issued an "Unmodified Opinion" on these Financial Statements.

An "Unmodified Opinion" is issued by auditors to financial statements that were prepared in all material respect and comply with accounting standards being used as well as applicable regulation.

CITY ASSESSMENT PAMPHLET

WHAT ARE PROPERTY TAXES BASED ON?

On March 15, 1994, Michigan voters approved the constitutional amendment known as Proposal A.

Prior to Proposal A, property tax calculations were based on State Equalized Value (SEV).

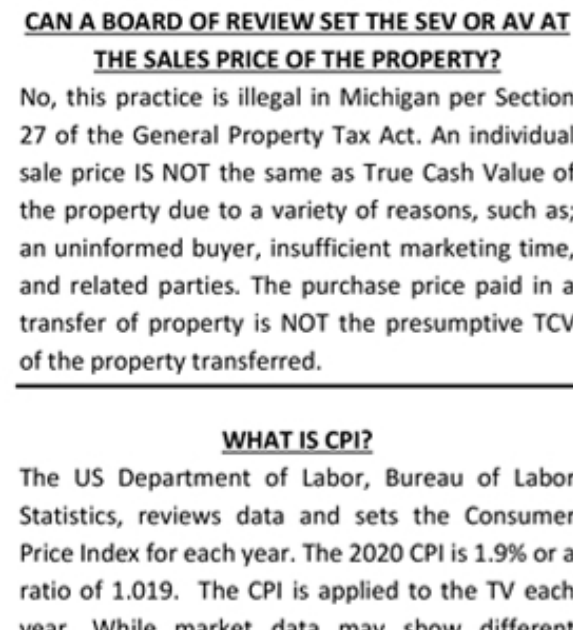
Proposal A established Taxable Value (TV) as the basis for the calculation of property taxes.

Increases in Taxable Value (TV) are limited to the percent of change in the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less, as long as there were no losses or the property.

The limit on TV does not apply to a property in the year following a transfer of ownership.

WHAT IS ASSESSED VALUE?

The Michigan Constitution requires that property be uniformly assessed and not exceed 50% of the usual selling price, often referred to as True Cash Value (TCV). Each tax year, the local assessor determines the Assessed Value (AV) of each parcel of real property based on the condition of the property as of December 31 (Tax Day) of the previous year.



WHAT IS THE NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT?

Each year, prior to the March meetings of the local board of review, informational notices are mailed the "Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification" also includes SEV, the percent declared as a Principal Residence, Michigan Business Tax, or Qualified Agricultural Property, and if there was or was not a Transfer of Ownership.

WHAT IS A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION?

If you own and occupy your home as your primary residence, it may be exempt from a portion of local school operating taxes. On your Notice of Assessment, review your percentage declared as principal residence exemption.

To claim an exemption for the current year, you must own and occupy your home and file a PRE Affidavit with the City by June 1 for the immediately succeeding summer tax levy and all subsequent tax levies.

CAN A BOARD OF REVIEW SET THE SEV OR AV AT THE SALES PRICE OF THE PROPERTY?

No, this practice is illegal in Michigan per Section 27 of the General Property Tax Act. An individual sale price IS NOT the same as True Cash Value of the property due to a variety of reasons, such as; an uninformed buyer, insufficient marketing time, and related parties. The purchase price paid in a transfer of property is NOT the presumptive TVC of the property transferred.

WHAT IS CPI?

The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, reviews data and sets the Consumer Price Index for each year. The 2020 CPI is 1.9% or a ratio of 1.019. The CPI is applied to the TV each year. While market data may show different changes to the AV of properties, barring any sale, additions or losses, the properties TV should only increase by the CPI or 5%, whichever is less.

WHAT IS STATE EQUALIZED VALUE

The State Equalized Value (SEV) is the Assessed Value as adjusted following county and state equalization.

The County Board of Commissioners and the State Tax Commission must review local assessment jurisdictions and adjust (equalize) them so that they do not exceed 50% of True Cash Value.

WHAT IS CAPPED VALUE?

Capped Value (CV) is the value established when the TV of the prior year, with adjustments for additions and losses, is multiplied by the Inflation Rate Multiplier (IRM). The multiplier is capped and cannot be greater than 1.05 (1 + 5%). It represents the change in the rate of inflation during the previous year. The final product is CV.

$$CV = (\text{Prior TV} - \text{Losses}) \times (\text{IRM}) + \text{Additions}$$

*Percent of change is the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less, expressed as a multiplier.

The average ratio between the AV and the sale price should be 50%. Since the market for real estate constantly changes, the average ratio actually found will usually not be 50%. Local assessors are required to reestablish the 50% ratio on an annual basis.

WHAT IS UNCAPPING AFTER A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP?

According to Proposal A, when a property (or interest in a property) is transferred, the following years SEV becomes the Taxable Value. In other words, if you bought a property in 2019, the TV for 2020 will be the same as the SEV. The TV is then "capped" again in the second year following the transfer of ownership.

WHAT IS THE MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW?

Your local Board of Review are members of the community appointed by the Mayor to hear property valuation appeals and poverty exemption appeals.

If you believe the AV is more than half the value of your property or if you believe you qualify for a poverty exemption, you may appeal the AV and/or TV at the March Board of Review.

Read your Assessment Notice for dates and times to appeal.

EXAMPLES:

NEW HOME PURCHASE:
Last year, you purchased a new home valued at \$150,000 TCv, the AV & SEV are both \$75,000 and the TV is \$55,000. The TV will uncapped for current year due to the transfer.

A study of sales in the neighborhood shows the TCv is \$170,000 for the current year.

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------|
| Current Year- | | |
| AV (half of \$170,000) | = | \$85,000 |
| TV (uncapped due to sale) | = | \$85,000 |

NO CHANGES TO PROPERTY:
In 2019, your home valued at \$150,000 TCv had an AV & SEV of \$75,000. The TV was \$55,000.

A study of sales in the neighborhood shows the TCv is \$170,000 for the current year.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| Current Year - 2020 | | |
| AV (half of \$170,000) | = | \$85,000 |
| CV (\$55,000 x 1.019) | = | \$56,045 |
| TV (lesser of the AV or CV) | = | \$56,045 |