



Kalamazoo County approves increase in KRESA special-education tax

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on May 05, 2015 at 11:32 PM, updated May 06, 2015 at 7:10 AM

UPDATE:

- Tax approved thanks to strong 'yes' vote in Kalamazoo
- Complete Kalamazoo-area election results

KALAMAZOO, MI --A request to increase Kalamazoo County's special-education tax narrowly won approval, with 51 percent of voters casting a "yes" ballot.

With 113 of 114 precincts reporting, the unofficial vote was 20,017 to 19,158. That does not include the votes for Richland Township's Precinct 1.

The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency asked voters to approve a 1.5-mill tax increase for six years.

"I'm extremely grateful to voters for their support," KRESA Superintendent David Campbell said late Tuesday.

The average Kalamazoo County homeowner will see his or her property taxes rise by \$90, based on an average taxable value of \$60,000 for residential property.

Although the tax is for special education, the real beneficiaries will be regular-education students who have borne the brunt of school budget cuts.

The \$11 million generated by the tax will be divided between the nine school districts and six charter schools based in Kalamazoo County to reimburse them for special-education expenditures that now come from their general funds.

The nine districts are Kalamazoo, Portage, Gull Lake, Vicksburg, Comstock, Parchment, Galesburg-Augusta, Schoolcraft and Climax-Scotts.

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