

# City council offers support for tech millage renewal

**Blake Bacho**  
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The City of Monroe has thrown its support behind the renewal of the county-wide education technology millage, which voters will consider in a May 4 special election.

Council on Monday unanimously approved a resolution of support for the one-mill levy renewal which, if passed, would extend the millage another five years.

State law says the Monroe County Intermediate School District is responsible for collecting the revenue raised by the millage. The ISD and the county's public school districts, along with New Bedford Academy and Triumph Academy, each receive a share of the revenue based on enrollment numbers.

The revenue collected in the first year of the millage renewal would be about \$6,151,499, with the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 paying about \$96.66 annually.

According to the agenda documents council

reviewed Monday, the city has supported the technology millage since it was first approved by voters in 1997.

"In today's world of technology, having this is significantly beneficial to the youth of our community," said Monroe Mayor Robert Clark.

"I've been impressed with the technology millage," added Councilman John Iacoangeli. "It started out being an enhancement, but now it's basic infrastructure for our education system. It's very important that our kids have access to this. Without it, we're not going to be competitive in the future."

The city joins a growing list of local government bodies and other groups that have voiced support for the millage renewal. That list also includes the Monroe County Commissioners, and the Monroe/Lenawee County American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Central Labor Council.

City Councilwoman Paula Whitman said she has

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seen firsthand the benefits of the millage through her work running Paula's House, a local homeless shelter for women experiencing substance abuse issues.

"I cannot tell you

how much school has changed, and what a connection that it is having the digital equipment given to these children, so that when they are out of school they are still connected," Whitman said. "I think Monroe County is just doing a wonderful job, especially with the population of children that I work with."