



# FACTS ABOUT OUR MILLAGE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

By Gene Kyle, Chair, Ludington Senior Citizens Advisory Board

- The first Mason County millage for senior services was passed on August 15, 1988.
- The millage was passed for a period of six years at the rate of 0.2979.
- Since 1988 the millage has been renewed a total of six times.
- Each renewal has been for six years with the same millage rate of 0.2979.
- The last renewal passed in 2024 will end on December 31, 2029.
- Mason County has one of Michigan's oldest profiles, with 27.5% of the population being 65 or older.\*
- By 2029 Mason County is projected to have **29–31%** of its population 65 or older.\*


***Since 2024, revenues received to fund senior services have not covered expenses. Some programs previously funded have been cut back or eliminated.***

**A shift from 27.5% in 2024 to 30% or higher in 2029 means**

- higher demand for in-home services, transportation, and programming;
- greater need for work-force planning to determine how to best meet the increased needs for senior care;
- and more seniors living alone, which affects outreach and safety programs.

**I**n 1990 19% of Mason County was 65 or older. When the current senior millage expires at the end of 2029, that percentage will be over 30%. When the current millage expires at the end of 2029, we will have had the same millage rate for 41 years.

The time has come to take a serious look at the millage rate this county levies for senior services. It is the hope of the Ludington Senior Citizens Advisory Board that this City Council agrees, and is willing to become actively involved in need-based, data-driven services for our senior citizens. They deserve no less.

I am including with these comments  information showing the millage rates for Mason County and 13 additional counties of similar size. Please note that the average rate for the 14 counties is 0.6323. I have also included the average millage rate for all Michigan counties levying millage for senior services, which is 0.6216.

**Comparison of Senior Services Millage Rates In Counties of Similar Size to Mason County**

COUNTY	POPULATION	MILLAGE RATE
Alpena	28,360	0.5500
Charlevoix	26,244	0.6500
Cheboygan	25,413	0.5000
Dickinson	25,383	0.4105
Gladwin	25,337	0.8993
Huron	31,366	0.2500
Iosco	25,081	0.5000
Leelanau	21,704	0.8200
Manistee	24,528	0.4750
Mason	29,100	0.2979
Menominee	22,983	0.5000
Osceola	23,341	1.0000
Otsego	24,565	1.0000
Roscommon	23,884	1.0000

➤ Average millage rate for the 14 counties listed above: 0.6323

➤ Average millage rate for all Michigan counties levying senior millage: 0.6216

Source: Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging Report – 2022

\*U.S. Census Bureau's most recent Quick Facts (2024)