



Protecting the Safety and Security of Gladwin County Residents



GLADWIN COUNTY

401 W. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, MI 48624



Law Enforcement Millage 2023

ON THE AUGUST 2023 ELECTION BALLOT



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At the Gladwin County Sheriff's Office, protecting the safety and security of residents is our top priority. To continue to enable the Sheriff's Office to serve the community in the most responsible manner, Gladwin County is proposing a 1.5 mill millage to help fund the Sheriff's Office.

The proposed millage will be on the ballot during the August 8, 2023 election and would make it possible to increase services, conduct vital training and become financially self-sufficient. This will be especially important as tourism returns to the area with the restoration of Secord, Smallwood, and Wixom lakes. Without a dedicated revenue stream, Gladwin County will be unable to maintain the current level of public safety and Sheriff's Office services.

Why do we need a millage for the Sheriff's Office?

Over the past 20 years, the Sheriff's Office has operated under an increasingly constrained budget. It has had to reduce the number of public safety personnel including deputies and courthouse security guards, decrease training and professional development for deputies, limit road patrol service, and rely more heavily on financing from the general fund. From 2002 to 2022, there was a 64% increase in calls for law enforcement service, but a 45% decrease in officers and deputies. In addition, The Michigan State Police post was closed and the majority of their services were moved to other counties. This left the Gladwin County Sheriff's Office as the only law enforcement agency serving all of Gladwin County 24/7.

2002

10,293 calls for service into Central Dispatch

31 total officers serving Gladwin County, between the Sheriff's Office and the State Police post

21 Sheriff's Office employees serving all of Gladwin County

2022

16,900 calls for service into Central Dispatch

17 sheriff's deputies serving Gladwin County

17 Sheriff's Office employees serving all of Gladwin County

How will the millage impact Gladwin County residents?

The proposed 1.5 mill tax would help fund the Sheriff's Office for the next six years. The millage amount is \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of taxable value of property. For example, if the taxable value of a property is \$50,000, the property owner would pay an additional \$75 per year in taxes or 20 cents per day.

If taxpayers vote against the millage, law enforcement services will be significantly reduced and the remaining services will be funded by the county's general fund. This would have a domino effect of reducing services county-wide. The impact may include the following, among other things:

- **Lay-offs** within the Sheriff's Office and other county departments
- **Reduced ability** for the Sheriff's Office to offer **24/7 services**
- **No marine patrol** when Secord, Smallwood and Wixom lakes refill
- **Elimination of grant-funded special investigations units** (domestic and sexual assault investigator and secondary road patrol positions)

- **Inability to retain and recruit staff** for all county offices
- **Little-to-no road patrol** service
- **Longer response times**
- **Inability to continue with training** for deputies
- **Reduced attendance** by deputies at community education and safety events
- **Inability to continue the DARE program** at schools

Our goal is to continue to provide the best law enforcement services to Gladwin County residents. A millage will make it possible to not only continue the current services provided by the Sheriff's Office but also increase vital services. The millage will support the following county services:

- **24/7 Staffing** for the Sheriff's Office
- **Marine patrol** on local waterways and bodies of water
- **Community-oriented policing**

- **Courthouse security**
- **Professional training** for sheriff's deputies
- **Recruitment and retainment** of law enforcement staff

For additional information or questions about the **Law Enforcement Millage that will be on the August 8, 2023 election ballot**, go to www.gladwincounty-law-enforcement-millage.com.