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Important Dates:

- April 2, 9:00am Board Meeting
- April 16, 9:00am Board Meeting
- April 30, 9:00am Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Proposal 1 on May 5th Ballot

Michigan residents will vote on a constitutional amendment on May 5th to increase revenue for roads and stabilize funding for schools and local governments.

If passed, the proposal will increase the sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent. Also, if the proposal passes, bills that passed the legislature late last year will go into effect, providing increased revenue for roads.

Within three years, \$1.2 billion in new revenue will

be available for roads, allowing road agencies to make positive steps toward improving our roads and bridges.

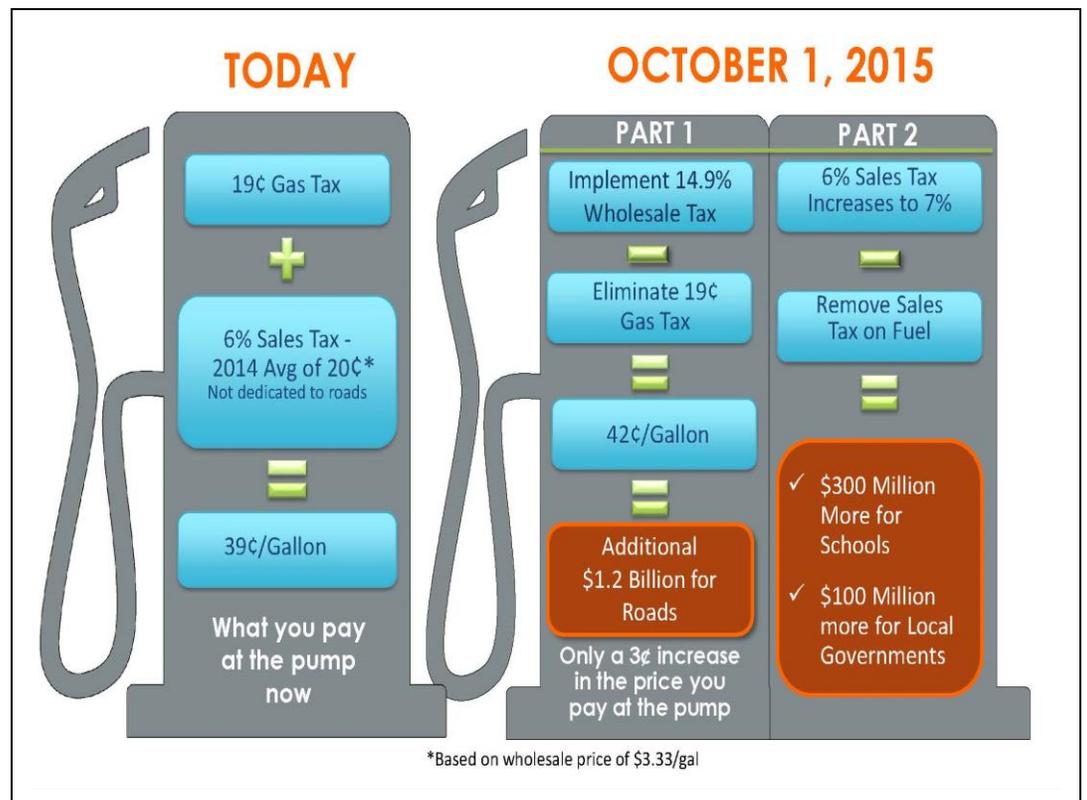
By removing the sales tax on gasoline and adding that same amount to the gas tax, the legislature has provided a way to fix roads while motorists feel no pain at the pump.

Converting the tax from cents per gallon to a percent of wholesale will allow for more stable revenues during gas price fluctuations.

The last time Michigan raised taxes to pay for roads was 1997, and the four cent increase then is worth about two cents today!

Proposal 1 not only modernizes the road funding system, it guarantees in the constitution that every penny we pay at the pump in fuel taxes goes to transportation.

A Michigan sales tax of 7 percent would rank 21st in the country when it comes to average state and local sales tax rates.



If you spend this much a year on sales taxable items (not food, not drugs)	Proposal 1 will cost you this much annually	And this much monthly
\$1,000.00	\$10.00	\$0.83
\$3,000.00	\$30.00	\$2.50
\$5,000.00	\$50.00	\$4.17
\$10,000.00	\$100.00	\$8.33
\$20,000.00	\$200.00	\$16.67
\$30,000.00	\$300.00	\$25.00
\$50,000.00	\$500.00	\$41.67
\$100,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$83.33
\$500,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$416.67
\$1,000,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$833.33

The median family income in Michigan was \$48,273 in 2013. After rent (not taxable), groceries (not taxable), prescription drugs (not taxable) and now gas (not subject to sale tax under Proposal 1), the result would be under \$15,000 spent on taxable items. This works out to about \$150 a year or about \$12.50 per month.



This year, Seasonal Weight Restrictions were implemented on March 10. Shown above is a typical sign that is placed alongside some of the weight restricted roads within Ottawa County.

How Will Proposal 1 Impact You?

Proponents of the Proposal 1 plan support the sales tax increase because everyone will help to support our roads.

Even those who don't drive receive benefits from the road system as goods are delivered to grocery stores and pharmacies, and it is safer for emergency vehicles to reach their destinations.

For each \$1,000 that a

person spends annually on taxable items (not groceries, pharmacy or fuel) they will spend an additional \$10.

The price paid for gasoline will remain stable, while diesel fuel will see a small increase as we bring parity to gas and diesel fuel taxes.

If Proposal 1 is successful in May, within three years the Ottawa County Road

Commission will receive more than \$11.6 million in new revenue annually to put toward county roads.

Existing Revenue (2014)
\$17,228,064

Estimated Revenue (2016)
\$21,111,592 - 23% Increase

Estimated Revenue (2017)
\$24,995,120 - 45% Increase

Estimated Revenue (2018) & Beyond
\$28,878,648 - 68% Increase

Safe Roads for Everyone

As temperatures warm up and the frost starts to leave the ground, seasonal weight restrictions are a sure sign that pothole season has returned.

Although seasonal weight restrictions, or "frost laws", are not able to eliminate potholes, they are designated to protect local roads from excess weight and stress at times when the roads are most

vulnerable to damage.

State law allows the Road Commission to reduce truck weights and speeds on roads that are not built to accommodate heavy truck traffic.

Even though seasonal weight restrictions were implemented on March 10, the local roads are still expected to take a big hit due to depth of the frost.

As you drive throughout the county, expect to see Road Commission crews out patching potholes. The reality is that as one pothole is filled, another will open up during this freeze/thaw period.

Just like when roads are covered with snow and ice, the Road Commission reminds motorists to take responsibility for their safety and slow down to avoid potholes.

What are "All Season Roads"?

"All-Season" roads are those that have been designed and built with the appropriate width and pavement thickness to withstand truck traffic loads all year long. Thus, they are not subject to the Seasonal Weight Restrictions that are

placed on most roads during the early spring.

Roads not constructed to "All-Season" standards are subject to a reduction in allowable loading and speeds during the period each spring when thawing of the ground below the

road softens the roadbed and makes the surface susceptible to damage from heavy loads.

For more information on Seasonal Weight Restrictions in Ottawa County and throughout Michigan, visit www.micountyroads.org.