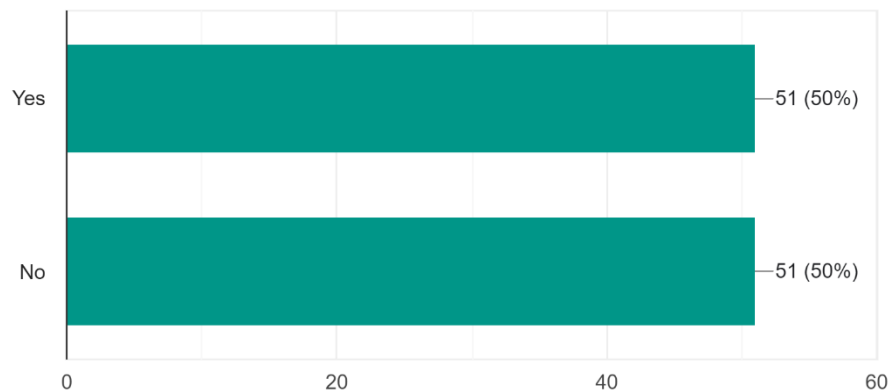


Would you support Schoolcraft Township becoming a Charter Township?

102 responses



Please explain why you would or would not support Schoolcraft Township becoming a Charter Township.

There are still several ways to annex property from the township even as a charter township. Also the thought that the township can take it upon themselves to increase the millage rate not a comforting thought. I still question whether the township meets all the qualifications to be a charter township.

There is no benefit for the citizens.

To help grow the community

I support Schoolcraft Township becoming a Charter Township because I believe that there are some people trying to annex much more land from Schoolcraft and I am very much against the group of people I suspect doing that.

It offers better protection against Vicksburg, Schoolcraft, or Portage from annexing Township property.

I would like to see sewer development in the area and better road maintenance. Without seeing some of those issues addressed I am reluctant to allow an opportunity to raise taxes. While no plan is in place to raise taxes it does open the opportunity to increase the mill limitation. I actually have no problem with higher taxes if it resulted in more services such as a sewer system and fixing giant potholes on residential streets.

Tax issues; Annexation—is this normally done by villages within the township (as opposed to cities or villages outside of the township)? In the case of Vicksburg village annexing that housing project area and providing sewer and water, that seems like a cost that the rest of the township wouldn't want to help pay for since they were not benefiting from it.

Preserve and protect the township from annexation of lands by neighboring villages and cities

To keep the annexation of township land from happening again

Mainly don't want to be annexed to Vicksburg.

Hopefully gives us more control on urban sprawl from outside our township.

With the growth of the township we need more standards of in place.

Main reason would be to protect township boundaries from future annexation

To protect our township from other villages/cities who want what we have.

It provides protection from annexation.

Becoming a charter would provide protection from becoming annexed into a larger city.

Protect borders from annexation

Protect our resources and character of the township

Skeptical— there would have to be a lot of evidence and convincing that taxes wouldn't increase.

I do not want other entities annexing township property

I would support it to protect our township borders and its rural profile.

like the small town feel and living of Schoolcraft.

I moved to Barton Lake in 2019 and have found that there are residents with specific ties to the Village of Vicksburg on the lake. I moved here to retire and enjoy life and not listen to the politicking from some of the non-village residents. I would prefer to have a charter township to preserve township property from annexation. Thank you, Robert Bailey

Taxes would be more/higher. I think if more people understood that ONE thing, they'd ask "why?" as to what you are seeking. More govt involvement means more restrictions on citizens, usually unnecessary ones. If everyone just went by law as it is there would be no need to elaborate further. Also, more people running the Charter Townships means more people on the payroll & more salaries to pay... all coming out of our pockets.

Prevent annexation

Schoolcraft Township is vulnerable to annexation. If we passed a charter, we would not be absorbed by Schoolcraft, Vicksburg or Portage or all three of those entities. I would prefer we remain mainly rural and not become subdivisions.

In reviewing the differences, I see that becoming a charter helps provide better protection against being annexed, which I understand as a benefit. However, it also brings less oversight of township decisions since the board would have more control and immunity to make decisions without votes from our community.

It would facilitate making improvements in the township.

Enhanced ability to maintain rural character.

I do not want the current township board or any future township boards to be able to raise the taxes without voter approval.

Becoming a Charter Township would allow the township board to increase taxes as they see fit. As stated in the information you attached to this survey, MCL 42.27 authorizes a charter township board to annually provide for a levy of taxes upon real and personal property that cannot exceed 5 mills. For the 2022 tax year the township levied 0.8551 mills. In becoming a charter township we could see an increase in our taxes of up to an additional 4.1449 mills without voter approval. I am against anything that could raise my taxes that much without being put to a vote by all of the people that are affected by the increase.

Although the current board members say that they would not raise taxes during their terms of office, there is NO guarantee that future boards would not raise taxes to the extent that it is available for them to do. We already pay too much in taxes.

Does the 9100 residents include the Village populations? There is no need to become a charter township for a future board to raise our taxes

Information is not clear to me. Biggest push seeming to be prevention of annexation, but that is still not absolute with a charter it only helps. Also, risk of more tax. Property in this state is taxed enough, even a chance of more tax is a big no for me

Charter Township boards can raise our taxes at their leisure. I do not want anyone to be able to have that much power to increase my taxes.

Seems like 'Charter' may give too much authority and power to one individual... Superintendent/Supervisor. Their personal opinion on development becomes very important in their duties, and would need to be well understood, in advance of election. Not presently concerned about annexation impact. I may need to understand more about the development/growth disposition of the schoolcraft Township board. I am of the opinion to curtail development of high density homesites throughout the flatlands and farm lands of our community. Many of the homes going up now seem to be of modest construction integrity... found in 'Cookie Cutter' plats... and detract from the of beauty of our rural community.

We moved to schoolcraft twp because of the lesser populated and more rural nature of the area. We live very close to portage, on Gourdneck Lake. I dont want to run the risk of annexation by the City of Portage. I believe a Charter Township would maintain a more self-determined posture without the encumbrance of a more political city government. I also have a personal affinity for the village of Schoolcraft where i conducted my graduate work many years ago.

A charter township board has the authority to increase their tax rate at any time without voter approval. I do not want that.

You are wanting the Charter Township to fulfill your own wants, not the desires of the residents of Schoolcraft Township.

Not for the citizens who live here.

Your newsletter talks about annexation protection afforded by becoming a Charter Township. I have read the attachment and researched on my own and have found that having Charter Township status only helps provide for annexation protection IF the township provides: 1) fire & police protection (The township currently provides fire protection but not police protection. Police protection for Schoolcraft Township would likely cost \$150K - \$200K per year for 24-7 coverage.); 2) Solid Waste Disposal (Schoolcraft Township does not provide solid waste disposal. Township residents must purchase their own solid waste disposal services. If it were to be provided by the township, they would have to raise taxes or add it as a special assessment.); and 3) Water and/or sewer services (Schoolcraft Township does not have water or sewer provided to a majority of the township. Once again, to provide such services the township would need to raise taxes or add it as a special assessment.) In his newsletter article the supervisor says that the township currently levies enough to cover "our" needs. The current budget for the township has no provision for a possible police force, solid waste disposal or water and/or sewer services. There is no way the township can get the additional protection from annexation protection without raising taxes.

I do not support larger government.

I see no need for it. I have no concern of being annexed, which seems to be your main argument for doing it. In the news letter you explain how you won't need more taxes...and a general law township can levy no more than 1 mill....what about charter townships? You already ran a \$200,000 deficit, so I expect you will be looking to raise taxes anyway. Government for the sake of government.

I vehemently oppose giving the Schoolcraft Township board more taxing power over the township residents.

Gives too much power to the township board for tax raises. Maybe not the current board, but future boards.

Anything Schoolcraft township clerk is for, I'm against!

To protect us from annexation

After much research I have found that the Schoolcraft Township does not currently provide the services needed for the added protection from annexation. The township would not be able to add those services without raising our taxes or without making us pay for those services through special assessments.

Upon further research, it appears that the township would need to increase taxes in order to avoid/have additional protection against annexation. I do not support Schoolcraft Township becoming a Charter Township. More information needs to be provided to residents and additional thought needs to be put into issues such as these.

I just don't trust any government agency these days. More explanation is needed.

I feel that it is something that we are not ready for at this time

I don't think we need it

Becoming a charter township would require the addition of two more trustees. That would cost the township more money.

The article in the newsletter seems to be written to persuade residents into voting yes. I would bet that many people who voted yes would change their vote if they thought their taxes would increase. More information needs to be provided so that people can make a more informed decision.

I am against giving local government with more authority.

We live in a rural area to have less government, not more government.

We voted this down several years ago.

The current township board is currently trying to sneak a firewood stacking ordinance through. How can we trust them with more taxing power? It's a big NO for me.

We are being led to believe that by becoming a charter township we automatically receive additional protection from annexation. That is not the case. The additional protection is only available to a township that provides certain services to their property owners (fire and police protection, solid waste disposal and water and/or sewer services). Schoolcraft Township currently only provides one of those services. I wonder how many people would actually support this initiative to become a charter township if they really understood how much it will cost taxpayers to get the services that would then make the township eligible for the additional protection.

The reasons this was voted down last time still stand. You can say you won't increase taxes now, but I prefer to remain protected from power-hungry small-town politicians.

I support less government.

So we are safe from being annexed to the village of Vicksburg

So we stay out of the village

I do not see how the change to a Charter Township would necessarily benefit average citizens. I see the potential for more services/taxes. However, I do not believe that people who chose to live in a rural area like Schoolcraft Township expect or want more services.

The Township lie to people as evidence last night at the Township meeting about trying to cover up about a wood ordinance. Can't trust the Township so can't trust them to have power to increase taxes on their own accord

Better protection from annexation as I understand it.

Prevent annexation, limit population growth

The possible tax increase by current or future township boards outweighs any benefit that could come from becoming a Charter Township.

I would need more information to support a Charter township. If annexation is the overriding concern then some information about future annexation threats would help. Otherwise, becoming a Charter township appears to be a solution in search of a problem.

Protection from annexation of land from neighboring municipalities.

My late wife, and I bought this house in 1977. I do not know if you remember me. I will come right to the point. I took interest in your newsletter. I disagree with the board, and you, on the "charter township". I simply do not trust the board, and you. Your questions on the sewer, and "South County Fire," illustrate my point. This is simply about control, and your ability to tax the residents. World according to ted: you and your fellow elected officials, (local, county, state, and Federal, cannot spend money fast enough.

