



# *At Your Service...*

## ***Sewage in Basements Happens ...***

When heavy rainfalls occur, like the one Midland experienced in June 1996, the City's sanitary sewer system receives more storm water than it can handle (primarily through footing drains) and sewage backs up into basements.

### ***How Much Additional Sewer Capacity Can We Afford?***

While every citizen would like a "risk free system" that would all but eliminate the possibility of a storm-related basement backup, the cost associated with such a solution was determined to be too high by the voters in November 1998.

### ***The February 2000 Ballot Proposal...***

- ◆ Doubles the capacity of the sanitary sewer system
- ◆ Cuts the risk of basement backups in half
- ◆ Reduces the cost of the November 1998 proposal by 60% (from \$40 million to \$15.8 million)

### ***VOTE***

Tuesday, February 22 -- Polls at open 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.  
Sanitary Sewer Ballot Proposal -- Presidential Primary Election.  
You do not have to vote for a presidential candidate to have your vote count on the Sanitary Sewer Ballot Proposal.  
To identify your polling location or for further information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 837-3310.



# A "YES" VOTE MEANS:

The City will construct community-wide improvements that will double the capacity of the sanitary sewer system.

| <u><b>SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM<br/>IMPROVEMENTS</b></u> |                                      |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | <u><b>Existing<br/>System</b></u>    | <u><b>Proposed<br/>System</b></u>    |
| <b>Total Capacity</b>                                | <b>26,400,000</b><br>gallons per day | <b>47,400,000</b><br>gallons per day |
| <b>Cost of Improvement</b>                           | <b>\$0</b>                           | <b>\$15,800,000</b>                  |

## **Midland City Council commits that it will...**

- Undertake the Nelson Street area pump station as part of the first phase of construction.
- Retain a second independent and qualified consulting engineering firm to assure that the proposed improvements are properly designed and cost effective.
- Immediately pursue a separate **storm sewer system** improvement study.
- Perform an analysis of neighborhood sanitary sewer systems once the major collection system additions are constructed.

# A "NO" VOTE MEANS:

The voters have decided not to finance community-wide sanitary sewer system capacity improvements. The existing level of protection will not be significantly increased in the foreseeable future.

## **If Approved, When Will These Improvements Be Constructed?**

If the Sanitary Sewer Ballot Proposal is approved, the City will proceed with the design of the improvements, including value engineering, and obtain the necessary permits from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Construction would begin in the spring of 2001 and be completed in the spring of 2002.

# How Will This Bond Proposal Be Financed?

Midland City Council has committed that 60% of these bonds would be financed using property taxes and the remaining 40% would be financed from sewer user fees (your quarterly sewer bill). These bonds will be issued and financed, as needed, for 20 years. The estimated cost to typical households is summarized in this table:

| <u>If the market value of your property is...</u> | <u>with a taxable value of...</u> | <u>your annual property tax will increase by*</u> | <u>your annual sewer bill will increase by **</u> | <u>your total annual cost increase is...</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| \$ 58,000   | \$ 29,000                         | \$10.73   | \$32.64   | \$43.37                                      |
| \$ 90,000   | \$ 45,000                         | \$16.65   | \$32.64   | \$49.29                                      |
| \$140,000   | \$ 70,000                         | \$25.90   | \$32.64   | \$58.54                                      |
| \$200,000   | \$100,000                         | \$37.00   | \$32.64   | \$69.64                                      |

\*assumes a millage rate of 0.37 mills  
 \*\*this is a fixed amount of debt charged to all customers based on meter size (\$8.16 per quarter)

## BALLOT Proposal

*The sanitary sewer ballot proposition before voters on Tuesday, February 22 will read as follows:*

Shall the City of Midland, Counties of Midland and Bay, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ borrow the principal amount of not to exceed fifteen million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$15,800,000) \_\_\_\_\_ and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, for the purpose of paying the cost of acquiring and constructing additions, extensions and improvements throughout the City's Sanitary Sewer System including a pumping station in the Nelson Street area together with all appurtenances and attachments relating thereto?

### Why Include the Counties?

This Ballot Proposal and its proposed improvements are for City of Midland residents only. References to Midland and Bay Counties are included only because the City is located in both counties.

### \$15.8 Million

While this bond proposal requests an amount "not to exceed \$15.8 million," the whole \$15.8 million might not be needed to construct these improvements. If voters approve this bond proposal, the City will obtain competitive bids to construct these improvements. The amount that will actually be spent will be determined by the bid process, but will not exceed \$15.8 million.

# Did You Know...



## *In June 1996:*

- 1500 basements flooded with raw sewage;
- city residents disposed of more than 1100 dump trucks full of personal belongings ruined by sewage;
- \$4.5 million worth of claims were filed by Midland residents to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

## *A 1999 survey of City residents showed that:*

- 60% of residents said fixing our sanitary sewer system is an important issue in our community;
- the November 1998 ballot proposal was defeated primarily because of its expensive cost.

## *The February 22, 2000 Ballot Proposal:*

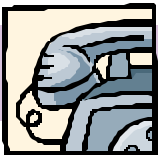
- doubles sewer capacity;
- cuts risk in half;
- reduces the cost of the November 1998 proposal by 60% (from \$40 million to \$15.8 million)

To read historical and recent studies of  
Midland's sanitary sewer system visit the:



City of Midland Website at [www.midland-mi.org](http://www.midland-mi.org) or the

Government Information Center located near the reference desk at the  
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library



Questions or Comments?



leave a message on the 24-hour Citizen Comment Line 837-3400  
e-mail the city at [cityhall@midland-mi.org](mailto:cityhall@midland-mi.org)  
write Midland City Council, 333 W. Ellsworth -- Midland, MI 48640

### *At Your Service ...*

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333 W. Ellsworth, Midland, MI 48640.  
Selina Crosby Tisdale, editor 837-3304

#### **Midland City Council**

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