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Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners invites public to take part in virtual meeting to discuss new housing millage

Homes for All millage will generate more than $6 million to provide housing assistance for county residents

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners is inviting the community to join a virtual Zoom meeting at 4 p.m. on Feb. 23 to convene a visioning session regarding the “Homes for All” millage, which was approved by voters during the last election. In its first year, the millage is expected to generate more than $6 million.

“The number of people and families experiencing homelessness in Kalamazoo has grown exponentially since 2019, and this challenge has been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” said Kalamazoo County Board Chair Tracy Hall. “We are committed to finding innovative solutions that create long-term housing and wrap-around services to help Kalamazoo’s unhoused population get the care they need to get back on their feet — and that starts with the ‘Homes for All’ program.”

Specifically, commissioners want input from residents on three questions:

1. What types of rental subsidies should be included in the millage funding?
2. What types of housing do you envision?
3. What related supportive services do you think are needed for residents in Kalamazoo County?

The current 0.1-mill tax has raised nearly $800,000 annually each of the last six years and has helped more than 500 families find affordable housing. The new 0.75-mill property tax will cover eight years, from 2021 to 2028, and provide rental subsidies, permanent housing and other supportive services for Kalamazoo County residents.

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