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# County, city back college millage renewal

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Monroe County commissioners have given their nod to backing a renewal of a property tax levy for the Monroe County Community College in the Nov. 3 election.

Tuesday night, commissioners voted 8-0 to support a request on the ballot for five years (2021-2025) to levy .85 of a mill in taxes for a renovation and upgrade of the infrastructure and facilities at the campus off S. Raisinville Rd. The levy would raise \$5.5 million the first year and will go for projects to improve safety, accessibility, technology, maintenance and learning environment.

The City of Monroe also voiced its support for the millage renewal, unanimously approving a resolution backing the ballot issue during Monday's virtual council meeting.

"The Monroe City Council recognizes MCCC's importance in providing high-quality education opportunities at an affordable cost for students in the greater Monroe community, along with the numerous workforce development programs benefiting local students, residents, and businesses," the resolution reads. "The ongoing reinvestment in MCCC facilities is necessary for their continued success

in serving the education needs of the greater Monroe community."

Dr. Kojo Quartey, president of the college, requested the county board back the renewal as it did in 2016 when voters approved the millage for the first time.

"Four years ago you supported us," Quartey told commissioners during their zoom meeting. "We are your Monroe County Community College, the only college in the county. We seek your endorsement of this maintenance and replacement millage."

The president noted that the college's nursing program was ranked No. 1 in the state among community colleges.

Commissioner Dawn Asper said "it's not about cost, it's a return on our investment. They are tops."

J. Henry Lievens, board chairman, said the college has made "remarkable strides" in post-high school education.

"A four-year degree may not be the best to match people's talents and abilities," Lievens said. "You're helping people come out with a nice-paying job and not a six-figure loan."

Money raised since 2016 was used to implement Phase 1 of a plan to address infrastructure and technology needs. Funds raised from the renewal will be to launch Phase 2 of the plan.