

LOCAL

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Voters approve MCCC millage renewal

Renovations to begin with Campbell Learning Resources Center

By Caitlin Taylor
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Monroe County Community College soon will launch its second phase of campus improvements after area voters approved a renewal of its five-year maintenance and replacement millage.

Another round of renovations to the Campbell Learning Resources Center will kick off the next five years of campus infrastructure and facilities projects thanks to Tuesday's support of MCCC's "Zero-Increase Millage Renewal for Maintenance and Replacement," according to college President Kojo Quartey.

The .85 mill renewal passed 45,700-29,960, according

to Election Day results from the Monroe County Clerk's Office.

"We are so appreciative of Monroe County residents for the passage of this millage renewal for maintenance and improvement," Quartey said.

"This renewal will allow us to implement Phase 2 of these improvements to infrastructure and facilities at both the main campus in Monroe and the Whitman Center in Temperance that are vital for MCCC to remain competitive and ensure an excellent environment for student service and learning, safety, accessibility and efficiency."

The levy is not a new tax. Rather, it's renewing funds passed by Monroe County voters in 2016, which allowed the college to implement Phase 1 of its plan to meet critical facility and technology needs.

Through 2025, the college will continue to collect .85 mills - \$0.85 per \$1,000 of taxable value - to continue

with Phase 2 improvements, including upgrades to safety, accessibility and efficiency.

For a \$100,000 home, the cost to residents is expected to be less than \$4 per month.

"Due to COVID-19, our strategy (for renewal) relied primarily on social media," Quartey said. "We are grateful for all those who wrote supportive (opinions and editorials), and the many who planted signs. The millage renewal will ensure that MCCC continues to revitalize its campus here in Monroe and at the Whitman Center for the betterment of the entire community."

As part of Phase 2, the college aims to renovate student collaboration spaces, classrooms, labs, offices, dining areas and other commonly-used spaces, he added.

It also plans to enhance safety and security throughout the campus, including creating a door access control system and installing fire suppression equipment.

Another goal, officials explained, is to ensure all facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities or other special needs by upgrading restrooms, entryways and other campus areas.

"The first project will be Phase 2 of the renovation to the Campbell Learning Resources Center which includes the renovation to the library, physical and technological improvements to the lower-level classrooms, installation of fire suppression equipment, and other building infrastructure improvements," said Suzanne Wetzel, vice president of administration.

"The college will also complete the installation of a keycard door security system in all buildings, as well as transitioning of all campus exterior lighting to LED lights. In addition, the renovation of the grounds/maintenance facilities - including building infrastructure improvements and construction of a

maintenance garage and salt storage facility - will be a top priority."

Along with the learning resources center, improvements are expected at the Audrey M. Warrick Student Services Building, Career Technology Center, Gerald Welch Health Education Building, La-Z-Boy Center, Life Sciences Building, Physical Plant Building and the Whitman Center (Temperance).

The projects are expected to be spread throughout the next five years, beginning in 2021.

"Monroe County Community College is truly the 'community's college,'" Quartey said.

"We play a key role in improving higher education attainment in the county and in strengthening the local workforce and economy, and MCCC would not and could not be what it is without the support of our community."

For more information, visit monroecc.edu/millage.

MONROE COUNTY 2020 ELECTION RESULTS

President

Joseph Biden/Kamala Harris, D	32,975
Donald Trump/Michael Pence, R	52,710

US Senate

Gary Peters, D	32,712
John James, R	50,569

US Congress, 7th

Gretchen Driskell, D	32,533
Tim Walberg, R	51,608

State Representative, 17th

Christopher Slat, D	12,835
Joe Bellino, R	21,639

State Representative, 56th

Keith Kitchens, D	16,476
TC Clements, R	31,309

Monroe County Sheriff

Troy Goodnough, D	42,142
Logan Tisdale, R	41,111

Clerk and Register of Deeds

Sandra Blank, D	30,763
Annamarie Osment, R	49,563

Treasurer

Andrew Felder, D	32,329
Jesse Stanford, R	46,828

City of Monroe Bus Service

Yes	6,244
No	2,424

Monroe Township Fire millage

Yes	4,457
No	2,199

Monroe County Community College

Yes	45,700
No	29,960

This is a partial list. For the complete Monroe County results, go to www.monroenews.com.

Monroe County sets record of COVID cases

Monroe County set a new daily record for confirmed COVID-19 cases with 78 on Wednesday.

The previous daily local record was 76, which was recorded Saturday. There have now been 2,137 cases within the county since the first confirmed case was reported in mid-March.

There are also 287 cases currently listed as "probable," which are in addition to the confirmed cases. That's five more than on Tuesday.

Of the confirmed local cases, 1,652 are considered to be "recovered."

The number of Monroe County deaths has risen to

44, which is one more than on Tuesday.

You'll find State of Michigan COVID-19 reports, which include testing data by county, school reports and long term care center reports, at michigan.gov/coronavirus. The state reports are usually updated mid-afternoon, Monday-Saturday.

The Monroe County reports and local testing sites are at www.co.monroe.mi.us; then look for the health department page. The county's database is usually updated mid-afternoon, Monday-Friday.

BARRON

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rerun for his trustee seat. Bitz is the owner of Erie Party Shop and Oliver's Pizza.

Blank and Bitz did not return requests for comment as of press time.

Incumbent Treasurer Penny Barton, a Democrat, and Republican Clerk Christina Smith, a former insurance agent who was appointed to the post last year, won uncontested races.

Four trustee seats were up for grabs during the election. All seats went to Republican candidates, ousting current trustee William F. Heck Jr., a Democrat and truck driver with Second Farms Transport who has sat on the board since 2012.

Political newcomer Katybeth Davis, an Independent who is affiliated with the Monroe

County Democratic Party and was also running to sit on the board, also lost the race. Davis is a supervisor and training specialist with Erie Construction Company.

Republican John Manor is the membership director of Associated Builders and Contractors of Southeastern Michigan. He currently sits on the township board and is its representative on the township's Planning Commission.

Republican Richard Janssens is retired from DTE Energy, currently sits on the township's Planning Commission and also is a farmer.

Republican Kevin Raymo is a retired 911 dispatcher for the county and also is a customer service representative for Backyard Products.

Republican Guy David Howe is currently the director of calibration services for NovaStar Solutions and is a Navy veteran.

MONROE COUNTY TREASURER

Jesse Stanford, 26, to serve as Monroe County treasurer

By Tyler Eagle
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A 26-year-old political newcomer was successful in his bid to secure the post of the county's top financial officer.

Republican Jesse Stanford, a sales associate at Sherwin-Williams Paint Company in Monroe, defeated challenger Democrat Andrew Felder.



Stanford

Stanford thanked those who worked on his campaign and supporters.

"Thank you Monroe

Stanford won 46,828-32,329.

In a message posted to his campaign's social media channels,

County," Stanford said in the post. "I am overwhelmed by the support and I am ready to get to work for our community! I have so many people to thank!"

Stanford holds an Associates degree from Monroe County Community College and a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University.

He is a lifelong resident of the

county.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, he said he plans to place an emphasis on prioritizing payment plans for residents struggling with delinquent taxes and foreclosure, citing a desire to ensure residents are able to stay in their homes.

"I am focused on making positive changes in our

community and I believe that public service is one of the most powerful tools to bring forth positive changes, especially at the local level," Stanford said in a candidate statement to The Monroe News last month.

Felder, a 30-year-old financial analyst for Ford Motor Co., also is a current council member for the City of Monroe.