



## PA298

# Frequently Asked Questions



### What is Public Act 298?

Public Act 298 is a legislative bill that has existed since 1917 allowing the city council of a city the ability to levy a tax to establish and maintain various forms of garbage collection plants and systems.

### What do you mean by various forms of “garbage”?

As used in this act, “garbage” means any solid wastes (except body wastes), and includes ashes, incinerator ash, incinerator residue, street cleanings, solid market wastes, solid industrial wastes, and also rubbish including such items as paper, cardboard, tin cans, yard clippings, wood, glass, bedding, crockery, and litter of any kind.

### How much is it going to cost? How much revenue will it raise citywide vs what we currently spend today?

The City Council has levied one (1) mill towards these services. The taxable value of your property multiplied by .001 is equal to the amount of increase you will see on your taxes yearly. The new levy will generate approximately \$56,000 per year for services that have been reduced to an authorization of less than \$18,000 per year.

### Is the City using this millage just to shift costs? What does the plan to do with any savings experienced?

This authorization predates Proposal A, Headlee and the City Charter. In years past when revenues were healthy, services were added without need for the levy. As revenues have declined, services have experienced significant reductions. This levy will restore services to post-recession levels, and make improvements and additions (by a factor of 3x). Savings experienced in the General Fund will be directed into other public works areas where services have been significantly reduced and/or eliminated in past years. These areas include Alley Maintenance, Pine Tree Cemetery Grounds Keeping, Forestation and Grounds Keeping of City Parks and Municipal Facilities.

### What kind of improvements will I see?

- The City will be adding additional weeks for citywide leaf and brush pick up dates.
- The City will no longer charge for pick up of yard waste during normal business hours.
- The City will be increasing the frequency of cleaning of curbed streets.
- The City will be expanding the right-of-way tree removal and trimming program.
- The City, in collaboration with the DDA, will implement new programs to maintain the downtown area.
- The City will be increasing the frequency of emptying trash and dumpsters in the parks and downtown.
- The City will make needed improvements to the Leaf and Brush Yard and collection equipment.

### Why am I still paying for weekly refuse service?

The one (1) mill that was levied is not adequate to include city resident’s weekly rubbish service. The rate would need to be increased to two and a half (2 ½) mills and/or possibly three (3) mills to include weekly rubbish removal and/or recycling. Also, if the millage were to include weekly rubbish removal, the City would not be able to offer the “opt out” or “bag-tag” options and services would be mandatory to all residents and all property owners would be required to pay the tax. Keeping this millage rate low allows out residents a choice in their services.

### How do I know this money is going towards these services?

This money will be deposited and expenses tracked in a fund separate from general fund.

### Is Corunna the only place that has levied a millage without taking it to a vote of the people?

No. The City of Owosso Council levied 1 Mill under PA 298 this past year, and the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners has levied a Veteran’s Relief Millage under PA 214 of 1899, to name a few local examples.