

Jeff Brands (City of Durand Mayor)

504 Marquette Durand, MI 48429

RE: Letter to the Editor

The City of Durand is holding a special election Tuesday November 7th. The only item on the ballot is a request for a Headlee Override to support rising costs of emergency services, specifically ambulance service. The City of Durand currently contracts ambulance/EMS service through SSES (Southwest Shiawassee Emergency Services Alliance). Municipal services such as ambulance are not immune to rising inflationary operating costs; as a result SSES has had to raise their fees charged to the City. This raise unfortunately, substantially exceeds the current ambulance/fire millage that the City has in place nearly doubling the cost, and the city cannot sustainably fund the increase on its own.

Passing this request would allow City Council the flexibility to generate enough money to provide emergency services in the City of Durand. A successful election would also result in the City Council abandoning the current, in place, non-sufficient ambulance millage after the end of the 2023 calendar year. You will not be taxed twice for the same service. The City Council is considering every option however, the fastest service for residents is when there is an ambulance stationed in Durand. Without additional funds this will not be possible, when minutes matter the most we need to be able to support our residents.

I would encourage everyone to vote in this special election and help secure future ambulance service. Additional information regarding Headlee and the ballot language is available at City Hall in Durand which 215 W. Clinton St Durand, MI 48429.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Brands', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Brands, Mayor