



**Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber Statement of Support for the Washtenaw Community College
August 4th, 2026 Operating Millage Proposal**

The A2Y Chamber officially supports the Washtenaw Community College (WCC) Millage Renewal and Restoration proposal before voters on August, 4th, 2026. This 0.85mill operating millage was first passed in 2004. It was renewed and restored (because of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution) by Washtenaw County voters in 2016 with over 70% voter support and the A2Y Chamber's full endorsement. This millage will raise revenue of roughly \$21.9M annually for core instruction and programs, workforce training capacity, IT infrastructure, industry-aligned labs and equipment, and student access and affordability

Washtenaw Community College is an affordable and excellent education. Tuition is the lowest among Michigan's community colleges (just \$99 per in-district credit hour) with average tuition under \$3,000. This benefits both adult learners and traditional K-12 students as dual enrollment has grown 76% in the past decade, helping students earn college credit early while in high school. WCC provides academic excellence with high-caliber faculty and nationally recognized programs. Over 59,000 graduates and 89,000+ degrees and certificates have been awarded to help students achieve job and career goals and 90% of students rate WCC instructors as good or excellent. WCC has nationally recognized programs in nursing, cybersecurity, and veteran services, and is top transfer institution to the University of Michigan. WCC also has 76 transfer agreements statewide and beyond with top universities like MSU, Brown, Columbia, Harvard, Yale and leading HBCUs. WCC is the #1 college choice for Washtenaw County high school graduates and has 21,500+ students enrolled annually in degree and certificate programs.

An education at WCC provides professional advancement and supports learners at every stage of their life and career with flexibility built for real life. The average age of WCC students is 26 with roughly 70% attending part-time with day, evening, weekend, online and in-person classes. WCC offers more than 140 programs, including more than 50 fully online options. WCC has a Student Success Guarantee: Graduates are job- or transfer-ready—or eligible for free course retakes. Approximately 10% of students already hold a bachelor's degree or higher and return to build new skills. Seniors 65+ receive free tuition, totaling \$7.7 million in learning opportunities and allowing lifelong learning benefits for all. WCC also provides personal enrichment as nearly 8,000 individuals enroll annually in personal and professional development programs.

Our community benefits from WCC's workforce and economic impacts. WCC contributes an estimated half a billion dollars annually to the regional economy and strengthens our economy and talent pipeline. The numbers speak for themselves with 74,000+ skilled trades professionals trained over 35 years, 12,000+ nurses and certified nurse assistants trained, and 1,400+ law enforcement officers trained. The skilled trades training on campus generates \$23 million annually in local economic impact and programs are designed with direct input from 200+ employer partners.

We benefit from WCC because it serves as a hub for community engagement as more than 100,000 visitors come to campus each year for community events and programs. WCC supports more than 500 veterans and family members annually. For these reasons and more, the A2Y Chamber supports Washtenaw Community College's millage renewal and reauthorization on the [August 4th ballot](#).