

**VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
AUGUST 25, 2026
5:30 p.m.**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1470 CHAGRIN RIVER ROAD

**(Livestream available on YouTube – click on the link on
www.gatesmillsvillage.com to watch)**

1. Roll call.

2. **Ordinance No. 2026-43**

Steinbrink.

An Ordinance Providing for the Submission to the Electors of the Village of Gates Mills a Proposed Amendment to the Charter of the Village of Gates Mills to Renew for a Period of Five Years the Existing One Mill Tax Levy for the Public Purpose of Conserving, Retaining, Protecting and Preserving Land, Water, Forest, Open, Natural or Wetland Areas in this Municipality Predominantly in their Natural, Scenic, Open or Wooded Condition or as Suitable Habitat for Fish, Plants, or Wildlife, Including the Acquisition of Such Real Property or Interests Therein as may be Necessary to Carry Out That Purpose; and Declaring an Emergency.

3. Discuss a Potential Agreement with the Gates Mills Land Conservancy.

4. Accept the Resignation of Councilmember Onysko.

5. Discuss Filling a Vacancy on Council.

6. Adjourn.

Proposed Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda may be obtained by calling Village Hall,
440-423-4405.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-43

BY COUNCILMEMBER STEINBRINK

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS TO RENEW FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS THE EXISTING ONE MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF CONSERVING, RETAINING, PROTECTING AND PRESERVING LAND, WATER, FOREST, OPEN, NATURAL OR WETLAND AREAS IN THIS MUNICIPALITY PREDOMINANTLY IN THEIR NATURAL, SCENIC, OPEN OR WOODED CONDITION OR AS SUITABLE HABITAT FOR FISH, PLANTS OR WILDLIFE, INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION OF SUCH REAL PROPERTY OR INTERESTS THEREIN AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THAT PURPOSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution and Article XII, Section 1 of the Charter of this Village, at the November 2, 2021 general election, the electors of this Village approved an amendment to the Charter of this Village authorizing, among other things, the renewal of a one mill property tax levy for the public purpose of conserving, retaining, protecting and preserving land, water, forest, open or wetland areas in this Municipality predominantly in their natural, scenic, open or wooded condition or as suitable habitat for fish, plants or wildlife, including the acquisition of such real property or interests therein as may be necessary to carry out that purpose; and

WHEREAS, calendar year 2026 is the final year for collection of the proceeds of that tax levy and Council hereby determines that in order to continue to provide funding for that land conservation and open space program it is necessary to continue to receive the proceeds of that tax levy without interruption and for this purpose and pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution and Article XII, Section 1 of the Charter of the Village of Gates Mills, further determines to authorize and direct the submission to the electors of this Village of the proposed Charter amendment herein set forth at the election to be held on November 3, 2026, which election is not less than 60 nor more than 120 days from the date of passage of this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Cuyahoga County, State of Ohio, not less than two-thirds of all the member thereto concurring, that:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution and Article XII, Section 1 of the Charter of the Village of Gates Mills, this Council hereby authorizes and directs the submission to the electors of the Village of Gates Mills at an election to be held at the usual places of voting in said Village on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, of the following proposal to amend the Charter of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio:

That existing Section 5 of Article VIII of the Charter be amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 5. LEVY FOR LAND CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE FUND.

Commencing with the tax list and duplicate for the year ~~2024~~ **2026**, the Council may levy in each year for a period of five years, without a vote of the people, a tax in an amount not to exceed in each such year one mill per dollar of assessed valuation upon all property in the Municipality assessed and listed for taxation according to value for the public purpose of conserving, retaining, protecting and preserving land, water, forest, open, natural or wetland areas in this Municipality predominantly in their natural, scenic, open or wooded condition or as suitable habitat for fish, plants or wildlife, including the acquisition of such real property or interests therein as may be necessary to carry out that purpose. The amount of taxes in each year so levied pursuant to this Section shall not be subject to the limitations on the rate of taxation provided in this Charter and shall be in addition to any taxes levied by Council pursuant to any provision of this Charter or the general laws of the State of Ohio. There is hereby established a special fund of the Municipality, to be known as the "Land Conservation and Open Space Fund", into which the proceeds of the tax levied pursuant to this Section shall be deposited. Moneys credited to that fund shall be invested in such investments as permitted by law provided, however, that all investment earnings (including interest earnings) thereon shall be credited to that fund. The Council of the Municipality may enter into such agreements from time to time as it may determine to be necessary with nonprofit organizations which are organized for the aforesaid purpose, including the Gates Mills Land Conservancy, all in furtherance of carrying out the aforesaid public purpose, including the appropriation and payment of any moneys as may be necessary from the Land Conservation and Open Space Fund to such nonprofit organization pursuant to any such agreement."

SECTION 2. If the foregoing amendment receives the affirmative vote of a majority of the electors voting thereon, it shall become effective from and after the time of its approval by the electors.

SECTION 3. It is the desire of this Council that the ballots for said question shall be in substantially the following form:

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

RENEWING A ONE MILL LEVY FOR LAND CONSERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall Section 5 of Article VIII of the Charter be amended to renew an existing tax levy for the public purpose of conserving, retaining, protecting and preserving land, water, forest, open, natural or wetland areas in this Municipality predominantly in their natural, scenic, open or wooded condition or as suitable habitat for fish, plants or wildlife, including the acquisition of such real property or interests therein as may be necessary to carry out that purpose, at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.10 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027?

	YES
	NO

SECTION 4. The Clerk is authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this ordinance to the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County before September 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

SECTION 5. The Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County is hereby requested to cause an appropriate notice to be duly given of the election to be held on November 3, 2026, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of the Village and otherwise to provide for such election in the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the full text of such proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Village of Gates Mills, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen days prior to the election to be held on November 3, 2026, as provided in Article XVIII, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio and in Section 731.211 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 7. There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the costs of carrying out the authorizations and directions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety in that it is necessary that it become effective immediately in order to permit necessary arrangements and filings to be made in sufficient time for the aforesaid election; wherefore, this Ordinance shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

Passed the ____ day of _____, 2026.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk

APPROVED:

Mayor