

School District of Westfield

2017-2018 Financial News

October 19, 2017

Introduction

In this column, information will be shared with you about the financial picture of the School District of Westfield. The district-wide tax levy and mill rate have increased this year. However, residents living in different municipalities will be affected differently. To ensure that the public has an opportunity to understand this increase, detailed information will be provided for you in this article. As always, if you should have any questions, please contact the district office.

Background

The mill rate is a calculation of taxes per \$1,000 of property value. The mill rate in the School District of Westfield for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is \$7.48 per \$1,000 of property value. This is up from \$7.46 per \$1,000 of property value for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This means that the property taxes will increase \$2 on a \$100,000 home. The 2017-2018 tax levy is \$7,590,390 compared to the 2016-2017 tax levy of \$7,355,250. The decrease in state aid (\$192,787) and minimal increase in the revenue limit (\$33,191) were the primary causes for the tax levy increase.

Property Values: Equalized Versus Assessed

Equalized Value of Property (EVOP) is determined by the State Department of Revenue and is intended to be an estimate of the fair market value of property relative to other property throughout the state. It takes into account variations across the state and assessment practices.

Tax Invoice From Schools To Municipalities

To collect taxes, school districts use the EVOP to determine how to divide property taxes between the municipalities in their district in a way that is reasonable.

Municipality	2016-2017 EVOP (\$)	2016-2017 % of Total	2017-2018 EVOP (\$)	2017-2018 % of Total	EVOP Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$424,450	0.043%	\$421,801	0.042%	-\$2,649
T. JACKSON	\$55,366,970	5.616%	\$57,809,573	5.700%	\$2,442,603
T. NEW CHESTER	\$621,542	0.063%	\$704,692	0.069%	\$83,150
T. NEW HAVEN	\$205,876	0.021%	\$217,638	0.021%	\$11,762
T. RICHFIELD	\$1,056,160	0.107%	\$1,101,134	0.109%	\$44,974
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$119,393,800	12.111%	\$124,670,500	12.292%	\$5,276,700
T. DOUGLAS	\$8,791,281	0.892%	\$8,924,201	0.880%	\$132,920
T. HARRIS	\$69,246,500	7.024%	\$70,430,400	6.944%	\$1,183,900
T. NESHKORO	\$73,077,697	7.413%	\$72,748,904	7.173%	-\$328,793
T. NEWTON	\$63,830,200	6.475%	\$64,913,600	6.400%	\$1,083,400
T. OXFORD	\$99,198,200	10.062%	\$109,333,000	10.780%	\$10,134,800
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$13,280,838	1.347%	\$14,109,118	1.391%	\$828,280
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$127,231,500	12.906%	\$127,417,400	12.563%	\$185,900
T. WESTFIELD	\$95,935,900	9.731%	\$99,984,200	9.858%	\$4,048,300
V. NESHKORO	\$22,499,700	2.282%	\$22,158,400	2.185%	-\$341,300
V. OXFORD	\$25,502,400	2.587%	\$26,712,900	2.634%	\$1,210,500
V. WESTFIELD	\$48,014,700	4.870%	\$49,052,000	4.836%	\$1,037,300
T. COLOMA	\$89,815,300	9.110%	\$89,010,600	8.776%	-\$804,700
T. DAKOTA	\$4,894,171	0.496%	\$4,733,004	0.467%	-\$161,167
T. MARION	\$33,111,599	3.359%	\$34,683,621	3.420%	\$1,572,022
T. RICHFORD	\$14,230,823	1.443%	\$14,201,351	1.400%	-\$29,472
V. COLOMA	\$20,131,400	2.042%	\$20,883,100	2.059%	\$751,700
TOTAL EVOP	\$985,861,007	100.000%	\$1,014,221,137	100.000%	\$28,360,130

The school district informs each municipality how much in taxes to collect on behalf of the school using this method. Each municipality divides the school tax among the property owners in the municipality based on the assessed property values. For example, if landowner X had property equal to 0.10% of the total assessed property in the village, the property tax for that individual would be 0.10% of the total tax levy.

What Is The Impact Of The School Tax Levy Credit In My Municipality?

For school districts, this is the easiest part to answer because we have that data. The levy amount sent to each municipality compared to last year is:

Municipality	2016-2017 Levy (\$)	2017-2018 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$3,167	\$3,157	-\$10
T. JACKSON	\$413,078	\$432,645	\$19,567
T. NEW CHESTER	\$4,637	\$5,274	\$637
T. NEW HAVEN	\$1,536	\$1,629	\$93
T. RICHFIELD	\$7,880	\$8,241	\$361
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$890,766	\$933,029	\$42,263
T. DOUGLAS	\$65,589	\$66,788	\$1,199
T. HARRIS	\$516,630	\$527,098	\$10,468
T. NESHKORO	\$545,214	\$544,450	-\$764
T. NEWTON	\$476,220	\$485,811	\$9,591
T. OXFORD	\$740,092	\$818,244	\$78,152
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$99,085	\$105,592	\$6,507
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$949,241	\$953,585	\$4,344
T. WESTFIELD	\$715,753	\$748,278	\$32,525
V. NESHKORO	\$167,864	\$165,833	-\$2,031
V. OXFORD	\$190,267	\$199,918	\$9,651
V. WESTFIELD	\$358,225	\$367,103	\$8,878
T. COLOMA	\$670,088	\$666,152	-\$3,936
T. DAKOTA	\$36,514	\$35,422	-\$1,092
T. MARION	\$247,037	\$259,571	\$12,534
T. RICHFORD	\$106,172	\$106,282	\$110
V. COLOMA	\$150,195	\$156,288	\$6,093
TOTAL LEVY	\$7,355,250	\$7,590,390	\$235,140

County	2016-2017 Levy (\$)	2017-2018 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
ADAMS CO.	\$430,298	\$450,946	\$20,648
MARQUETTE CO.	\$5,714,946	\$5,915,729	\$200,783
WAUSHARA CO.	\$1,210,006	\$1,223,715	\$13,709
TOTAL LEVY	\$7,355,250	\$7,590,390	\$235,140

Assuming no other changes, this is what one could expect the impact of the school tax levy to be on your property tax bill. The school tax lottery credit is a “school aid” that comes to school districts through the municipalities. The state sends the municipalities an amount used to pay part of the school levy for the municipality. This lowers the amount of the tax bill and that is

passed on to property owners. School districts are not informed of the amount of the levy credit payments; we simply receive it (state aid) as part of the payment municipalities send us with the tax payment. Property owners in the School District of Westfield also received an assessment from Madison Area Technical College.

Factors That Impact The School Portion Of Your Tax Bill

- The three-year average FTE membership increased from 1175 to 1178. However, it is noteworthy to mention that the single year total FTE membership increased from 1163 last year to 1177 this year.
- The district-wide equalized valuation increased by 2.9%.
- The general state aid decrease of \$192,787 is the first year that the general state aid decreased since 2013-2014. Westfield will now receive a total \$3,324,564 in general state aid this year.
- The total tax levy increased by \$235,140 and is now \$7,590,390 this year. The decrease in state aid (\$192,787) and minimal increase in the revenue limit (\$33,191) were the primary causes for the tax levy increase.
- The mill rate increased by \$0.02 from last year. This means that the property taxes will increase by \$2 on a \$100,000 home. The current mill rate is \$7.48 (or \$748 per \$100,000 home).

Other Financial Comments

- The current budget for fund 10 expenditures is \$12,990,362 compared to \$12,684,212 last year.
- The projected fund balance on June 30, 2018 will be \$5,481,913 (42% of the operating budget). A healthy fund balance helps cash flow purposes and prevents the district from short-term borrowing. It can also be helpful in maintenance projects and vehicle replacement, as well as possible emergency situations.
- The overall indebtedness for the district is \$900,000. The QZAB loan is the only remaining loan and will be paid off in the fall of 2026.