

School District of Westfield

2016-2017 Financial News

October 20, 2016

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 decreased this year. However, residents living in different municipalities will be affected differently. To ensure that the public has an opportunity to understand this decrease, 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 2016-2017 fiscal year is \$7.46 per \$1,000 of property value. This is down from \$8.83 per \$1,000 of property value for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. This means that the property taxes will decrease by \$137 on a \$100,000 home. The 2016-2017 tax levy is \$7,355,250 compared to the 2015-2016 tax levy of \$8,684,020. The increase in state aid (\$790,538) and debt retirement of the high school (\$525,200 final payment last year) were the primary causes for the tax levy decrease.

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	2015-2016 EVOP (\$)	2015-2016 % of Total	2016-2017 EVOP (\$)	2016-2017 % of Total	EVOP Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$414,602	0.042%	\$424,450	0.043%	\$9,848
T. JACKSON	\$57,776,097	5.875%	\$55,366,970	5.616%	-\$2,409,127
T. NEW CHESTER	\$647,501	0.066%	\$621,542	0.063%	-\$25,959
T. NEW HAVEN	\$213,473	0.022%	\$205,876	0.021%	-\$7,597
T. RICHFIELD	\$1,098,182	0.112%	\$1,056,160	0.107%	-\$42,022
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$122,559,600	12.463%	\$119,393,800	12.111%	-\$3,165,800
T. DOUGLAS	\$7,785,173	0.792%	\$8,791,281	0.892%	\$1,006,108
T. HARRIS	\$68,571,700	6.973%	\$69,246,500	7.024%	\$674,800
T. NESHKORO	\$70,405,816	7.160%	\$73,077,697	7.413%	\$2,671,881
T. NEWTON	\$59,874,000	6.089%	\$63,830,200	6.475%	\$3,956,200
T. OXFORD	\$99,214,800	10.089%	\$99,198,200	10.062%	-\$16,600
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$14,219,427	1.446%	\$13,280,838	1.347%	-\$938,589
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$126,260,600	12.840%	\$127,231,500	12.906%	\$970,900
T. WESTFIELD	\$95,856,000	9.748%	\$95,935,900	9.731%	\$79,900
V. NESHKORO	\$22,555,400	2.294%	\$22,499,700	2.282%	-\$55,700
V. OXFORD	\$24,910,300	2.533%	\$25,502,400	2.587%	\$592,100
V. WESTFIELD	\$47,517,100	4.832%	\$48,014,700	4.870%	\$497,600
T. COLOMA	\$91,794,300	9.335%	\$89,815,300	9.110%	-\$1,979,000
T. DAKOTA	\$4,601,711	0.468%	\$4,894,171	0.496%	\$292,460
T. MARION	\$32,315,408	3.286%	\$33,111,599	3.359%	\$796,191
T. RICHFORD	\$13,439,422	1.367%	\$14,230,823	1.443%	\$791,401
V. COLOMA	\$21,331,800	2.169%	\$20,131,400	2.042%	-\$1,200,400
TOTAL EVOP	\$983,362,412	100.000%	\$985,861,007	100.000%	\$2,498,595

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	2015-2016 Levy (\$)	2016-2016 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$3,661	\$3,167	-\$494
T. JACKSON	\$510,218	\$413,078	-\$97,140
T. NEW CHESTER	\$5,718	\$4,637	-\$1,081
T. NEW HAVEN	\$1,885	\$1,536	-\$349
T. RICHFIELD	\$9,698	\$7,880	-\$1,818
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$1,082,317	\$890,766	-\$191,551
T. DOUGLAS	\$68,750	\$65,589	-\$3,161
T. HARRIS	\$605,553	\$516,630	-\$88,923
T. NESHKORO	\$621,750	\$545,214	-\$76,536
T. NEWTON	\$528,744	\$476,220	-\$52,524
T. OXFORD	\$876,161	\$740,092	-\$136,069
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$125,571	\$99,085	-\$26,486
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$1,115,000	\$949,241	-\$165,759
T. WESTFIELD	\$846,499	\$715,753	-\$130,746
V. NESHKORO	\$199,186	\$167,864	-\$31,322
V. OXFORD	\$219,982	\$190,267	-\$29,715
V. WESTFIELD	\$419,621	\$358,225	-\$61,396
T. COLOMA	\$810,630	\$670,088	-\$140,542
T. DAKOTA	\$40,637	\$36,514	-\$4,123
T. MARION	\$285,376	\$247,037	-\$38,339
T. RICHFORD	\$118,683	\$106,172	-\$12,511
V. COLOMA	\$188,380	\$150,195	-\$38,185
TOTAL LEVY	\$8,684,020	\$7,355,250	-\$1,328,770

County	2015-2016 Levy (\$)	2016-2017 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
ADAMS CO.	\$531,180	\$430,298	-\$100,882
MARQUETTE CO.	\$6,709,134	\$5,714,946	-\$994,188
WAUSHARA CO.	\$1,443,706	\$1,210,006	-\$233,700
TOTAL LEVY	\$8,684,020	\$7,355,250	-\$1,328,770

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 remained the same at 1174. However, it is noteworthy to mention that the single year total FTE membership decreased from 1194 last year to 1160 this year.
- The district-wide equalized valuation increased by 0.3%.
- The general state aid increase of \$790,538 is the third consecutive year that the general state aid increased. Westfield will now receive a total \$3,517,351 in general state aid this year.
- The total tax levy decreased by \$1,328,770 and is now \$7,355,250 this year. The increase in state aid (\$790,538) and debt retirement of the high school (\$525,200 final payment last year) were the primary causes for the tax levy decrease.
- The mill rate decreased by \$1.37 from last year. This means that the property taxes will decrease by \$137 on a \$100,000 home. The current mill rate is \$7.46 (or \$746 per \$100,000 home).

Other Financial Comments

- The current budget for fund 10 expenditures is \$12,722,855 compared to \$12,699,351 last year.
- The current fund balance is \$5,734,198 (45% 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 \$1,005,000. The QZAB loan is the only remaining loan and will be paid off in the fall of 2026.