

School District of Westfield

2018-2019 Financial News

October 18, 2018

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 2018-2019 fiscal year is \$7.08 per \$1,000 of property value. This is down from \$7.48 per \$1,000 of property value for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This means that the property taxes will decrease \$40 on a \$100,000 home. The 2018-2019 tax levy is \$7,455,969 compared to the 2017-2018 tax levy of \$7,590,390. The increase in state aid (\$343,622) compared to the increase in the revenue limit (\$225,979) is the primary cause 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	2017-2018 EVOP (\$)	2017-2018 % of Total	2018-2019 EVOP (\$)	2018-2019 % of Total	EVOP Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$421,801	0.042%	\$408,894	0.039%	-\$12,907
T. JACKSON	\$57,809,573	5.700%	\$63,057,916	5.985%	\$5,248,343
T. NEW CHESTER	\$704,692	0.069%	\$721,571	0.068%	\$16,879
T. NEW HAVEN	\$217,638	0.021%	\$220,029	0.021%	\$2,391
T. RICHFIELD	\$1,101,134	0.109%	\$1,151,511	0.109%	\$50,377
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$124,670,500	12.292%	\$126,536,900	12.009%	\$1,866,400
T. DOUGLAS	\$8,924,201	0.880%	\$9,177,996	0.871%	\$253,795
T. HARRIS	\$70,430,400	6.944%	\$72,369,200	6.868%	\$1,938,800
T. NESHKORO	\$72,748,904	7.173%	\$73,321,206	6.959%	\$572,302
T. NEWTON	\$64,913,600	6.400%	\$66,755,200	6.336%	\$1,841,600
T. OXFORD	\$109,333,000	10.780%	\$114,412,000	10.859%	\$5,079,000
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$14,109,118	1.391%	\$14,191,777	1.347%	\$82,659
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$127,417,400	12.563%	\$134,521,400	12.767%	\$7,104,000
T. WESTFIELD	\$99,984,200	9.858%	\$104,539,700	9.922%	\$4,555,500
V. NESHKORO	\$22,158,400	2.185%	\$21,859,300	2.075%	-\$299,100
V. OXFORD	\$26,712,900	2.634%	\$27,133,800	2.575%	\$420,900
V. WESTFIELD	\$49,052,000	4.836%	\$49,237,800	4.673%	\$185,800
T. COLOMA	\$89,010,600	8.776%	\$97,668,800	9.270%	\$8,658,200
T. DAKOTA	\$4,733,004	0.467%	\$4,814,184	0.457%	\$81,180
T. MARION	\$34,683,621	3.420%	\$35,163,475	3.337%	\$479,854
T. RICHFORD	\$14,201,351	1.400%	\$14,153,855	1.343%	-\$47,496
V. COLOMA	\$20,883,100	2.059%	\$22,232,200	2.110%	\$1,349,100
TOTAL EVOP	\$1,014,221,137	100.000%	\$1,053,648,714	100.000%	\$39,427,577

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	2017-2018 Levy (\$)	2018-2019 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$3,157	\$2,893	-\$264
T. JACKSON	\$432,645	\$446,219	\$13,574
T. NEW CHESTER	\$5,274	\$5,106	-\$168
T. NEW HAVEN	\$1,629	\$1,557	-\$72
T. RICHFIELD	\$8,241	\$8,148	-\$93
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$933,029	\$895,417	-\$37,612
T. DOUGLAS	\$66,788	\$64,947	-\$1,841
T. HARRIS	\$527,098	\$512,109	-\$14,989
T. NESHKORO	\$544,450	\$518,845	-\$25,605
T. NEWTON	\$485,811	\$472,382	-\$13,429
T. OXFORD	\$818,244	\$809,617	-\$8,627
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$105,592	\$100,426	-\$5,166
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$953,585	\$951,919	-\$1,666
T. WESTFIELD	\$748,278	\$739,758	-\$8,520
V. NESHKORO	\$165,833	\$154,684	-\$11,149
V. OXFORD	\$199,918	\$192,008	-\$7,910
V. WESTFIELD	\$367,103	\$348,423	-\$18,680
T. COLOMA	\$666,152	\$691,137	\$24,985
T. DAKOTA	\$35,422	\$34,067	-\$1,355
T. MARION	\$259,571	\$248,828	-\$10,743
T. RICHFORD	\$106,282	\$100,157	-\$6,125
V. COLOMA	\$156,288	\$157,322	\$1,034
TOTAL LEVY	\$7,590,390	\$7,455,969	-\$134,421

County	2017-2018 Levy (\$)	2018-2019 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
ADAMS CO.	\$450,946	\$463,923	\$12,977
MARQUETTE CO.	\$5,915,729	\$5,760,535	-\$155,194
WAUSHARA CO.	\$1,223,715	\$1,231,511	\$7,796
TOTAL LEVY	\$7,590,390	\$7,455,969	-\$134,421

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 decreased from 1177 to 1164. However, it is noteworthy to mention that the single year total FTE membership decreased from 1174 last year to 1156 this year.
- The district-wide equalized valuation increased by 3.9%.
- The general state aid increase of \$343,622 means that Westfield will now receive a total \$3,668,186 in general state aid this year.
- The increase in state aid (\$343,622) compared to the increase in the revenue limit (\$225,979) is the primary cause for the tax levy decrease.
- The mill rate decreased by \$0.40 from last year. This means that the property taxes will decrease by \$40 on a \$100,000 home. The current mill rate is \$7.08 (or \$708 per \$100,000 home). The relatively large increase of 3.9% in district-wide equalized valuation combined with the modest decrease in the levy amount (-\$134,421) contributed to the decrease of the mill rate.

Other Financial Comments

- The current budget for fund 10 expenditures is \$13,884,631 compared to \$13,133,056 last year.
- The projected fund balance on June 30, 2019 will be \$5,178,521 (37% 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 \$800,000. The QZAB loan is the only remaining loan and will be paid off in the fall of 2026.