

## East Troy Board Approves 1.43% Tax Levy Increase

*District's mill rate to be at lowest point since 2008-09 school year*

EAST TROY, WI – At its October 25 meeting, the East Troy Community School District Board of Education approved a 1.43 percent levy increase for the 2021-22 tax levy cycle.

With property values increasing an average of 6.07 percent over the last year, according to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, the rate approved by the board actually represents a decrease of mills from the current rate. The district's levy will move from \$8.72 per \$1,000 of assessed property value last year to \$8.34 this year.

"The levy rate for the East Troy Community School District is now at its lowest point since the 2008-09 school year," said Kathy Zwirgzdas, ETCSD Business Manager. "It's also worth noting that the 2020-21 state average for mill rates was \$9.18, putting our district well below the state average."

Mill rates are taxes for each \$1,000 of assessed property value. These rates decrease as property values rise and/or as property growth occurs in a community.

"If a community is adding property to the tax rolls, the existing levy can be spread among more taxpayers, thereby lowering the rate," Zwirgzdas said.

Although property taxes will stay relatively flat in the community, the school district's revenue remains severely limited.

"This year is the first year of a biennial budget, with a \$0 revenue limit increase and a \$0 per pupil aid increase from the state," said Dr. Christopher Hibner, Superintendent. "With no revenue from those two sources over the next two years, no operational referendum in place and cost-of-living increases growing higher and higher, this will continue to strain our overall operations," stated Hibner.

Year	Levy Change	Mill Rate
2015	3.97%	\$10.42
2016	-2.03%	\$9.97
2017	0.00%	\$9.69
2018	1.50%	\$9.66
2019	0.00%	\$9.21
2020	2.88%	\$9.18
2021	1.50%	\$8.72
2022	1.43%	\$8.34

In April 2021, district residents did not approve a maintenance referendum nor an operational referendum on the ballot that would have helped to address ETCSD's maintenance needs and revenue challenges. After that vote, the district reduced \$779,000 from its budget for the 2021-22 school year. These cuts come in addition to the \$8.2 million ETCSD has completed in budget-balancing efforts over the past 14 years.

To learn more about the district's budget and recent Board of Education action, visit <https://www.easttroy.k12.wi.us/district/board-of-education.cfm>.

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