

East Troy Board Approves 0% Tax Levy Increase

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

EAST TROY, WI – At its October 24 meeting, the East Troy Community School District Board of Education approved a 0.00% levy increase for the 2022-23 tax levy cycle, and its mill rate dropped 12.62%.

With property values increasing an average of 14 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 \$8.34 per \$1,000 of assessed property value last year to \$7.29 this year.

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 when overall levies do not increase.

“If a community is adding property to the tax rolls, the existing levy can be spread among more taxpayers, thereby lowering the rate,” stated Kathy Zwirgzdas, East Troy School District Business Manager. She added that last year the state average for mill rates was \$8.67 (when East Troy was \$8.34). “We don’t have this year’s state averages yet, but we anticipate to continue to be running below the average in taxation.”

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

“We plugged this year’s budget hole with one-time federal ESSER funds to maintain staffing. This is the second 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 operational referendum in place, cost-of-living increases growing higher and higher, and stagnant revenues, school operations will continue to struggle,” stated Hibner.

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. For the 22-23 budget the district needed to balance its budget with \$1.1 million in reductions, and used \$800,000 in federal ESSER dollars to do so.

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>.

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
2023	0.00%	\$7.29

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