

2019-2020 Property Tax Levy

The 2019-2020 property tax levy by municipality is available to the community on the school district website (www.waunakee.k12.wi.us), click business services, click tax levy. The 2019-2020 school district budget is available to the community on the school district web-site, click business services, click approved budgets. A version of the 2019-2020 budget in a more grammatical format is available to the community on the school district website, click business services, click budget planning, click 2019-2020 final version. This document provides additional information on the 2019-2020 property tax levy increase.

School district spending in Wisconsin is limited by a formula called the revenue cap. The revenue cap limits the amount of revenues available to a school district from the two main sources of revenues – property taxes and state equalization aid. The two sources of revenues work together in the formula. For example, when state equalization aid is reduced, property taxes go up. When state equalization aid is increased, property taxes go down.

Due to an increase in the revenue cap formula (because of both enrollment increases and a \$175 per student increase), the revenue cap formula requires a Fund 10 property tax levy increase to \$23,205,745. The Fund 39 property tax levy increases to \$9,519,686. The Fund 41 property tax levy of \$509,296 remains the same. The Fund 80 community service fund tax levy increases to \$434,000. The total property tax levy for 2019-2020 increases by 10.7%. For 2019-2020, the Board of Education has decided to continue with a tax rate of \$10.86, which is the same tax rate that was approved for the 2018-2019 year.

A 10.7% property tax levy increase does not equate to an exact 10.7% increase on the school portion of your property tax bill. This occurs for the following reasons:

1. The 10.7% property tax levy increase approved by the School Board is not a net change in your property tax levy. There are school levy property tax credits that offset a portion of the school district tax levy.
2. The school district is made up of 7 different municipalities. School property tax levies shift between municipalities depending on equalized property value changes.
3. The school tax on a \$360,000 home remains at \$3,909, because the tax rate remains at \$10.86 (assuming home had assessment change of 0%).
4. Individual properties can have a tax value increase or decrease based on property changes (like a basement remodel or a reassessment).
5. New properties built in 2018 are taxed for the first time in 2019 and this shifts the school property tax between properties.

The impact of a School Board approved property tax levy increase cannot be calculated by the school district for an individual property based on the variables above. Please feel free to contact Steve Summers at 849-2000 ext. 8012 or stevesummers@waunakee.k12.wi.us with any questions. Thanks for your time.