



PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

The Walker County Board of Education plans to lower the Tax Millage Rate for 2023 from 16.404 to 14.982. This rate reduction will offset some of the increase in property fair market values in recent higher appraisals.

The Millage Rate also impacts the school system's state funding calculation. Reducing the Mill Rate decreases state Equalization funds, and could even eliminate those funds if the effective mill rate drops below 14 mills.

Georgia law requires advertisement of NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE if the proposed millage rate is higher than the calculated "rollback rate".

The Walker County Board of Education will hold three public hearings in August. See press release below.

Press Release:

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Walker County Board of Education has tentatively adopted a 2023 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 15.13 percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at the Advancing Education Center located at 925 Osborn Road, Chickamauga, Georgia, on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at the boardroom of the Walker County Department of Education located at 201 South Duke Street, LaFayette, Georgia on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., and on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

The tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 14.982 mills, an increase of 1.969 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 13.013 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market of \$225,000 with a homestead exemption is approximately \$173.28. The proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$150,000 is approximately \$118.14.

Property tax is an ad valorem tax, which means according to value. All real estate and personal property are taxable unless the law has exempted the property.

The Board of Tax Assessors and their staff are responsible for determining the value of the property in Walker County. Taxpayers may contact the Tax Assessors if they wish to file an appeal regarding the assessed value. Property in Georgia is taxed on the assessed value, which is 40% of the fair market value. The annual assessed notices were sent out in May 2023, but the calculations were based on the 2022 millage rates as the 2023 millage rates will not be set until August.

The School M & O tax rate, or millage rate is set annually by the Walker County Board of Education to fund the Maintenance and Operations of the Walker County Board of Education. A tax rate of one mill represents a tax liability of one dollar per \$1,000 of assessed value.

There are some exemptions for property taxes, such as homestead exemptions for primary residence. Contact the Walker County Tax Commissioner if you have questions regarding eligible exemptions. This year the state has also approved a Homestead Tax Relief Grant that will help to lower assessed values for properties with a homestead exemption.