December 15, 2025

Explanation of 2025 Property Tax Increases

Property tax owners in the School District of Beloit recently got their 2025 property tax bills. Many were overwhelmed and astounded to see a 524% increase to their tax bills and they had a right to be astounded. In my thirty years of being a superintendent of schools in Wisconsin, I have never seen an increase this large. As individuals speak with me, one of their first questions is "why"?

The most simplified answer is that your property taxes took a dramatic increase because the amount of money provided to the school district by the State of Wisconsin saw a huge decrease this year, which means that the difference is made up through property taxes. School districts throughout the State of Wisconsin are limited to what they can spend each year by what is known as "revenue limits". Revenue limits are calculated by taking the number of students in the district times the amount of revenue allowed per student by the State of Wisconsin. Once the revenue limit is calculated, it is funded primarily through two sources of revenue: state aid and property taxes.

The School District of Beloit is a highly aided district, meaning the majority of the cost to run the school district is provided by the State of Wisconsin. In 2024, the State of Wisconsin gave the district $92 for every $100 spent and the property tax payers paid $8 for every $100 spent. This year, the State of Wisconsin gave the district $78 for every $100 spent and the property taxpayers paid $22 for every $100 spent. This difference in state aid is primarily the reason that your property tax bills saw such a tremendous increase.

I have been asked if the school district received a lot more money because of this large property tax increase and the answer is "no". The school district can **only** spend up to the revenue cap regardless of how much the property taxpayers have to pay.

I would like to give a brief historical perspective to your current tax bill. I reviewed the tax (mill) rates for the School District of Beloit and discovered that your current tax bill is fairly close to what your property tax bill would have been in 2021, when the District's mill rate was $10.10. For every $100,000 that your property was assessed at you paid $1,010 in property taxes. The property tax rates then started to drastically fall to $4.78 in 2022, $3.96 in 2023 and $1.92 last year in 2024. This year, the District's mill rate is $5.30.

I think that it is important to point out that the tax rate for the School District of Beloit is the lowest rate when compared to our surrounding school districts. For example, this year the tax rate for Clinton is $9.92, Evansville is $7.82, Janesville is $7.70, Brodhead is $7.45 and Parkview is $5.92. None of these numbers lessen the shock of getting such a dramatic property tax increase in one year, but I hope that it shows that what you are currently paying for your property taxes is in line with what you have paid in the past and still lower than neighboring districts.

In my role as superintendent, it is my responsibility to work with the Board of Education to create a budget that meets the needs of the school district while ensuring that we use the funds you have entrusted to us responsibly and with sound fiscal judgment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wayne R. Anderson
Interim Superintendent for the School District of Beloit