

Staff Report

Subject: Property tax levy & millage rates for 2024
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Department: Finance, Tax Assessor, Tax Commissioner
Meeting Date: 8/20/24
Item Description: Public hearing on the property tax levy & millage rates, resolution to levy property taxes, and approval of the PT32.1 and PT35 forms for submission of millage to the State

Summary Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution to levy taxes, approval of the proposed millage rates, and approval of the PT32.1 and PT35 forms for submission to the State.

Executive Summary/Background:

Each year the Board of Commissioners is required to adopt a millage for the county. The millage process is set by the Georgia Department of Revenue. This action requires the Board of Commissioners to set a millage rate for the county and the Hospital Authority. The County also adopts a millage on behalf of the Industrial Development Authority, and the Board of Education.

1. Effingham County may formally set and adopt the millage once the Board of Education's millage rate is received.
2. The process steps are governed by whether the Board elects to use the rollback rate or not.
3. Attached are the documents related to the filing requirements: the levy resolution which includes the County's intended use for the insurance proceeds from the State, the PT32.1 forms, the PT35 form, and the schedule of sales tax and insurance premiums received.
4. The Board of Commissioners' main County M&O rate is proposed at 5.596, down from last year's 5.939. This decrease of 0.343 represents the full rollback.
5. This is the 5th year that the County M&O rate has been lowered.
6. The Medical Indigent rate is proposed to stay at 1.480.
7. The Board of Education has raised their rate to 16.500.
8. The three new special industrial districts' rates are proposed to increase by 0.343, going from 1.100 each to 1.443.
9. The rates for public works, parks, and recreation remain the same as last year. The Industrial Development Authorities rate also remains the same.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the County developing a millage for the unincorporated residents, the resolution to levy taxes, and the PT32.1 and PT35 forms for submission to the State.
2. Do not approve of the millage rates, the resolution to levy taxes, or the P32.1 and PT35 forms as presented.
2. Provide staff with direction.

Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends approval – Alternative #1 - Approve the County developing a millage for the unincorporated residents, the resolution to levy taxes, and the PT32.1 and PT35 forms for submission to the State.

Other Alternatives:

n/a

Department Review: *(list departments)*

Finance, Tax Assessor, Tax Commissioner

Funding Source:

None required - existing software and staff preparation time are already accounted for in the budget.

Attachments:

1. Resolution to Levy the 2024 Taxes
2. PT 35 – County Millage Rate Certification
3. PT 32.1 – Computation of Millage Rate Rollback & Percentage Increase
4. Tax Digest & 5-year history for 2024
5. Insurance Premium & Local Option Sales Taxes Proceeds for 2024 Millage Adjustment