



MEMO

Department

To: Common Council
From: Finance Director, Van Rossum
Date: December 16, 2025
Re: Property Tax Mill Rate Comparison Webpage

Background information:

As property tax bills are issued each year, residents frequently inquire about how the City of Kaukauna's mill rate compares to surrounding municipalities. To provide clear, consistent, and easily accessible information, staff created a mill rate comparison webpage. This can be found under <https://kaukauna.gov/finance/> near the bottom.

The webpage explains what a mill rate is, how to interpret differences across communities, where to locate the mill rate on an individual tax bill, and how Kaukauna's financial decisions influence its rate. It also includes a comparison table that can be updated annually. The goal is to improve transparency and help residents better understand how Kaukauna aligns with the region and with other similar-sized cities across Wisconsin.

While many additional municipalities could be included, staff focused on two logical comparison groups: surrounding communities, where a Kaukauna resident might realistically relocate, and similar-sized municipalities, which are likely to provide comparable levels of service. This approach provides meaningful context while ensuring the comparison remains relevant and easy for residents to interpret.

Strategic Plan:

This action directly aligns with the City's Strategic Plan priorities surrounding Effective Communication, Financial Sustainability, and Customer-Focused Service Delivery.

Providing clear financial information supports informed decision-making by residents, enhances public trust, and reinforces the City's commitment to transparency in municipal operations.

Budget: There is no budget impact associated with this action.

Staff Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the Common Council receive and place this update on file, acknowledging the creation of the annual mill rate comparison webpage as part of the City's continued effort to provide transparent and accessible financial information to residents.

Mill Rate Comparison

(Sorted from lowest 2025 Mill Rate to highest by Municipality type)

Municipality	Population	2024	2025	% Difference	\$ Difference
City of Hartford	15,955	\$11.63	\$13.03	12.0%	\$1.40
City of West Bend	32,491	\$13.63	\$14.44	5.9%	\$0.81
City of DePere	25,605	\$14.76	\$14.48	-1.9%	-\$0.28
City of River Falls	17,799	\$19.38	\$15.08	-22.2%	-\$4.30
City of Appleton	76,303	\$15.38	\$16.26	5.7%	\$0.88
City of Kaukauna	18,548	\$22.00	\$16.53	-24.9%	-\$5.47
City of Neenah	27,817	\$16.48	\$17.07	3.6%	\$0.59
City of Two Rivers	11,116	\$16.59	\$17.37	4.7%	\$0.78
City of Seymour	3,601	\$17.07	\$17.72	3.8%	\$0.65
City of Middleton	24,595	\$18.28	\$19.00	3.9%	\$0.72
City of Menasha-Winnebago	18,683	\$18.90	\$19.19	1.5%	\$0.29
City of Menasha-Calumet	18,683	\$19.41	\$20.32	4.7%	\$0.91
City of Green Bay	107,994	\$19.92	\$20.84	4.6%	\$0.92
City of Menomonie	16,971	\$20.40	\$21.07	3.3%	\$0.67
City of Stevens Point	26,820	\$19.41	\$21.46	10.6%	\$2.05
City of Baraboo	13,190	\$23.84	\$24.02	0.8%	\$0.18
Villages					
Village of Greenville	13,414	\$11.86	\$11.60	-2.2%	-\$0.26
Village of Combined Locks	3,621	\$11.70	\$11.77	0.6%	\$0.07
Village of Harrison - KASD	15,623	\$18.19	\$12.21	-32.9%	-\$5.98
Village of Little Chute	12,182	\$18.38	\$12.69	-31.0%	-\$5.69
Village of Hortonville	3,363	\$19.23	\$12.90	-32.9%	-\$6.33
Village of Wrightstown	4,019	\$14.68	\$16.64	13.4%	\$1.96
Village of Kimberly	7,675	\$18.53	\$19.40	4.7%	\$0.87
Towns					
Town of Freedom	6,318	\$19.64	\$11.79	-40.0%	-\$7.85
Town of Buchanan	6,817	\$12.11	\$12.24	1.1%	\$0.13
Town of Grand Chute	24,458	\$17.11	\$12.32	-28.0%	-\$4.79
Town of Kaukauna	1,313	\$11.88	\$12.64	6.4%	\$0.76
Town of VandenBroek	1,702	\$13.76	\$14.53	5.6%	\$0.77
Town of Ellington	3,310	\$13.43	\$15.38	14.5%	\$1.95
Town of Oneida	4,565	\$15.26	\$16.15	5.8%	\$0.89
Town of Center	3,704	\$15.95	\$16.29	2.1%	\$0.34