

Alton School Board Approves 2023 Tax Levy After Truth in Taxation Hearing

by Sydney Sinks, News Reporter
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ALTON - Alton Community Unit School District #11 held a Truth in Taxation hearing before their regular Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023.

Mary Schell, the district's Director of Financial Services, explained the proposed 2023 tax levy to the Board and community members.

"A Truth in Taxation hearing is held to let voters and taxpayers in the community comment on the proposed local property tax levy the district's making for the current year taxes payable in the following year," Schell said. "When the district's proposed aggregate levy is greater than 105% of the prior year's aggregate extension, a Truth in

Taxation hearing must be held...In summary, this Truth in Taxation hearing is taking place because the 2023 district aggregate levy, based on 15% increase in , exceeds the 2022 aggregate extension by more than 105%.”

Schell explained that the levy is “simply an educated guess” about the projected amount of taxes for the next year. By making this guess, it allows the district to create a more accurate budget for the 2024–2025 school year even though they won’t know for sure how much money they will receive from property taxes until the spring of 2024.

That amount will ultimately be determined by the equalized assessed value (EAV), which is “the taxable value of all property within the school district’s boundaries.” The EAV is determined by Madison County in the spring. Since 2018, the EAV has increased for ACUSD11.

The district has to approve a levy now in order to make sure they will receive tax funding for the 2024–2025 school year. The money the district actually receives is called the aggregate extension.

“In 2022, our aggregate extension was \$31,080,592.88,” Schell explained. “Our 2023 aggregate levy is \$35,929,511. So the percent increase on the aggregate levy is 15.6% based on that projected 15% increase in EAV. In 2021, our total extension including the bond and interest, or the debt fund, was \$39,809,825.73...Our 2023 proposed total levy is \$44,398,496 for a total percent increase of 11.53%. So this levy illustrates a projected increase greater than 105% of the aggregate extension from last year. Therefore, this hearing is required by law.”

For every \$100,000 of home value, taxpayers will see a decrease of either \$39.16, \$19.99 or \$11.84 depending on if the respective EAV is a 15%, 10% or 8% increase. There is currently a projected 15% increase in EAV.

The annual tax levy resolution was ultimately adopted by the Board in an unanimous vote on Dec. 19, 2023.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR
ALTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #11,
MADISON & JERSEY COUNTIES

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Community Unit School District #11, Madison & Jersey Counties, Illinois for 2022 will be held on December 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Alton High School Library, 4200 Humbert Rd, Alton, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mary Schell, Director of Financial Services, Community Unit School District #11, 550 Landmarks Ste. A, Alton, Illinois 62002; (618) 474-2600.

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$31,080,592.88.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$35,929,511. This represents a 15.60% increase over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$8,729,232.85

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$8,468,985.00. This represents a -2.98% decrease over the previous year.

- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$39,809,825.73.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$44,398,496.00. This represents a 11.53% increase over the previous year.

Secretary, Board of Education
Alton Community Unit School District #11
Madison & Jersey Counties, Illinois