

WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

ACTION ALERT

County Mill Levy '101'

June 2007



A **mill levy** is the number of dollars in taxes that a property owner must pay for every \$1,000 of assessed value. County Commissioners establish the total mill levy for each tax district based on budget requests from the various taxing entities within the district boundaries. An illustration of the various taxing jurisdictions in Wyoming can be found below.

Tax amounts are derived by multiplying the assessed value by the amount of the mill levy that applies for the location of the property. Remember, one mill is \$.001 (1/1000 of a dollar).

SAMPLE CALCULATION OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY:

Market Value of Property:	\$200,000
Assessed Value of Property:	\$19,000 (\$200,000 X 9.5% for residential)

Mill levies:

K-12 Education Levies:	Mills
District levy	25.000
Mandatory County levy	6.000
Foundation Fund levy	12.000

Additional County-wide Levies:	Mills
County levy	12.000
Weed and Pest	2.000
Hospital District	3.000
Conservation District	1.000

City or Town Levy:	8.000
--------------------	-------

Special District Levies:	Mills
School District Recreation	1.000
Fire	3.000
Cemetery	3.000

Total Applicable Levy:	76.000 mills
Total Property Taxes:	\$1444.00 (\$19,000 X .0760)

TAXING JURISDICTIONS:

SCHOOL DISTRICTS -

District (25.000 mills mandatory) – statutorily required - All school districts are required to impose a 25 mill levy counted as a local resource toward meeting a district's operational funding level guaranteed by the state. A district is subject to recapture if this levy, combined with other local resources, generates more than the state guarantee.

State Foundation Fund (12.000 mills mandatory) – constitutionally required - This levy is collected from all counties and remitted to the state where it is distributed to school districts based on a foundation formula. Money recaptured from districts is also added to this fund for redistribution. A district whose local resources exceed 100 percent of its guarantee must refund the amount over 100 percent to the state for redistribution to poorer districts.

County Levy (6.000 mills mandatory) – constitutionally required - All counties are required to impose a 6 mill levy for school support. County treasurers disburse tax receipts from this source back to school districts within the county according to a formula calculated by the state Department of Education based on district average daily membership.

Other School District Levies:

- Adult Education - 2.500 mill limit
- Board of Cooperative Educational Services program - 2.500 mill limit
- Building Fund - the number of mills necessary to fund the program
- Recreation - 1.000 mill limit

Bonds and Interest - Levies made to pay principal and interest for bonded indebtedness. There is no limit on the levy, but a district operating either an elementary school or a secondary school is limited to 6 percent of the assessed valuation for bonded debt. A district with both elementary and secondary schools is limited to 10 percent of the assessed valuation for bonded indebtedness.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEVIES (10.000 mill limitation) - Community college districts may levy up to 10.000 mills for operations. The colleges initially may levy up to 4 mills with the approval of district voters. State aid is contingent on a college levying the 4 mill maximum. After the initial 4 mills is reached, colleges may levy up to an additional 6 mills - 1 mill with Board approval, and up to 5 additional with district voter approval. Levies for bonded indebtedness are in addition to the 10 mill limit; voter approval is required. Total debt is limited to 4 percent of district valuation.

COUNTY LEVIES (12.000 mill limitation) - Counties are limited to a maximum of 12 mills for county operations. Levies for bond redemption and interest payments are in addition to the 12 mill maximum. Counties may specify that funding for certain programs be guaranteed by a specific levy so long as the total levy does not exceed 12 mills. Levies for principal and interest on voter-approved bonded debt are in addition to the county 12 mill limit.

CITY AND TOWN LEVIES (8.000 mill limitation) - Cities and towns must operate within an 8 mill constitutional limit. The city mill levy is in addition to other levies. Municipalities within a fire district must contribute the amount of the fire district levy from their 8 mill limit. Levies for principal and interest on voter-approved bonded debt are in addition to the city and town 8 mill limit.

SPECIAL DISTRICT LEVIES - These property tax levies are made by special purpose districts as the result of voter approval for a myriad of purposes within statutory limitations. Voter-approved debt is in addition to the limits shown below.

<u>Special District</u>	<u>Limitation on amount of tax levy</u>
Water and Sewer District	8.000 mill limit
Hospital District	6.000 mill limit for operation
Cemetery District	3.000 mill limit
Fire Protection	3.000 mill limit
Solid Waste Disposal District	3.000 mill limit
Resort District	3.000 mill limit
Rural Health Care District	2.000 mill limit
Senior Citizen Service District	2.000 mill limit
Museum District	1.000 mill limit

Sanitary and Improvement District	1.000 mill limit
Soil and Water Conservation District	1.000 mill limit
Water Conservancy District	1.000 mill limit
Weed and Pest Control	1.000 mill limit; plus 1.000 mill for leafy spurge
Regional Transportation Authority	0.500 mill limit
Flood Control District	12.000 mill limit on real property
Downtown Development Authority	30.000 mill limit on commercial & industrial property
Irrigation District	May levy for current expenses
Improvement and Service	May levy property taxes for bonds and interest only