

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING A PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Each year, the Gilmer County Board of Commissioners is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trends of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the Board of Tax Assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

Gilmer County Board of Commissioners has made the decision to keep the 2017 Maintenance and Operation (M& O) millage rate at 6.983 mills which is the same as the 2016 millage rate. However, since this millage rate exceeds the calculated rollback millage rate it is deemed a tax increase for 2017. Before the Board can set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Gilmer County Jury Assembly Room located on the 2nd floor of the Gilmer County Courthouse, 1 Broad Street, Ellijay, Georgia on August 10, 2017 at 5:00pm and August 17, 2017 at 9:00am and 6:30pm.

Notice of Property Tax Increase

The Gilmer County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a Maintenance and Operation (M&O) millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 1.94 percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at the Gilmer County Courthouse Jury Assembly Room on August 10, 2017 at 5:00pm.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at the Gilmer County Courthouse Jury Assembly Room on August 17, 2017 at 9:00am and 6:30pm.

This tentative increase will result in a Maintenance and Operation (M&O) millage rate of 6.983 mills, an increase of .133 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 6.850 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$150,000 is approximately \$7.71 and the proposed tax increase for a non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$75,000 is approximately \$3.99.

NOTICE

The Gilmer County Board of Commissioners do hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held in the Gilmer County Jury Assembly Room in the Gilmer County Courthouse on August 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32 do hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2017 MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

| COUNTY WIDE | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Real & Personal | 1,180,070,356 | 1,194,668,331 | 1,179,411,035 | 1,254,462,852 | 1,343,582,912 | 1,383,870,040 |
| Motor Vehicles | 68,829,880 | 71,849,650 | 62,080,940 | 46,774,110 | 36,131,020 | 27,814,710 |
| Mobile Homes | 6,669,037 | 6,612,878 | 10,570,706 | 10,133,278 | 9,742,699 | 9,587,445 |
| Timber - 100% | 313,585 | 293,482 | 525,435 | 650,702 | 567,827 | 610,894 |
| Heavy Duty Equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gross Digest | 1,255,882,858 | 1,273,424,341 | 1,252,588,116 | 1,312,020,942 | 1,390,024,458 | 1,421,883,089 |
| Less M&O Exemptions | 163,162,436 | 154,686,191 | 139,124,957 | 165,929,040 | 190,898,045 | 200,246,610 |
| Net M&O Digest | 1,092,720,422 | 1,118,738,150 | 1,113,463,159 | 1,146,091,902 | 1,199,126,413 | 1,221,636,479 |
| State of Ga Forest Land Assistance Grant Value | 2,306,958 | 2,618,045 | 2,858,786 | 2,909,494 | 3,795,243 | 3,836,399 |
| Adjusted Net M&O Digest | 1,095,027,380 | 1,121,356,195 | 1,116,321,945 | 1,149,001,396 | 1,202,921,656 | 1,225,472,878 |
| Gross M&O Millage | 9.640 | 8.184 | 8.334 | 9.403 | 9.038 | 9.334 |
| Less Rollbacks | 2.422 | 1.040 | 1.110 | 2.420 | 2.398 | 2.351 |
| Net M&O Millage | 7.218 | 7.144 | 7.224 | 6.983 | 6.983 | 6.983 |
| Net Taxes Levied | 7,903,907 | 8,010,969 | 8,064,310 | 8,023,477 | 8,400,002 | 8,557,477 |
| Net Taxes \$ Increase | -932 | 107,062 | 53,341 | -40,833 | 376,525 | 157,475 |
| Net Taxes % Increase | 0.000 | 0.024 | 0.007 | -0.005 | 0.047 | 0.019 |

CURRENT 2017 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

| COUNTY WIDE | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Real & Personal | 1,180,070,356 | 1,194,668,331 | 1,179,411,035 | 1,254,462,852 | 1,343,582,912 | 1,383,870,040 |
| Motor Vehicles | 68,829,880 | 71,849,650 | 62,080,940 | 46,774,110 | 36,131,020 | 27,814,710 |
| Mobile Homes | 6,669,037 | 6,612,878 | 10,570,706 | 10,133,278 | 9,742,699 | 9,587,445 |
| Timber - 100% | 313,585 | 293,482 | 525,435 | 650,702 | 567,827 | 610,894 |
| Heavy Duty Equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gross Digest | 1,255,882,858 | 1,273,424,341 | 1,252,588,116 | 1,312,020,942 | 1,390,024,458 | 1,421,883,089 |
| Less Bond Exemptions | 149,352,789 | 139,802,378 | 124,410,770 | 157,345,040 | 181,905,033 | 190,912,221 |
| Net Bond Digest | 1,106,530,069 | 1,133,621,963 | 1,128,177,346 | 1,154,675,902 | 1,208,119,425 | 1,230,970,868 |
| Gross Bond Millage | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.500 | 1.500 |
| Less Rollbacks | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Net Bond Millage | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.500 | 1.500 |
| Net Taxes Levied | 1,106,530 | 1,133,622 | 1,128,177 | 1,154,676 | 1,812,179 | 1,846,456 |
| Net Taxes \$ Increase | -19,933 | 27,092 | -5,445 | 26,499 | 657,503 | 34,277 |
| Net Taxes % Increase | -0.018 | 0.025 | 0.005 | 0.023 | 0.569 | 0.019 |