

TAX IMPACT FAQ

Q: What is meant by mill rate?

A: Mill rate represents the estimated taxes on every \$1,000 of property valuation. Whatever the mill rate is, move the decimal over two to the right to calculate how much your school district taxes will be for every \$100,000 of property valuation.

Q: What is Whitnall School District's current total mill rate?

A: The school district's mill rate for both debt and operations for 2017-18 was \$10.09 per \$1,000 of property value. This equates to an estimated \$1,009 on a \$100,000 Property.

Q: What is the tax impact of the proposed referendum?

A: Our mill rate is projected to decrease \$.30 in 2018-19 as there will be no energy project levy. Our new referendum debt will add \$0.83, so the net increase is \$.53. This estimated impact is for the **debt portion only** of the mill rate.

Q: How long is the term of the loan?

A: Statutorily, a borrowing cannot exceed 20 years.

Q: What portion of my tax bill is attributed to Whitnall School District?

A: Taxes are different in each municipality (Greenfield, Hales Corners and Franklin) but your property taxes include levies from the following entities: County, MMSD, City (or Village), Technical College along with the School District.

Q: If our current mill rate is \$10.09, that means, if the referendum is approved, the mill rate next year will be \$10.62?

A: We are expecting an increase in state aid (the money that keeps property taxes down) for 2018-19. Thus, if the referendum passes, we do not expect total district taxes to increase beyond the current mill rate.

Q: Why will there be an increase in state aid in 2018-19?

A: We had a larger than usual increase in resident student enrollment and a less than average increase in property valuation. In the eyes of the state, the way they measure how wealthy a district is compared to other districts is taking the property valuation of the district and dividing by the number of resident students. In Whitnall's case, more resident students and less than average property valuation growth makes the district look "property poor" compared to other districts and thus more state aid is given to keep property taxes lower.

Q: What may happen to my taxes in future years?

A: There are many variables to school finance, and it would be irresponsible to project tax impacts further out than a year or two with any certainty. However, whatever the total mill rate ends up being over the course of the next 20 years, \$0.53 of it will be the impact of the referendum. Our goal in knowing that we have a large influx of state aid dollars for next year is to structure our debt in such a way that given current variables, \$10.09 is the goal for the total 2018-19 mill rate.

Q: What if I have more questions, who can I contact?

A: Michael Williamson, Director of Business Services, 414-525-8403, mwilliamson@whitnall.com