

TAX AND MILLAGE INFORMATION

The two pages that follow provide information on the millages levied by Orange County. Orange County has, in addition to its countywide tax millage, 31 additional millages which may be levied in special taxing districts encompassing territory smaller than the overall county. These special taxing districts provide services ranging from cleaning of lakes to provision of road patrol services by the Sheriff in the unincorporated area.

Under Florida law, counties are required to sum all ad valorem revenues derived from the countywide levy and all special taxing districts (excluding voted levies and taxing districts independent of the county), and divide this revenue by the countywide tax roll. This is called the "aggregate millage" and is the rate which determines whether or not the county is required to advertise its intent to increase taxes.

The adopted millage schedule presents the rolled back millages compared with the prior year's millage and the approved millage levy. Millages have been proposed at levels necessary to fund the departmental budgets as recommended by the County Chairman and the County Administrator.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is included in the countywide millage?

The countywide millage of 5.2264 consists of three components: General Fund (4.7924), Capital Projects Fund (0.2500), Parks Fund (0.1840).

The General Fund is the backbone of the County's financial structure. The bulk of Orange County's services are paid for out of this fund.

Given the major infrastructure needs in our ever-growing community, the Board of County Commissioners decided in 1985 to levy a separate millage to pay for major capital projects. FY 1997-98 was the first year a portion of the countywide millage (.1840) was dedicated for Parks & Recreation's operation and capital improvements.

2. Are millage rates increasing in FY 1999-00?

For FY 1999-00 the countywide millage (5.2264) and the County Fire and Rescue Service millage (2.5862) have decreased. The unincorporated area millage (2.1234) reflects an increase.

Millages for the Lake Districts are based on recommendations received from the Lake Districts Advisory Boards and provide funds for aquatic plant control, drainage improvements, etc.

3. How are property taxes calculated?

All taxes are computed based upon taxable value.

$\frac{\text{Taxable value}}{1,000} \times \text{millage rate} = \text{property tax}$

Example: assessed value:	\$100,000
less homestead exemption:	<u>(\$25,000)</u>
taxable value:	\$75,000

$\frac{75,000}{1,000} = \$75.00 \times 5.2264 = \391.98 property tax
(Countywide millage)

Common Terms used in budgeting:

- * **Millage:** The rate charged per \$1,000 of taxable value. On a house with a taxable value of \$100,000 each mill would equal \$100 in taxes.
- * **Tax base:** The total value of land and personal property on which a taxing entity, such as the County, can levy property taxes. Because some land is partially or completely exempt from taxes, the tax base is usually smaller than the actual value of the property in the county.
- * **Rolled back rate:** The millage that if levied will bring in the same amount of tax dollars as the previous year's millage. The value of new construction is excluded from this calculation.
- * **Exemptions:** Exemptions are granted by the state and either lowers the taxable value of property or remove it from the tax rolls completely. Exemption categories include: \$25,000 Homestead Exemption, \$500 Widow/Widower Exemption, \$500 Disability Exemption, \$500 Exemption for Blind People and other disability exemptions.