

# City of Belleville

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We recently made a change to your tax bills. Many residents have reached out to have us explain why there was such a large difference between the winter taxes this year and the winter taxes last year.

## **WHAT YOU PAY TO THE CITY:**

In the summer tax cycle, residents pay to the City of Belleville the City Operating millage rate ("CITY" on your tax bill). All other items on your tax bill go to the county, school district, and the county's Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA).

In the winter tax cycle, residents pay to the City of Belleville the Police and Fire Special Assessment. All other items on your tax bill go to the county for various things such as the jail, the zoo, the DIA, the district library, and Wayne County Community College.

## **WHAT HAS CHANGED:**

The City of Belleville can control ONLY the City Operating Millage and the Police and Fire Special Assessment. In the 2023-2024 tax cycle, the city levied 15.819000 mills for City Operations and 4.000000 mills for Police and Fire Operations. For the 2024-2025 tax cycle, we wanted to ensure Police and Fire operations were covered entirely by the Police and Fire operations millage: instead of part of their operations coming from the special assessment and the remainder coming from General Operations. To do that, adjustments had to be made. Police and Fire needed an additional 7.25 mills to cover more of their budgets. On the other side of the equation, we no longer need to levy those 7.25 mills in the General Operation millage rate, so that number will be adjusted down on your summer tax bill.

## **WHY DID WE MAKE THIS CHANGE:**

The City elected to make this change for three reasons. First, this change will better balance the tax liability for property owners. Rather than a large summer bill and a small winter bill, the two are more balanced. Second, this change will ensure that funds needed for police and fire operations are collected by the special assessment and legally earmarked solely to police and fire. Finally, this change helps to balance the revenue stream for the city. Instead of most of the city's revenue being received at one time, revenue is spaced out to allow for better financial controls.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN:**

On the 2024-2025 Winter Tax bill, the Police and Fire Special Assessment now sits at 11.250000 mills, and on the 2025 Summer tax bill, the general operations levy will be 8.569000 mills, instead of 15.819000. **There are no new or additional mills being levied by the City of Belleville.**

While the City of Belleville is not creating new or increasing the number of mills levied on your tax bill, that does not mean that other taxing authorities such as the county, WCCC, or RESA will not. They are all independent of the city and adjust their millage rates just as we do, and we have no control over their ability to raise or lower those rates. We encourage you to reach out to each of those entities for more information on their millage rate.

**IS THE CITY GETTING MORE MONEY?**

In short, no. We are simply shifting *when* the funds come to the city. Your tax bill is based on a calculation using your home’s TAXABLE VALUE. For example, if there is a home in the city that has a taxable value of \$100,000 with a 100% Homestead Exemption. Each mill costs \$100.00. This is how the CITY’S mills looked last year and how the city’s mills will look this tax cycle.

|                       | 2023-2024 WINTER | 2024 SUMMER | 2024-2025 WINTER | 2025 SUMMER |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Operations            | 0.000000         | 15.819000   | 0.000000         | 8.569000    |
| Police/Fire           | 4.000000         | 0.000000    | 11.250000        | 0.000000    |
| <b>TOTAL TAX LEVY</b> | 19.819000        |             | 19.819000        |             |

Taking those 19.819000 mills at the rate of \$100.00 per mill, this is what the CITY collected last year and what the city looks to collect this tax cycle.

|                   | 2023-2024 WINTER | 2024 SUMMER | 2024-2025 WINTER | 2025 SUMMER |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Operations        | \$0.00           | \$1,581.90  | \$0.00           | \$856.90    |
| Police/Fire       | \$400.00         | \$0.00      | \$1,125.00       | \$0.00      |
| <b>TOTAL COST</b> | \$1,981.90       |             | \$1,981.90       |             |

**NOTE: There are more taxes on each bill, but this is what the City of Belleville controls. Also, This does not take into consideration external factors that increase the VALUE of the property such as inflation, sales, or improvements year over year.**

**IN CONCLUSION:**

The City of Belleville apologizes for any confusion that this may have caused our residents. We strive to broadcast our message in several different ways to reach as many people as possible, but in this case, we did not clarify this change well. To stay up to date with city business, you are encouraged to follow us on Facebook, sign up for Nixle alerts, and visit our city website, where you can also find the City Council meeting schedule for the year. We encourage residents to attend City Council meetings to share concerns, opinions, and ask questions.