

2026 Property Tax Levy

Cody Martzluf
Superintendent

Providing Foundations Together, Cultivating Individual Growth

Overview

Along with the development and adoption of the annual budget, the tax levy is one of the two most important financial actions the School Board takes each fiscal year.

The Board must approve a levy by the end of December (2026) for tax monies that will be disbursed to the District from the County Clerk's Office starting next summer (2027). The money received from the levy will be used to fund expenditures for the July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028 school district budget.

As we develop the annual tax levy, our goal is to balance the financial needs of the District with our responsibility to local taxpayers.

The district stives to develop a fiscally responsible property tax levy that adequately supports District operations **and future facility needs** while striving to maintain a stable property tax rate for our community.

Key Terms

Tax Levy: The amount of property tax dollars the school district requests in order to operate for the upcoming school year.

Tax Levy Extension: The actual amount of property tax dollars the district will receive, as calculated by the County Clerk and billed to property owners.

EAV (Equalized Assessed Valuation): The taxable value of a property, generally equal to one-third of its fair market value. (Example: A home with a $150,000 fair market value has an EAV of about $50,000)

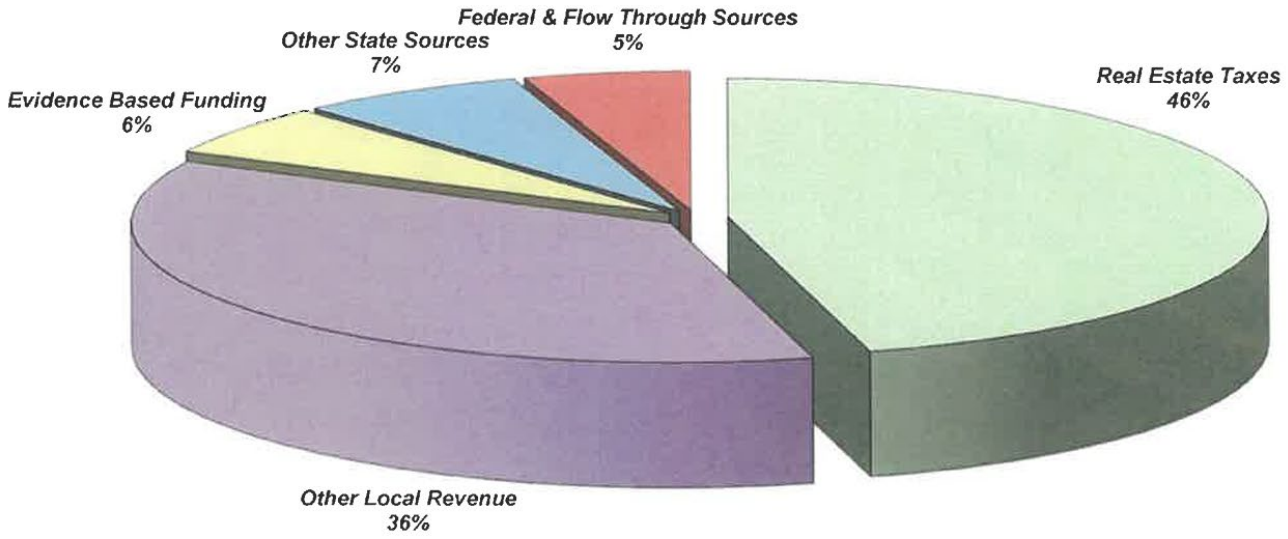
Tax Rate: The rate applied per $100 of EAV to determine how much tax is owed.

Truth in Taxation: An Illinois law that requires a public notice and a public hearing when a district's levy request is more than 5% higher than the previous year's extension. This is designed to ensure transparency for taxpayers.

Why is the Levy Important?

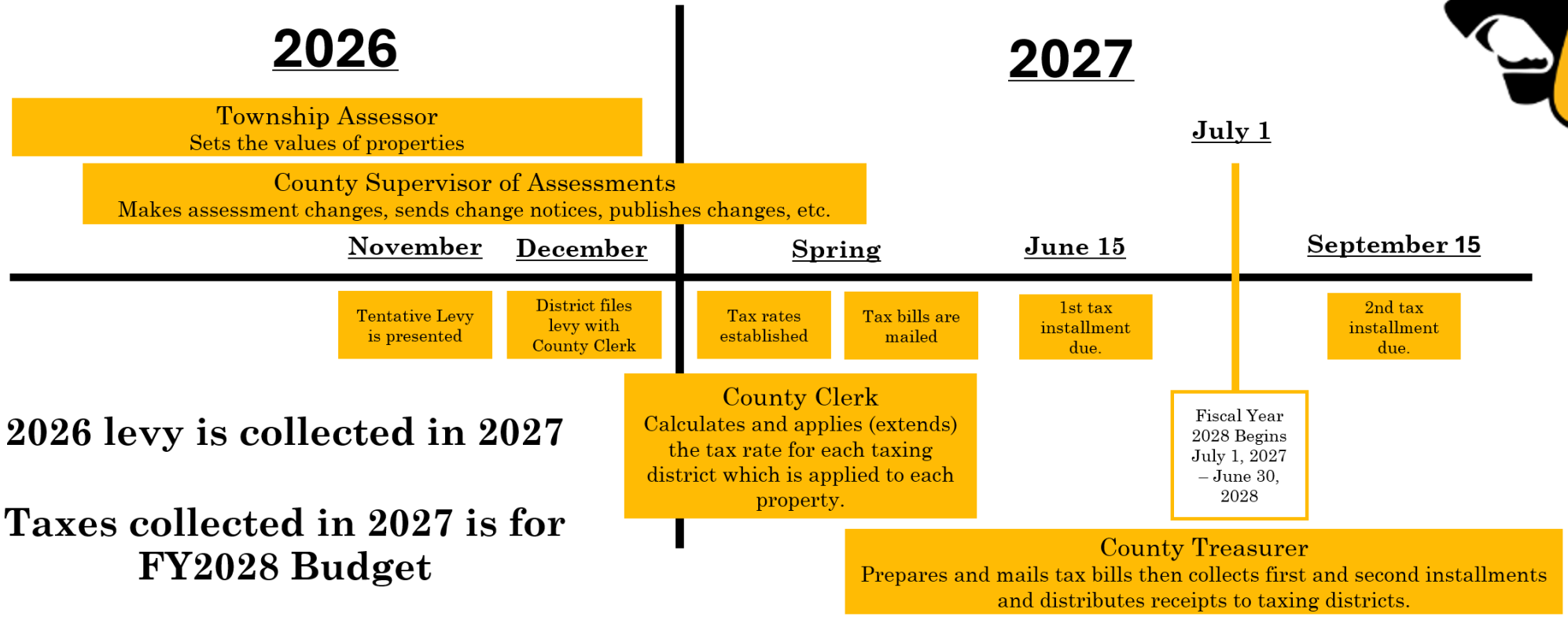
Putnam County Community Unit School District No. 535

2026 Operating Revenues



Last year, 46% of our operating revenues came from local property taxes

Timeline


2026
2027
Township Assessor
Sets the values of properties
County Supervisor of Assessments
Makes assessment changes, sends change notices, publishes changes, etc.
November
December
Spring
June 15
July 1
September 15
Tentative Levy is presented
District files levy with County Clerk
Tax rates established
Tax bills are mailed
1st tax installment due.
2nd tax installment due.
2026 levy is collected in 2027
Taxes collected in 2027 is for FY2028 Budget
County Clerk
Calculates and applies (extends) the tax rate for each taxing district which is applied to each property.
Fiscal Year 2028 Begins July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028
County Treasurer
Prepares and mails tax bills then collects first and second installments and distributes receipts to taxing districts.

Timeline Continued

November BOE Meeting: The board approves the tentative levy.

December BOE Meeting: The board approves the final levy resolution.

Last Tuesday in December: Superintendent files the Certificate of tax levy with the County Clerks of Putnam, Marshall, and LaSalle counties.

Growth in Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)

Year	Rate Setting EAV	% Increase or Decrease
2016	$ 118,183,567.00	*
2017	$ 129,926,759.00	9.94%
2018	$ 144,371,817.00	11.12%
2019	$ 146,113,964.00	1.21%
2020	$ 152,670,246.00	4.49%
2021	$ 155,924,940.00	2.13%
2022	$ 162,622,849.00	4.30%
2023	$ 179,597,987.00	10.44%
2024	$ 201,283,797.00	12.07%
2025	$ 223,475,505.00	11.03%
2026	$ 248,154,485.00	11.04%

Tax Rate History

Year	Tax Rate	% Increase or Decrease
2016	4.06440	*
2017	4.01947	-1.11%
2018	3.89380	-3.13%
2019	4.20813	8.07%
2020	4.33455	3.00%
2021	3.99481	-7.84%
2022	4.00356	0.22%
2023	3.99487	-0.22%
2024	3.97463	-0.51%
2025	3.97011	-0.11%
2026	4.00000	0.75%

Tax Rate Comparison (Current Rates)

All Area Districts	
School District	**Tax Rate**
*Dalzell GS #98	8.30300
*Spring Valley GS #99	7.05346
**Hall HS #502	6.90503
*Ladd GS #94	6.87605
*Waltham GS #185	6.04379
*Ottawa GS #141	6.00881
Leland CUSD #1	5.81021
Lostant CUSD #425	5.76961
*Peru GS #124	5.75627
*Tonica GS #79	5.73631
*Lasalle GS #122	5.65602
*Oglesby GS #125	5.57550
Depue CUSD #103	5.55645
Fieldcrest CUSD #6	5.54367
**Lasalle Peru HS #120	5.38807
*Dimmick #175 Cherry	5.38759
*Marseilles GS #150	5.38014
*Malden GS #84	5.36683
Stark County CUSD #100	5.31184
**Ottawa HS #140	5.26941
**Streator HS #40	5.21763
*Streator GS #44	5.21763
**Princeton HS #500	5.19305
*Ohio GS #17	5.18962
*Grand Ridge GS #95	5.17853
*Wallace GS #195	5.13413
Earlville CUSD #9	5.13103
Lamoille CUSD #303	5.10702
Lowpoint Washburn CUSD #2	5.06612
*Rutland GS #230	5.03303
**Mendota HS #280	5.02672
*Mendota GS #289	5.02672
*Princeton GS #115	5.01927
*Deer Park GS #82	4.96135
Somonauk CUSD #432	4.94965
*Miller GS #210	4.88180
Streator Woodland CUSD #5	4.80413
Henry CUSD #5	4.59886
Kewanee CUSD #229	4.59537
**Newark HS #18	4.58017
*Newark GS #66	4.58017
Bradford CUSD #1	4.38111
Midland CUSD #7	4.29104
Sandwich CUSD 430	4.07246
Serena CUSD #2	4.02597
*Dimmick GS #175	3.98727
Putnam County CUSD #535	3.97011
*Seneca HS #160	3.03726
*Seneca GS #170	3.03726

**Average tax rate with feeder districts
*Combined rate with high school

All Area Unit Districts	
School District	**Tax Rate**
Leland CUSD #1	5.81021
Lostant CUSD #425	5.76961
Depue CUSD #103	5.55645
Fieldcrest CUSD #6	5.54367
Stark County CUSD #100	5.31184
Earlville CUSD #9	5.13103
Lamoille CUSD #303	5.10702
Lowpoint Washburn CUSD #2	5.06612
Somonauck CUSD #432	4.94965
Streator Woodland CUSD #5	4.80413
Henry CUSD #5	4.59886
Kewanee CUSD #229	4.59537
Bradford CUSD #1	4.38111
Midland CUSD #7	4.29104
Sandwich CUSD 430	4.07246
Serena CUSD #2	4.02597
Putnam County CUSD #535	3.97011

2026 Levy Recommendation

- **Look at historical data**

2026 Levy Recommendation

- Look at historical data

- **Get an estimate on EAV from the Putnam Country Supervisor of Assessments along with information from Marshall and Lasalle Counties**

2026 Levy Recommendation

- Look at historical data
- Get an estimate on EAV from the Putnam Country Supervisor of Assessments along with information from Marshall and Lasalle Counties
- **Get a recommendation from the auditor on the non-capped levies (IMRF, Social Security, and Tort)**

2026 Levy Recommendation

- Look at historical data
- Get an estimate on EAV from the Putnam Country Supervisor of Assessments along with information from Marshall and Lasalle Counties
- Get a recommendation from the auditor on the non-capped levies (IMRF, Social Security, and Tort)
- **Factor in budget needs and financial forecasts**

2026 Levy Recommendation

Putnam County	2025 EAV	2026 Estimated EAV	Difference	
Farm	66,337,681	68,799,588	2,461,907	
Residential	96,328,144	95,503,124	-825,020	
Commerical	7,213,322	7,081,581	-131,741	
Industrial	47,222,245	69,934,899	22,712,654	
Mineral	0	110,284	110,284	
State Railroad	1,364,058	1,364,058	0	
Total	**218,465,450**	**242,793,534**	**24,328,084**	**11.14%**

LaSalle County	2025 EAV	2026 Estimated EAV	Difference	
Farm	2,572,501	2,766,908	194,407	
Residential	363,737	438,850	75,113	
Industrial	52,350	52,350	0	
Mineral	1,608	15,942	14,334	
Total	**2,990,196**	**3,274,050**	**283,854**	**9.49%**

Marshall County	2025 EAV	2026 Estimated EAV	Difference	
Farm	1,861,803	1,923,963	62,160	
Residential	157,624	162,938	5,314	
Total	**2,019,859**	**2,086,901**	**67,042**	**3.32%**

Total EAV	**223,475,505**	**248,154,485**	**24,678,980**	**11.04%**

Putnam County Industrial EAV	
2025 EAV Total	47,222,245
Assessor Estimated	57,336,712
Marquis 2nd Ethanol Plant EAV	19,904,940
Marquis New EAV	7,306,753
2026 Estimated EAV	69,934,899

Comes off of Abatement
Comes on Abatement

2026 Levy Recommendation

This projection includes $19,904,940 (Marquis Energy's second ethanol plan) in EAV coming off existing Enterprise Zone abatements, partially offset by $7,306,753 (Marquis Energy various projects) in EAV being added to Enterprise Zone abatements.

This represents a net increase of $12,598,187 in taxable EAV resulting from these abatement changes.

2026 Levy Recommendation

As the levy is finalized, the final EAV is not known

<u>Tax Levy (Balloon) = Ask:</u>

The District is **ASKING** for an **13.02%** increase

This is NOT what the district will receive

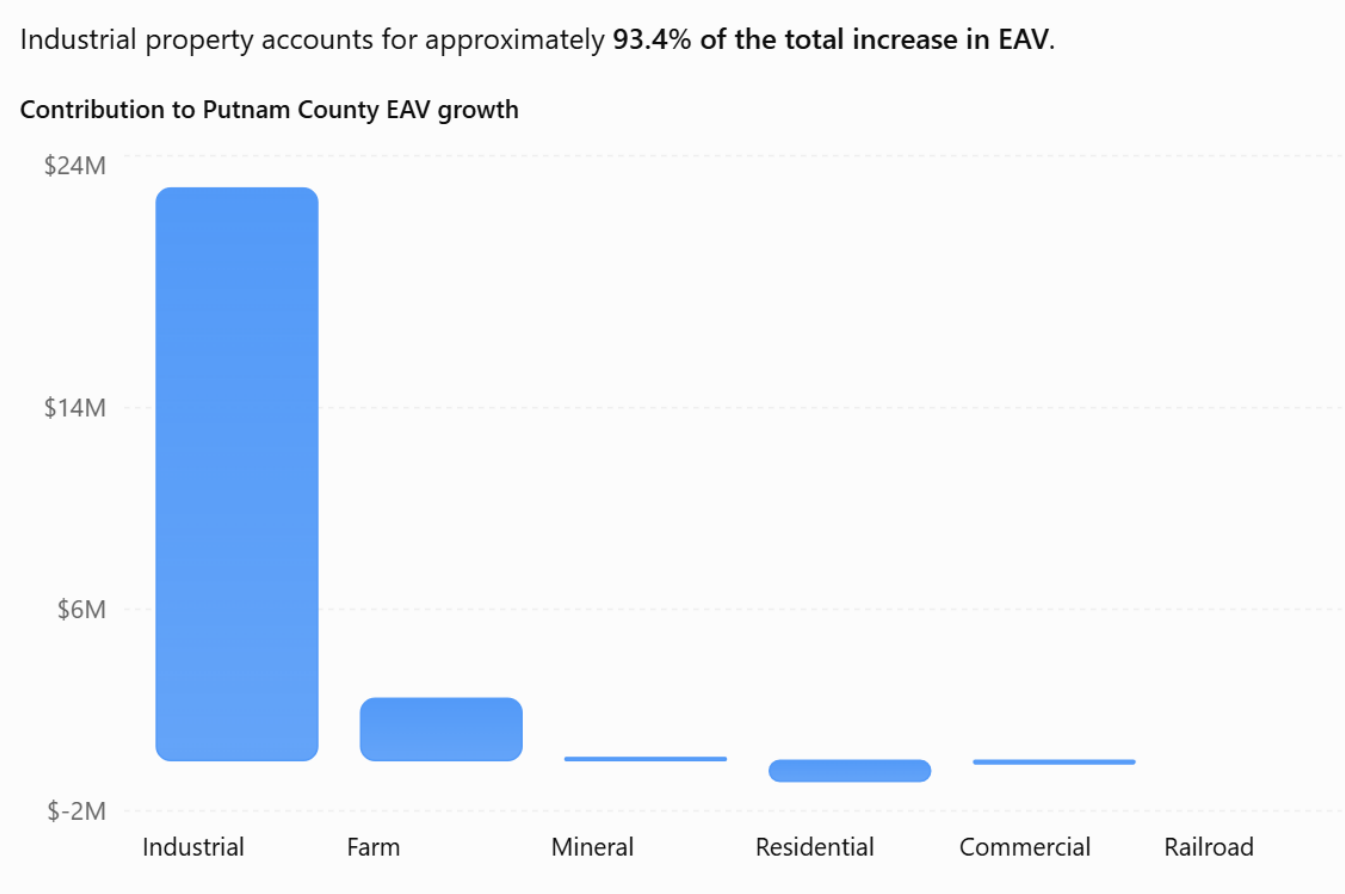
<u>Tax Extension = Receive:</u>

The District expects to receive somewhere around an **11.04%** increase

2026 Levy Recommendation Summary

- Follow's the auditor's recommendation to increase the Tort levy.
- Our request = $1,155,541 in new dollars
- Most likely = $975,944 in new dollars
- **<u>Keeping the tax rate at $4.00</u>**

2026 Levy Recommendation



Please note: the overall 0.86% decline in residential EAV does not mean every home's assessment decreased. An individual homeowner's taxable EAV could still increase.

Truth in Taxation

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR
PUTNAM COUNTY CUSD #535
COUNTIES OF PUTNAM, MARSHALL, AND LASALLE, STATE OF ILLINOIS

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Putnam County CUSD #327, Counties of Putnam, Marshall, and LaSalle, State of Illinois for 2026 will be held on December 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Primary School Building 400 E Silverspoon Avenue, Granville, Illinois.
Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Cody Martzluf, Putnam County District Office at 400 E Silverspoon Avenue, Granville, Illinois (815-882-2800 ext. 5).

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2025 were $8,872,223.
The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2026 are $10,027,764. This represents a 13.02% increase from the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2025 were $0.00.
The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2026 are $0.00. This represents a 0% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2025 were $8,872,223.
The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2026 are $10,027,764. This represents a 13.02% increase over the previous year.

We want to emphasize that a proposed 13.02% increase in the District's tax levy does **NOT** mean individual property owners will see their school property taxes increase by 13.02%.

Conclusion

- There is a strong possibility that Putnam County homeowners could see a little to no increase in the school district portion of their property tax bills, even if the district increases its total tax levy.

- The key is that the majority of the district's EAV growth this year is coming from industrial property rather than residential property.

- This matters because the cost of funding the school district is spread across its taxable property base. As industrial property contributes more, residential taxpayers may carry a smaller share of the district's levy.

Current Fund Balances

Fund	Education	Operations and Maint	Debt Services	Transportation	IMRF/SS	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Life Safety	Total
June 30, 2026 Fund Balance	$17,486,622.69	$3,925,540.31	$791.22	$608,182.64	$519,503.66	$0.00	$3,422,861.45	$215,409.72	$720,688.97	$26,899,600.66

Questions?