



River Trails

SCHOOL DISTRICT 26

2025 Levy Hearing

2025 Levy

- **Illinois State Law requires a hearing if Levy is over 5%**
- **Property Tax Increase on Existing Property Limited to:**
 - CPI on existing property – 2.9%
 - Not required by law
 - Increase Transparency



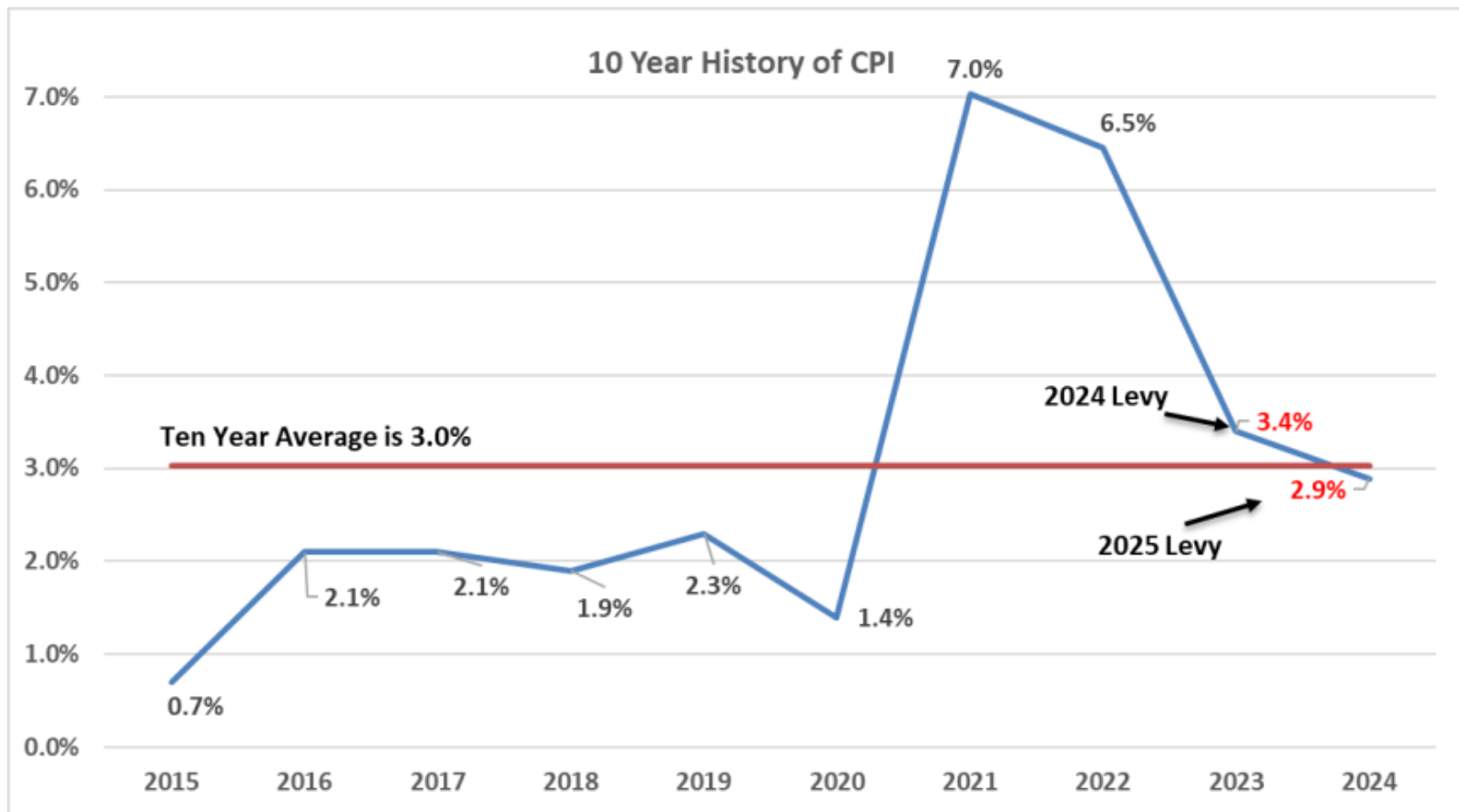
2025 Levy

- **Property Tax Increase Limited to CPI or 5%:**
 - **Plus Taxes on New Property**
 - **Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) is unknown until July 2026**
 - Levy high as it is hard to anticipate timing in Cook County
 - Only collect taxes on the new property that is assessed in 2025



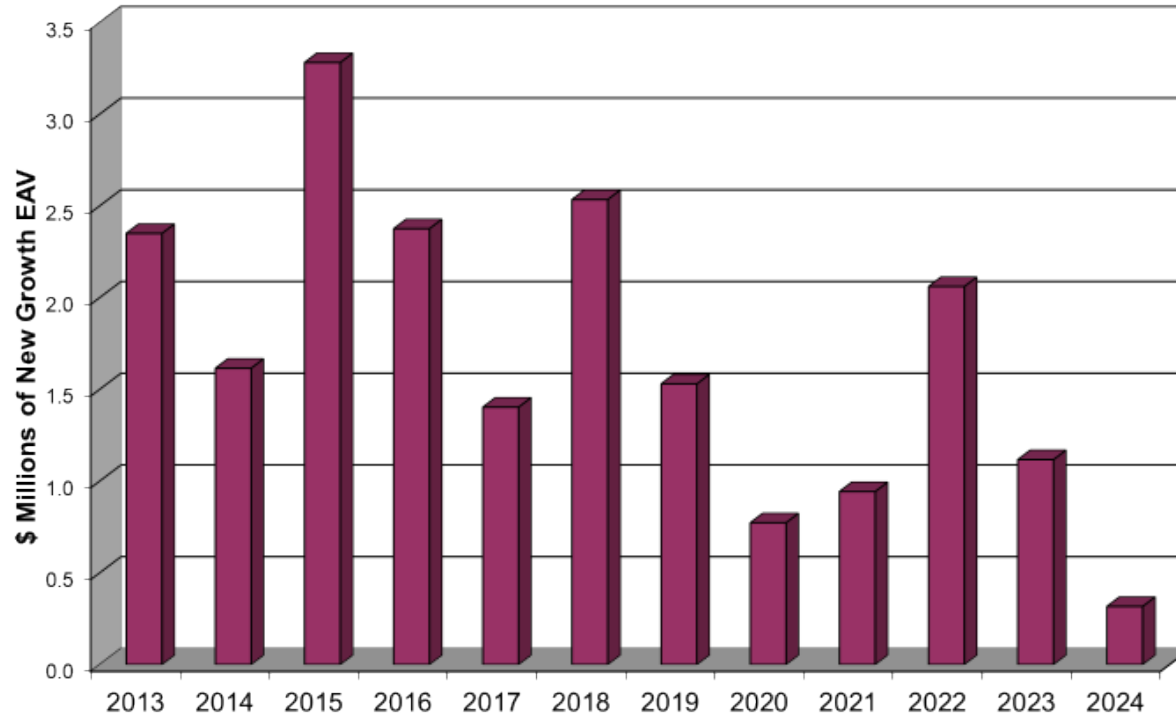
Equalized Assessed Value

- **Cook County Legal Tax Assessment Levels**
 - Homeowner 10%
 - Most Business 25%
 - Class 6b Business 10% for 12 years
- **Assessed Value x Equalizer (~3 = EAV)**
- **EAV x Tax Rate = Taxes Extended**



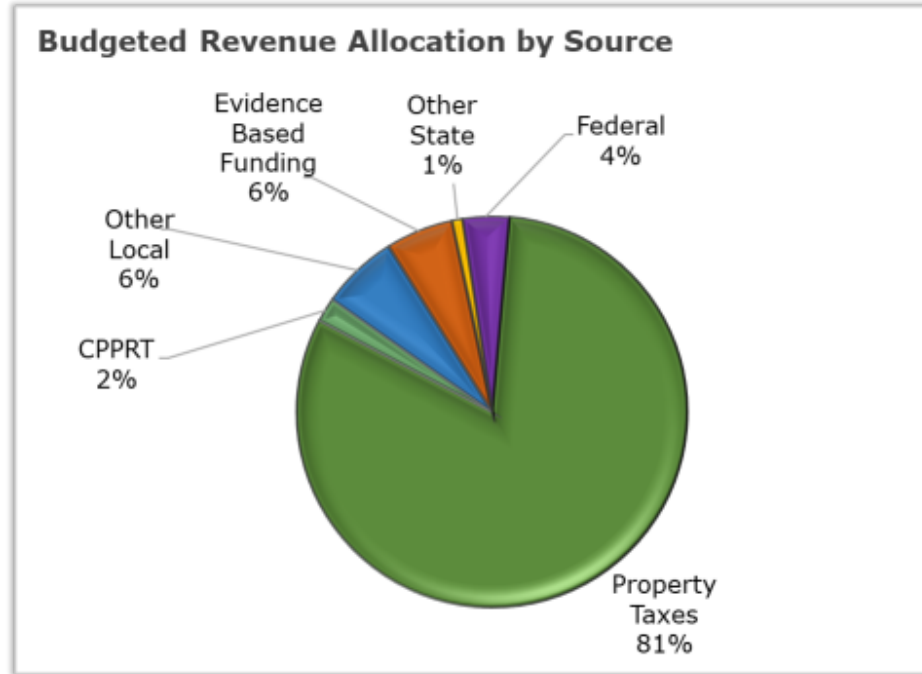
New Property

New Growth 2013 - 2024



Revenues

Property taxes = 81% of FY26 Budgeted Revenue



2025 Levy

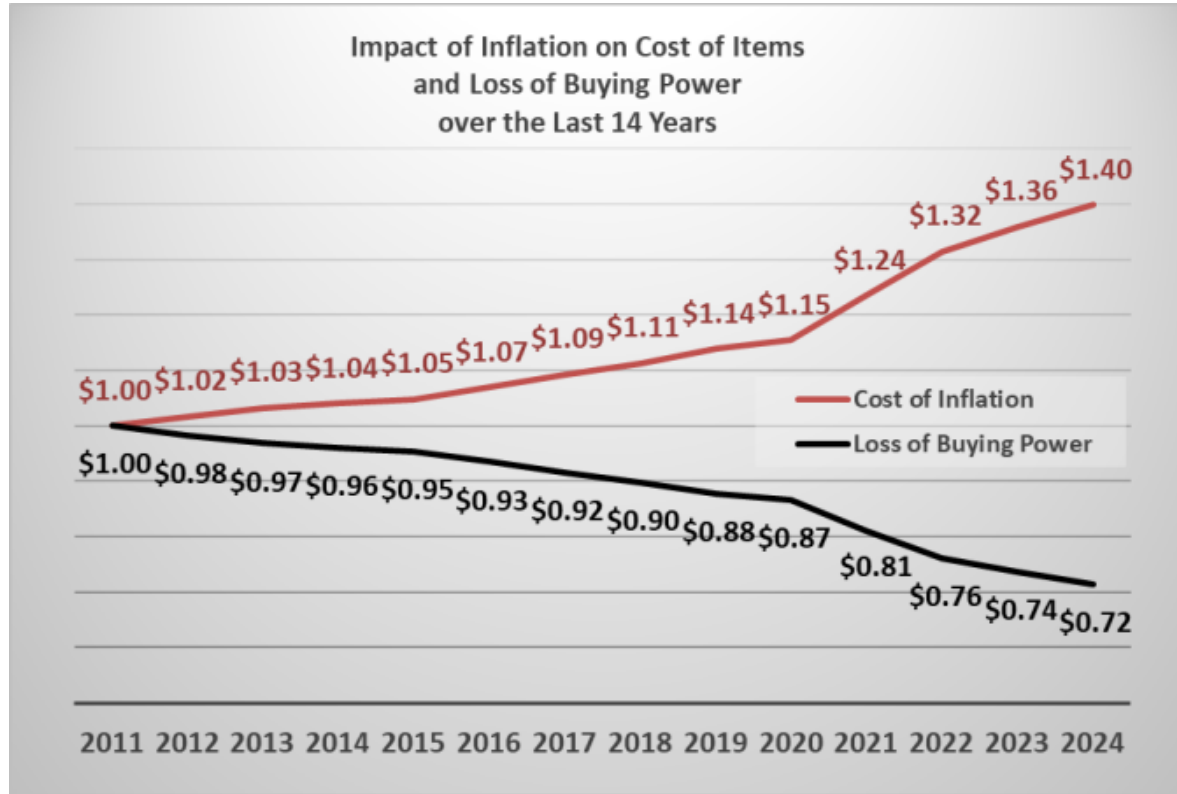
Over the years the District has implemented a variety of efficiencies:

- Operational and staffing efficiencies
- New health insurance options
- More special education students served within the district
- Conservation of supplies, paper printing, energy, and food service
- Updated transportation contract

2025 Levy

- **The District makes every effort to responsibly use the dollars of the community taxpayer.**
 - State and federal funding for education is shrinking
 - Property tax appeals are on the rise
 - The District is aware of the extra burden individuals face

2025 Levy



2025 Levy

- **Property Tax Increase Less than CPI:**
 - **Costs follow CPI**
 - Supplies
 - Utilities
 - Transportation
 - Food
 - Major Capital Projects planned to upgrade infrastructure

Fund Balance Breakdowns

Annual Expenses				
Operational Funds	FY2023 Audit	FY2024 Audit	FY2025 Unaudited	3-Year Average
Education (10)	22,297,891	22,824,358	23,077,849	22,733,366
Operations and Maintenance (20)	2,037,035	2,171,500	3,626,726	2,611,754
Transportation (40)	1,420,363	1,081,221	1,306,447	1,269,344
Social Security & IMRF (50)	786,277	772,346	778,330	778,984
Total	\$26,541,566	\$26,849,425	\$28,789,352	\$27,393,448

Unaudited Fund Balances - June 30, 2025	
Operational Funds	Fund Balance
Education (10)	22,026,922
Operations and Maintenance (20)	1,551,029
Transportation (40)	1,262,889
Social Security & IMRF (50)	778,304
Total	\$25,619,144

Fund Balance / Average Expenses	
Operational Fund Balance (6/30/2024)	\$25,619,144
Three-Year Expense Average	\$27,393,448
Fund Balance / Average Expenses	0.935228907

2025 Levy

- **Total Levy**

- 2.9% (all funds)
- 3.0% (capped funds, excludes Debt Service)
- 2.9% cap on existing property for CPI
- 0.1% for New Property to capture all new property
- \$29,396,001

- **Best Guess Levy**

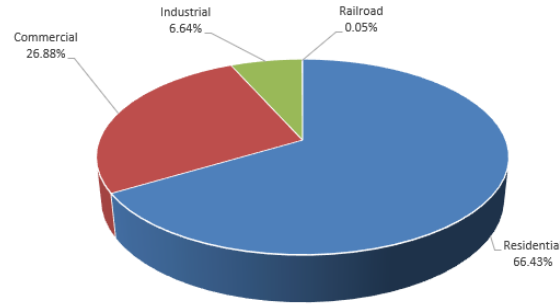
- \$29,317,400
- 2.9% cap on existing property for CPI (2.9%)
- Additional 0.1% for New Property
 - Estimating \$1 million in new properties for 2025
 - \$0.3 million new property in 2024
- 3.02% total increase

2025 Levy

Fund	2024 Levy Estimated Extension	2024 Tax Rate Est	Best Guess 2025 Levy*	Best Guess 2025 Tax Rate	Recommended 2025 Levy Based on 2.9% Increase	Recommended 2025 Tax Rate Based on 2.9% Increase
Education	\$19,746,230	2.9725	\$20,284,131	2.5414	\$20,500,000	2.5335
Operations	3,605,000	0.5427	3,708,000	0.4646	3,600,000	0.4449
Special Education	2,163,000	0.3256	2,317,500	0.2904	2,250,000	0.2781
Transportation	875,500	0.1318	875,500	0.1097	850,000	0.1050
Municipal Retirement	309,000	0.0465	319,300	0.0400	310,000	0.0383
Social Security	<u>309,000</u>	<u>0.0465</u>	<u>319,300</u>	<u>0.0400</u>	<u>310,000</u>	<u>0.0383</u>
Sub-Total	\$27,007,730	4.0656	\$27,823,731	3.4860	\$27,820,000	3.4381
Percentage Increase			3.0%		3.0%	
Debt Service	<u>1,485,863</u>	<u>0.2237</u>	<u>1,572,270</u>	<u>0.1970</u>	<u>1,497,400</u>	<u>0.1851</u>
Total Levy	\$28,493,593	4.2893	\$29,396,001	3.6830	\$29,317,400	3.6232

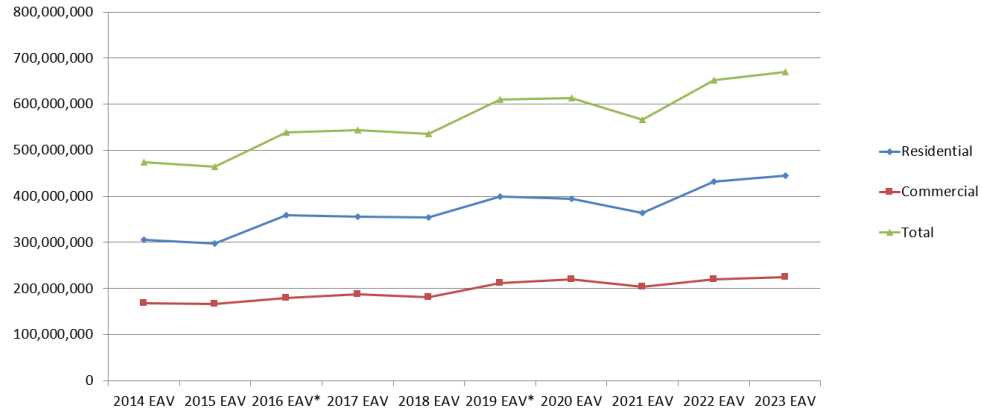


2025 Levy Residential Burden



Shift of Burden from Commercial/Industrial to Residential

- From 59% in 2007
- To 64% in 2015
- To 64% in 2020
- To 66% in 2023

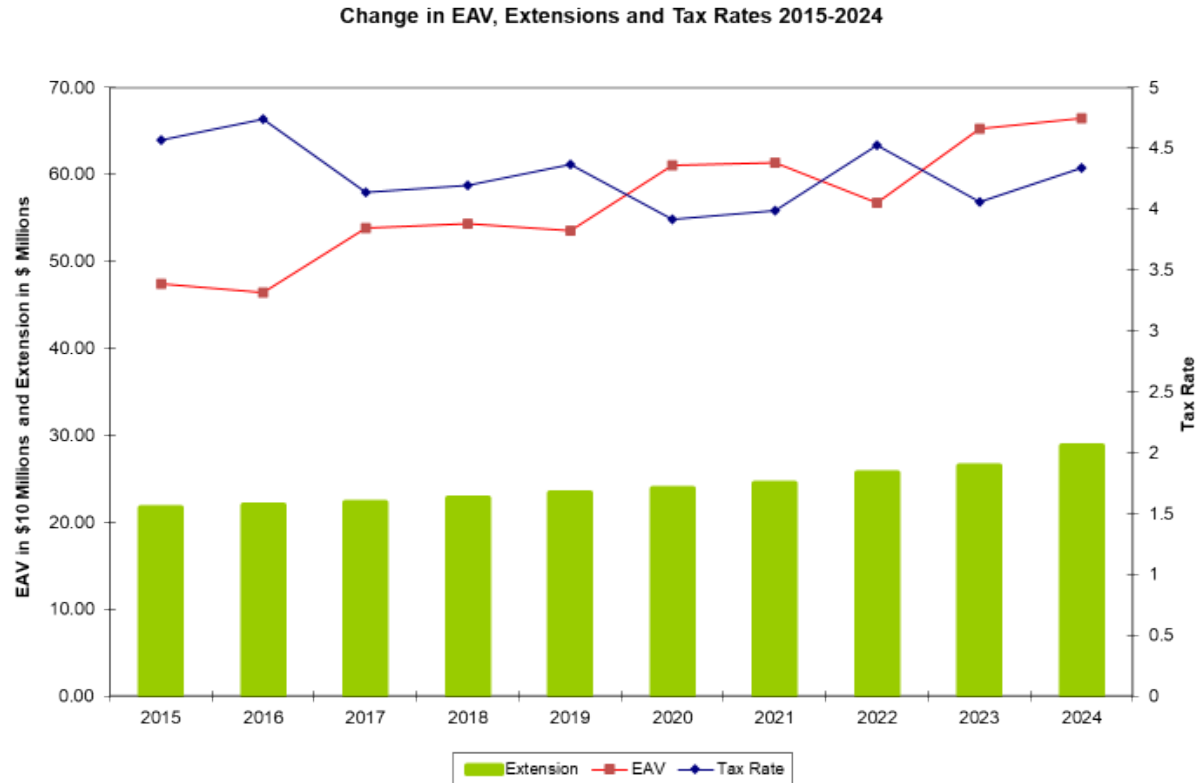


EAV and Tax-Rate Information for Surrounding Districts

DISTRICT	2024 EAV	EAV per PUPIL	RANK	TOTAL TAX RATE	RANK
21	2,455,577,447	393,585	7	4.907	1
23	690,660,988	470,478	3	3.516	5
25	2,383,254,524	444,720	5	3.652	4
26	664,296,962	459,086	4	4.338	2
57	873,035,159	417,321	6	4.303	3
59	3,747,120,736	643,946	2	3.099	6
214	11,401,506,919	971,416	1	2.574	7



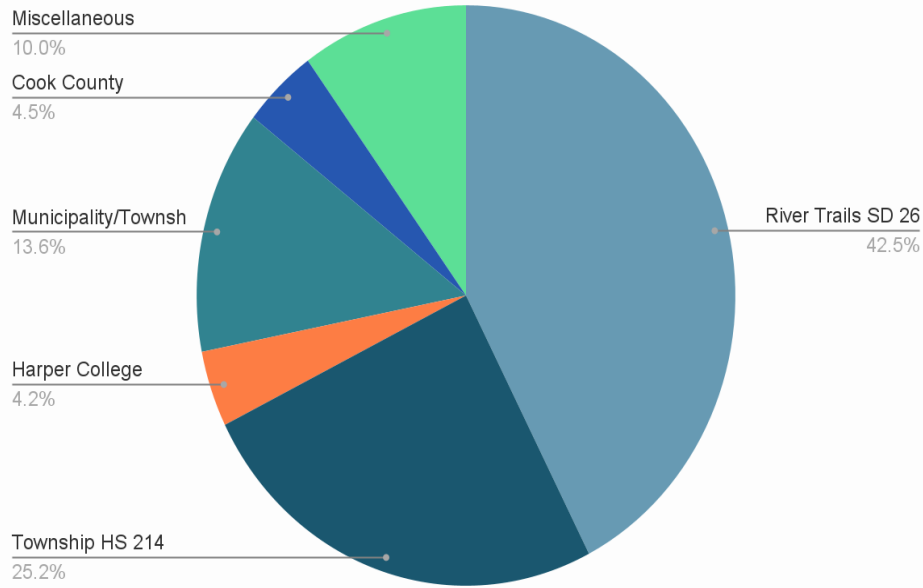
Change in EAV, Extensions and Tax Rates 2015-2024



2025 Levy

- Some reasons individual tax bills decrease or increase more than CPI:
 - New building is constructed
 - An addition is added to a home
 - Property was under assessed and was properly reassessed – 2022 Assessment Year for Northern Suburbs
 - Your property value declines relatively less than other properties in your taxing district or,
 - Your property value increases relatively more than other properties

2025 Levy Burden



Taxing District	2024 Tax	2023 Tax	% Change
River Trails SD 26	4175.23	3963.16	5.35%
Township HS 214	2477.68	2336.61	6.04%
Harper College	417.27	394.69	5.72%
Municipality/Township	1340.21	1377.13	-2.68%
Cook County	441.82	471.13	-6.22%
Miscellaneous	982.68	969.06	1.41%
TOTALS	9834.89	9511.78	3.40%

Levy Scenario

YEAR 1

4 Homes worth \$100K each

School district levies for \$10,000



EAV = \$100K
Rate = .0250
School Taxes = \$2,500



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Rate = .0250
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EAV = \$100K
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RTSD26

Levy Scenario

YEAR 2 - Scenario 1



EAV = \$100K
Rate = .02572
School Taxes = \$2,572



EAV = \$100K
Rate = .02572
School Taxes = \$2,572

Non-reassessment year

4 Homes worth \$100K each

CPI is 2.9%

School district levies for \$10,290

No New Growth



EAV = \$100K
Rate = .02572
School Taxes = \$2,572



EAV = \$100K
Rate = .02572
School Taxes = \$2,572



RTSD26

Levy Scenario

YEAR 2 - Scenario 2



EAV = \$125K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,572



EAV = \$140K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,881

Reassessment Year

4 homes worth total EAV of \$500K

CPI is 2.9%

School district levies for \$10,290

No New Growth



EAV = \$125K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,572



EAV = \$110K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,264



RTSD26

Levy Scenario

YEAR 2 - Scenario 3



EAV = \$125K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,572

Reassessment Year

4 homes worth total EAV of \$500K

CPI is 2.9%

School district levies for \$10,290

New Store Built worth \$100K



EAV = \$140K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,881



EAV = \$100K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,058



EAV = \$125K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,572



EAV = \$110K
Rate = .02058
School Taxes = \$2,264

District receives \$12,348 in tax revenue



RTSD26