

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Board votes to keep 2018 tax levy flat

The Woodstock Community School District 200 Board of Education voted Tuesday, Nov. 13 to keep the district's tax levy flat, representing an 18 percent reduction in the overall tax rate over the last four years.

State law would allow District 200 to raise the levy by \$4.1 million, based on the Consumer Price Index and making necessary debt payments, but district officials have instead chosen to not increase the levy at all. The total levy determined by the Board Nov. 13 is \$56.7 million. The Board is scheduled to vote on the levy at its December 11 meeting.

"This year's levy rate is another demonstration of District 200's desire to provide a high quality education while being considerate of our local taxpayers," Superintendent Mike Moan said.

Risa Hanson, chief financial officer for School District 200, said district officials are able to lower the total tax rate from 7.0553 to 6.7384 per \$100 of taxable value without affecting the quality of education by using reserve funds to make up the difference in the education fund. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Board of Education has either reduced the levy or held it flat from one year to the next.

Based on the 2018 levy, the owner of a \$200,000 home would see a property tax bill decrease of \$192 compared to last year's bill assuming no increase in property value.

When combining the effects of the last four years of tax levy decreases, that same homeowner would see a total savings of \$896 over those four years.

"We understand that Illinois homeowners face high property taxes because of the manner in which the state funds education. Our response is to be as fiscally prudent as possible in our budgeting," said Risa Hanson, chief financial officer for District 200.

In general, the total equalized assessed valuation of property within district boundaries is expected to rise as it has since 2015 to an estimated \$841 million in 2018.

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