



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

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School District 64 Invites Public Comments on 2013 Tax Levy

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 will conduct a public hearing on its 2013 tax levy on Monday, December 16 at 7:20 p.m. at Field School (south gym), 707 N. Wisner, Park Ridge.

Following an in-depth review at a Committee-of-the-Whole: Finance on November 18, the Board adopted a total tentative 2013 tax levy of 4.98% greater than the 2012 tax extension. This is comprised of a 4.97% increase for the education and other “capped” funds totaling \$62.3 million, and a 5.1% increase for debt service of \$3.1 million. The tentative levy amounts may be reduced by the Board, but not increased, prior to final adoption scheduled for December 16.

District 64 always receives tax revenue increases far lower than the levies it adopts.

Looking at the past six years, for example, the Board approved a tax levy request in 2008 of 2.18%, but received a final increase of 1.5%; in 2009, the request of 4.59% resulted in an actual increase of only 0.8%; in 2010, the request of 4.99% yielded a 3.6% actual increase; in 2011, a 4.99% request resulted in a 1.7% increase; and in 2012, a 4.74% levy request provided a 3.1% gain. For budget purposes, the District anticipates that it may actually receive only half – about 2% – from the 2013 tentative levy of 4.98% now being proposed.

The practice of levying a higher amount – but actually receiving less in taxes – is typical for school districts in counties that are subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) or “tax cap” linked to the Consumer Price Index and the value of new property. Estimating the amount of new property being added to the tax rolls for the first time is always difficult. To fully capture the benefit of this growth, districts that intend to maximize what can be legally collected under the “tax cap” typically set a higher levy, knowing that the County Clerk will always trim the final amount to ensure that the increase in total taxes collected is within the “tax cap” limit for the year.

The levy presentation can be viewed conveniently via “on demand” video from the District 64 website at: www.d64.org > Board of Education > Board of Education Meetings.

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