


By law the Sumter School District advertised a tax increase but what does it mean to me?

This year's proposed school millage rate of **5.42** is a **decrease** from last year's rate of **5.507** but it generates more tax revenue due to economic growth in the county. Therefore, the school district is required to advertise a tax increase. This is the first recommended tax increase in 11 years. A portion of the millage rate is called the Required Local Effort (RLE) and school districts are required by law to levy this amount. The RLE (which, at 3.172, is the biggest portion of that rate) is set annually by the Florida Legislature. It surprises many citizens to learn that the majority of their school taxes are actually set by the legislature, not their local school boards. In fact, only 2.248 mills is at the school board's discretion, and all public schools in the county benefit from this revenue.

If the Sumter School Board adopts the proposed millage the owner of a \$300,000 home with a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay **\$23.93 less** than last year on the same house valuation; a 1.58% **decrease** in millage but growth will increase available revenue. The increased revenue will be used in part to offset the increased capital school security expenditures implemented after the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County.

Here is an example of the real impact to our citizens.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	Savings
Assessed Value	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	
Homestead Exemption	\$ (25,000)	\$ (25,000)	
Taxable Value	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	
Millage	\$ 5.507	\$ 5.420	-0.087
Tax Bill	\$ 1,514.43	\$ 1,490.50	(\$23.93)


 Homeowner savings

