

2018-2019 Board Statement on Taxes:

2018-2019 Budget Resolution

The Lampeter-Strasburg Board of School Directors has analyzed the 2018-2019 Budget and decided to pass a resolution stating that the final budget will not require a real estate tax increase beyond the state limit (Act 1 Index) for Lampeter-Strasburg of 2.8%. Despite a school district's ability to apply for exceptions to the Act 1 Index and increase taxes beyond the 2.8% in the case of Lampeter-Strasburg, the Board has committed to limiting the tax increase for the 2018-2019 Budget year to no more than 2.8%, and in fact, any increase will most likely be lower than the 2.8% based upon the District's past practice of imposing an actual tax increase significantly below the Act 1 Index. Any tax increase would be decided upon by June 30, 2018.

County Reassessment

A completely separate action impacting real estate taxes has been undertaken by the County Assessment Office to reassess the value of all property within Lancaster County, affecting municipal taxes as of January 1, 2018, and school district taxes as of July 1, 2018. This effort is periodically necessary in order to keep the assessed value of properties consistent with the market value of all properties.

Assessed value is the value of a property used for the purpose of imposing real estate taxes. When properties are reassessed, in most cases, the reassessed value of those properties increase. This increase in value triggers a decrease in the millage rate or the rate used by taxing bodies to levy the real estate taxes that they receive. As explained in the Lancaster County Reassessment 2018 brochure, "...even though your assessment may increase, all taxing bodies must adjust their current millage rate to attain revenue neutrality. Generally, some property owners will see a tax decrease, some property owners will see their taxes remain about the same, and some property owners may see their taxes increase. Your individual tax bill will be dependent on the percentage increase of your individual assessment compared to the average percentage increase in your taxing jurisdiction." As a result, effective July 1, 2018, the Lampeter-Strasburg School District millage rate will reflect this adjustment to ensure that the total amount of taxes assessed on property based on the reassessment does not result in increased revenue for the school district. If a tax increase is levied by the Lampeter-Strasburg Board of School Directors for 2018-2019, this increase (which may not exceed 2.8%) would be applied to the revenue neutral millage rate set through the reassessment process as applied to each property's reassessed value. Any change in a property's reassessed value either above or below the average within the Lampeter-Strasburg School District will cause the property owner to either pay more or less than the real estate tax increase being imposed.

For additional information:

If you have any questions about a potential tax increase being levied by the School District or the effects of reassessment upon your school district taxes, please contact the School District's Business Manager.