

## 2009 Tax Levies

One of the most misunderstood concepts about property taxes is how your taxes are levied against your property. Most people view the assessment on their home as the critical factor, however, while it plays a role in determining your property tax, it is not nearly as important as the tax levy. You see, the taxing jurisdiction levies the same amount of taxes regardless of the equalized value in the community. The equalized value effects the mill rate, but it does effect the amount of taxes collected.

This year, the Wisconsin Legislature cut \$3.2 billion dollars from the state budget, mostly against schools and local communities. The Town of Merrimac saw a 15% loss of shared revenues. Sauk Prairie and Baraboo school districts lost millions in school aids. Of course, while the state made these cuts, they did not shrink their own wallets. The overall state budget increased by nearly \$4 billion dollars despite these cuts.

***When your tax bill arrives, call State Senator Mark Miller and tell him what you think. Senator Miller not only voted for the budget, he helped create it.***

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Wisconsin	\$45,596.87	\$45,655.49	.02%
Sauk County	\$1,165,332.67	\$1,212,228.05	3.9%
Town of Merrimac	\$203,474.00	\$203,474.00	0.00%
MATC	\$325,483.66	\$353,214.16	7.85%
Sauk Prairie Schools	\$1,902,786.52	\$2,210,475.00	13.92%
Baraboo Schools	\$207,874.00	\$230, 325	10.79%
Sauk Prairie Schools Mill Rate	<b>\$13.176</b>	<b>\$14.687</b>	<b>+10.3%</b>
Baraboo Schools Mill Rate	<b>\$12.783</b>	<b>\$13.980</b>	<b>+8.6%</b>

To calculate your tax bill, divide your assessed value (on last year's bill) by 1,000 and multiply the amount in the 2009 mill rate field for your school district.