

November brings the start of holidays and family gatherings. November also brings the annual taxpayer statements from Houston County. By now, you should have received your statement in the mail and probably have some questions. You will notice the Houston School District portion shows a large increase for proposed taxes in 2024. This is a unique occurrence for Houston due to our online school enrollment. The amount a school district can receive from property taxes is based on the total enrollment of the district. The online enrollment increases the amount available for our district to levy.

In September, the proposed property tax levy certification was received from the State of Minnesota. This document spells out the amounts and different types of revenue for each school district and calculates the portion funded by property taxes. The school districts have to accept the proposed levy by September 30th of each year. At that time, most school districts do what is called "levying the maximum". Many changes can occur between September 30th and December 30th, when the final levy has to be certified. Levying to the maximum allows districts to consider all changes before certifying the final levy. In order for Houston to levy the maximum, reductions are made to the revenue amounts where possible in order to reduce the effect that online enrollment has on the calculated revenue amounts and tax rates for the district. Even with these adjustments the tax rates still show increases from prior years.

Before the final certification in December, budgets and revenues are reviewed based on the final calculations available. Typically, further adjustments are made that will be reflected in the final tax calculations for each property for the following year. The School Board will be considering the recommendation of the finance committee to reduce the revenue amounts in order to keep the tax rate for the district the same as last year. This recommendation will be discussed at the Truth in Taxation hearing on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the High School Library at 306 West Elm Street, Houston, MN. Even if the school board votes to keep the tax rate the same as last year, you may still see a fluctuation in your property taxes as a result of changes in property tax values.

If you have any questions prior to the meeting please feel free to contact the school district at the options below.

Thank You,

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