

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING A PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Rabun County Board of Commissioners today announces its intention to increase the 2022 property taxes it will levy this year by 11.14 percent over the rollback millage rate.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board of tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment. Rabun County property values are still well below fair market value, in relation to what property is actually selling for in the County. The proposed millage rate of 9.928 is a 0.995 increase over the rollback rate. Of the 0.995 increase, 0.745 is due to the reassessment.

The board of commissioners are proposing the tax increase, due to record inflation, and to cover the increased costs of running the county. In addition to expenses across the board being up significantly, the commissioners need to increase employee pay to recruit and retain quality employees.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

The budget tentatively adopted by the Rabun County Board of Commissioners requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate; therefore, before the Rabun County Board of Commissioners may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the County Courthouse, 25 Courthouse Square, Clayton, Georgia on August 11, 2022 at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM and on August 18, 2022 at 5:00 PM.