
STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



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TO: Library Directors

FROM: Budget Division
Department of Local Government Finance

RE: 2008 Budget Information and Legislative Changes

DATE: June 2007

2008 BUDGET INFORMATION

JULY/AUGUST BUDGET WORKSHOPS

The Budget Division of the Department of Local Government Finance will hold hands-on work sessions in each county during the months of July and August. These meetings are by appointment only. Field Representatives will be in each county for a two to three day period, depending upon the number of units. The Department of Local Government Finance encourages each fiscal officer to meet with the Hearing Officer and discuss the unit's budget. In these meetings, the focus will be to check the accuracy of the prepared forms, insure that the budget is properly advertised and to provide assistance in whatever capacity is desired. Units should be prepared to bring the following to the review sessions:

- (1) Ledger of Receipts and Disbursements balanced to June 30
- (2) Any encumbrances brought forward from 2007 to 2008
- (3) Additional Appropriation orders approved by DLGF to June 30
- (4) Debt Service Worksheets
- (5) All amortization schedules applicable to debts incurred
- (6) Indication of debts which are anticipated to be incurred to begin repayment in 2008
- (7) Indication of the necessity of excessive levy appeals and appeal forms
- (8) Any other information which may aid in the budget preparation
- (9) Completed budget forms
- (10) Proposed budget calendar

It is hopeful that the "one-on-one" sessions will eliminate any technical errors, which have occurred in the past and become a valuable learning tool for future budgets.

OBJECTION PERIOD BETWEEN PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION DATE

IC 6-1.1-17-5(b) provides for a ten (10) day period between the public hearing and the final adoption hearing which allows for a taxpayer objection period. Taxpayers are

notified of their right to object in the publication of the Notice to Taxpayers (Budget Form 3).

IC 6-1.1-17-5(b) reads as follows:

“Ten or more taxpayers may object to a budget, tax rate, or tax levy of a political subdivision fixed under section (a) by filing an objection petition with the proper officers of the political subdivision not more than seven (7) days after the hearing. The objection petition must specifically identify the provisions of the budget, tax rate, and tax levy to which the taxpayers object.”

This statute allows taxpayer objections to be addressed on the local level, prior to final adoption. The political subdivision shall adopt findings with its budget that addresses the concerns referenced in the petition and testimony presented at the hearing. A copy of the objections, testimony and unit response will be attached to the two copies of the budget which are submitted to the County Auditor.

AUDITOR’S CERTIFICATE

IC 6-1.1-17-1 requires the County Auditor to certify estimates of assessed valuation and other information to the fiscal officer of a library in each county. The requirements are as follows:

"The statement shall contain:

- 1) information concerning the assessed valuation in the political subdivision for the next budget year;
- 2) an estimate of taxes to be distributed to the political subdivision during the last six (6) months of the current budget year;
- 3) the current assessed valuation as shown on the abstract of charges;
- 4) the average growth in assessed valuation in the political subdivision over the preceding three (3) budget years, excluding years in which a general reassessment occurs, determined according to procedures established by the Department of Local Government Finance; and
- 5) any other information at the disposal of the county auditor that might affect the assessed value used in the budget adoption process."

ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

No later than **February 15, 2008**, the Department of Local Government Finance will certify a budget order to the County Auditor. It will include certification of fund appropriations, tax rates and tax levies (if applicable) for 2008 for all units of government in the county.

BUDGET SCHEDULE

The library budget schedule follows:

Last date to file an excessive levy appeal with the Indianapolis office-
September 19, 2007 – 6-1.1-18.5-12

Last meeting date for adoption:
September 30, 2007 - IC 6-1.1-17-5(a)

Objecting petitions filed within seven (7) days of budget hearing - IC 6-1.1-17-5(b)

Last date for public hearing on budget (at least 10 days prior to adoption date):
September 20, 2007 - IC 6-1.1-17-5(a)

Last date for first publication of budget estimate which includes the 2005 annual total appropriations, current tax levy, proposed tax levy, and excessive levy appeals (at least 10 days before the public hearing):
September 20, 2007 - IC 6-1.1-17-3

Last date for second publication (at least 3 days prior to the public hearing):
September 17, 2007 - IC 5-3-1-2

FALL HEARINGS

Fall budget hearings are tentatively scheduled for the last three weeks of October. The County Auditor will receive from the Department of Local Government Finance the hearing notice to be published specifying the dates and times of all taxing units' budget hearings. Notices will also be mailed to each library at least two weeks in advance of the hearing. Library officials are encouraged to attend the Department hearing to address any taxpayer objections that may be heard or to comment on the budget. Budget information should be filed with the County Auditor prior to the Department hearing.

Upon conclusion of the hearings, field representatives will meet at regional sites throughout the State to conduct budget reviews. A 1782 notice and attachments (16-line statement, miscellaneous revenue estimates and appropriations) will be mailed or delivered to each taxing unit. Upon receipt of the 1782 notice, taxing units have **two weeks** to respond to action on the budgets or levies. The response must be in writing and must be sent to the Department Office in Indianapolis. The Department will issue the final budget order on or before February 15, 2008.

BUDGET FORMS

The budget forms have not changed for budget year 2008. Forms should be available at your local printer in early June. (The DLGF does not provide budget forms.)

The following is a list of forms applicable to libraries:

- Budget Form 1: Library Budget Estimate
- Budget Form 2: Estimate of Miscellaneous Revenues
- Budget Form 3: Notice to Taxpayers
- Budget Form 4: Resolution of Appropriations
- Budget Form 4B: Financial Statement
- Budget Form 5: Resolution of Tax Rates

ASSESSED VALUATIONS

Assessed valuations, as certified by the County Auditor for 2007 payable 2008, should represent 100% true tax value.

T.A.B. RATE CHART

As soon as the budgets, tax rates and tax levies are approved or modified by the tax adjustment board or county auditor, whichever is applicable, the county auditor shall prepare and publish within fifteen (15) days the notice of tax rates to be charged on each \$100 of assessed valuation for the various funds in each taxing district. The Auditor is required to notify taxpayers and the taxing units of their right to appeal within ten days of the publication of such notice.

“IC 6-1.1-17-13(a) Ten (10) or more taxpayers or one (1) taxpayer that owns property that represents at least ten percent (10%) of the taxable assessed valuation in the political subdivision may initiate an appeal from the county board of tax adjustment's action on a political subdivision's budget by filing a statement of their objections with the county auditor. The statement must be filed not later than ten (10) days after the publication of the notice required by section 12 of this chapter. The statement shall specifically identify the provisions of the budget and tax levy to which the taxpayers object. The county auditor shall forward the statement, with the budget, to the department of local government finance.

(b) The department of local government finance shall:

(1) subject to subsection (c), give notice to the first ten (10) taxpayers whose names appear on the petition, or to the taxpayer that owns property that represents at least ten percent (10%) of the taxable assessed valuation in the political subdivision in the case of an appeal initiated by that taxpayer, of the date, time, and location of the hearing on the objection statement filed under subsection (a);

(2) conduct a hearing on the objection; and

(3) after the hearing:

(A) consider the testimony and evidence submitted at the hearing; and

(B) mail the department's:

(i) written determination; and

(ii) written statement of findings;

to the first ten (10) taxpayers whose names appear on the petition, or to the taxpayer that owns property that represents at least ten percent (10%) of the taxable assessed valuation in the

political subdivision in the case of an appeal initiated by that taxpayer.

The department of local government finance may hold the hearing in conjunction with the hearing required under IC 6-1.1-17-16.

(c) The department of local government finance shall provide written notice to:

(1) the first ten (10) taxpayers whose names appear on the petition; or

(2) the taxpayer that owns property that represents at least ten percent (10%) of the taxable assessed valuation in the political subdivision, in the case of an appeal initiated by that taxpayer; at least five (5) days before the date of the hearing.”

If the Co. Auditor calculates and fixes tax rates for the various taxing units, he/she is required to send a certificate of notice of the rate(s) to each political subdivision in the county. This notice must be sent within five days of the advertised notice of tax rates.

The Tax Adjustment Board (TAB) chart is published one time in two newspapers, if two newspapers are available. The Auditor is also required to post the notice at the county court house. Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-17-15, if there is an error in the notice of tax rates, a political subdivision may appeal to the Department of Local Government Finance within ten days after publication of the notice. The legislative body of the political subdivision must authorize the filing of the statement by adopting a resolution. The resolution and statement of objections must be attached and signed by the highest executive officer and by the presiding officer of the legislative body. The information is then forwarded to the Indianapolis office of the Department of Local Government Finance for consideration. Please remember that it is the unit’s responsibility to check the T.A.B. advertisement. Units that fail to appeal an error in the TAB chart may be held to the lower rate.

DEBT SERVICE AND LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

If a library anticipates repayment of a debt or establishes a capital projects fund for the ensuing year, the fiscal body must advertise and adopt a debt service rate and/or a capital projects fund rate as part of the budget process. Even if a library has not received final approval for these funds, the library board should still advertise and adopt a debt service and/or a capital projects fund levy as part of the budget process. Failure to advertise and adopt a rate and levy may preclude the library from levying a tax for a new fund.

Library capital projects plans shall be submitted to the Department of Local Government Finance on or before September 20. Failure to submit requested information to the Indianapolis office of the Department of Local Government Finance may result in denial of a capital projects fund. Questions regarding the library capital projects fund may be directed to Judy Robertson at (317) 232-3773.

2008 REVENUE ESTIMATES

Income Taxes

The DLGF is working with the State Budget Agency to come up with income tax estimates for taxing units to use for the 2008 budget. DLGF field representatives can provide assistance with estimating CAGIT, COIT, and EDIT distributions.

Excise

Taxing units can review past excise distributions to calculate an estimate for 2008. Taxing units should be conservative when determining an estimate for excise.

FIT

Taxing units may use the same FIT (financial institutions tax) estimate as 2008.

CVET

Taxing units may add 5% to the 2007 CVET amount to arrive at a 2008 CVET estimate.

2008 MAXIMUM LEVY ESTIMATES

All taxing units except those located in CAGIT counties may multiply their 2007 certified maximum levy by 1.06 plus add any requested excessive levy appeals to determine an **estimated** 2008 maximum levy. Using six percent growth reflects the maximum allowable under statute. For units in CAGIT counties, DLGF budget field representatives can assist in calculating an estimated 2008 maximum levy.

LEGISLATION

A separate memorandum providing 2007 legislative updates is included in this mailing.