

# 2009 NEWTON COUNTY PROPERTY TAX REPORT

## WITH COMPARISONS TO 2007 AND 2008

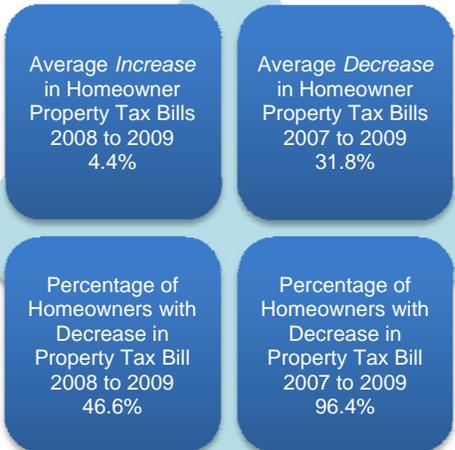


Legislative Services Agency

November 2009 (Updated)

In March 2008, the Indiana General Assembly enacted the most substantial property tax reforms in 35 years. Many of these reforms took effect for the first time in 2009. Property taxes for the school general fund, county welfare funds, and several smaller funds were eliminated and their costs taken over by the state. State property tax replacement credits and most state homestead credits were eliminated, with the money used to fund added state school and welfare costs. Homeowners received a new 35% deduction from their homestead assessments. Property tax caps limited tax bills to a fixed percentage of property assessments. These caps were 1.5% for homesteads, 2.5% for other housing and farmland, and 3.5% for all other property. Taxpayers with tax bills higher than these caps received added tax credits. Local governments did not collect the property tax amounts above the caps.

### Details of Changes to Homeowner Property Tax Bills Newton County



Change in Tax Bill	Change from 2008 to 2009		Change from 2007 to 2009	
	Number of Homesteads	% Share of Total	Number of Homesteads	% Share of Total
20% or More	530	14.0%	27	0.7%
10% to 19%	632	16.7%	22	0.6%
1% to 9%	821	21.7%	54	1.4%
0%	36	1.0%	32	0.8%
-1% to -9%	562	14.9%	180	4.8%
-10% to -19%	533	14.1%	446	11.8%
-20% to -29%	292	7.7%	772	20.4%
-30% to -39%	110	2.9%	803	21.3%
-40% to -49%	50	1.3%	657	17.4%
-50% to -59%	21	0.6%	418	11.1%
-60% to -69%	27	0.7%	125	3.3%
-70% to -79%	36	1.0%	72	1.9%
-80% to -89%	20	0.5%	40	1.1%
-90% to -99%	12	0.3%	29	0.8%
-100%	96	2.5%	101	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Higher Tax Bill	1,983	52.5%	103	2.7%
No Change	36	1.0%	32	0.8%
Lower Tax Bill	1,759	46.6%	3,643	96.4%
Average Change in Tax Bill	4.4%		-31.8%	

Note: Percentages may not total due to rounding.

*Policy Changes with Offsetting Effects on Tax Bills.* The interaction of multiple policy changes, plus local changes in levies and assessments, determine how tax bills change in each county. Eliminating the school general fund and county welfare levies reduced levies by 30.6% statewide. The new 35% supplemental homestead deduction reduced tax bills for homeowners, but also reduced taxable assessed value in each jurisdiction. Taxable assessed value fell 14.3% in Indiana as a whole. As a result of the lower assessed value, tax rates were not reduced by the full amount of the levy reductions. The elimination of the property tax replacement and homestead credits partially offset the drop in tax rates. The average property tax replacement credit statewide was 20.1% in 2008. Total state homestead credits averaged 39.5% statewide in 2008, and this rate fell to 7.2% in 2009. The circuit breaker tax caps reduced tax bills in places with high tax rates. Counties that adopted new local option income taxes delivered additional property tax relief. (Statewide averages are now based on 85 counties reporting.)

Factors Affecting Homeowner Tax Bills	Newton County	State Average
Net Assessed Value, 2008 to 2009 (% change)	-9.2%	-14.3%
Gross Tax Levy, 2008 to 2009 (% change)	-37.9%	-30.6%
State PTRC Percentage, 2008	23.9%	20.1%
Total State Homestead Credit, 2008	50.9%	39.5%
Total State Homestead Credit, 2009	8.1%	7.2%
Did County Adopt a LOIT in 2008 or 2009?	No	

Note: State Average based on data for 85 counties available November 2009

*Effects on County Tax Bills.* Statewide, average homeowner tax bills fell by about 1% from 2008 to 2009. Homeowner tax bills in Newton County increased by 4.4%. The elimination of the property tax levies, and the added 35% supplemental homestead deduction, were more than offset by the elimination of the county's higher-than-average property tax replacement credit and the state homestead credit rates. Newton County did not adopt a local option income tax for property tax relief, and only a few elderly Newton County homeowners were eligible for the circuit breaker tax cap credits. Homeowner taxes were substantially lower in 2009 compared to 2007 in Newton County, as they were in most Indiana counties.

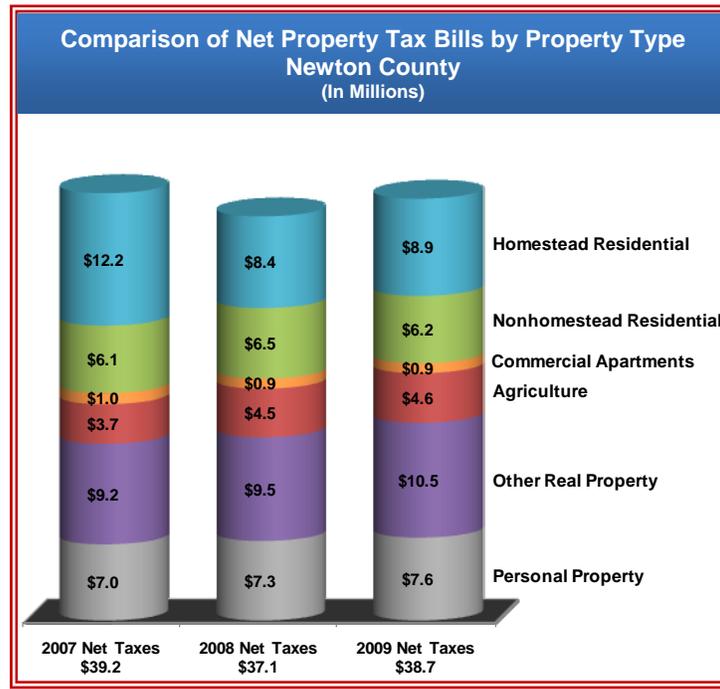
## 2009 Property Tax Changes:

The state took over funding of school general funds, county welfare funds, and several smaller funds – Units where these funds were a large portion of the overall property tax received the greatest benefit.

State Property Tax Replacement Credits were eliminated, and State Homestead Credits were much reduced – Credits didn't apply to debt service levies, so they were lower in units with more debt service; such units lost less from the elimination of the credits, and so received relatively more net benefit from the new tax relief programs.

Counties could adopt new LOIT for property tax relief in 2008 and 2009 - Homeowners in 41 counties that adopted a LOIT saw larger property tax cuts or smaller tax increases; other taxpayers benefitted if counties distributed tax credits to nonhomestead property.

Circuit Breaker Tax Caps were enacted at 1.5% of gross assessed value for homes, 2.5% for rental housing and farmland, and 3.5% for other property- Rental housing and commercial/industrial property received the most tax cap credits; cities and towns and jurisdictions that overlap them lost the most revenue to the caps.



In Newton County from 2008 to 2009, nonhomestead residential properties (small rentals and second homes) saw a 4.6% decline in average property tax bills. Average tax bills on commercial apartments did not change significantly. Agricultural business real property (which includes farmland and farm buildings, but not homesteads) saw a 2.2% average tax increase. Other commercial, industrial, and utility real property average tax bills increased 10.5%. Personal property, which is largely business equipment, saw a 4.1% increase in average tax bills.

**Circuit Breaker Tax Caps.** Property tax caps limit taxpayers' tax bills to a fixed percentage of their property's assessed value before deductions. Tax bills that exceed the caps are reduced by a tax credit. The cap rates were 1.5% for homesteads, 2.5% for other residential property and farmland, and 3.5% for other property. In 2010 and after, the cap rates will be 1%, 2%, and 3%, respectively.

**Local Revenue Losses.** Local governments do not collect the amount of these tax cap credits, and the revenue is not replaced. More taxpayers are likely to be eligible for circuit breaker tax cap credits in jurisdictions with higher tax rates. Tax districts in cities and towns tend to have higher tax rates because the municipal tax rate is added to tax bills. Cities and towns and jurisdictions that share taxpayers with cities and towns tend to lose the most revenue to tax cap credits.

**Tax Bill Reductions.** Generally, as a result of tax relief from homestead deductions most homeowners did not have tax bills high enough to qualify for tax cap credits. Rental housing has a lower tax cap than other businesses, and much of it is located in cities and towns, so many rental housing owners receive credits. Most farmland is outside cities and towns in jurisdictions with low tax rates. Few farmland owners receive credits. Commercial and industrial property tends to receive credits where tax rates are relatively high.

### Total Circuit Breaker Tax Cap Credit Amount for Newton County \$41,187

Percentage share of circuit breaker tax cap credits by cap category...



### Newton County Levy Comparison by Taxing Unit

Unit	2007 Levy	2008 Levy	2009 Levy	2007-2008 Levy Change	2008-2009 Levy Change	2008 - 2009 Comparable Levy Change
<b>County Total</b>	<b>\$19,331,737</b>	<b>\$20,934,753</b>	<b>\$12,995,535</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>-37.9%</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>
State Unit	17,211	18,889	0	9.7%	-100.0%	
Newton County	5,281,127	6,000,421	4,846,003	13.6%	-19.2%	2.2%
Beaver Township	139,889	142,745	148,771	2.0%	4.2%	4.2%
Colfax Township	7,131	7,072	6,992	-0.8%	-1.1%	-1.1%
Grant Township	33,013	33,897	35,542	2.7%	4.9%	4.9%
Iroquois Township	34,613	35,375	36,888	2.2%	4.3%	4.3%
Jackson Township	16,829	17,213	18,122	2.3%	5.3%	5.3%
Jefferson Township	57,306	59,018	79,311	3.0%	34.4%	34.4%
Lake Township	169,803	173,820	177,839	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%
Lincoln Township	135,385	139,040	138,533	2.7%	-0.4%	-0.4%
Mcclellan Township	20,644	21,899	22,832	6.1%	4.3%	4.3%
Washington Township	29,263	30,169	31,594	3.1%	4.7%	4.7%
Brook Civil Town	202,225	205,075	217,253	1.4%	5.9%	5.9%
Goodland Civil Town	230,754	233,995	245,447	1.4%	4.9%	4.9%
Kentland Civil Town	391,990	396,683	414,262	1.2%	4.4%	4.4%
Morocco Civil Town	189,124	191,926	200,385	1.5%	4.4%	4.4%
Mt. Ayr Civil Town	10,617	10,749	11,349	1.2%	5.6%	5.6%
North Newton School Corporation	6,279,598	6,737,471	2,998,555	7.3%	-55.5%	-11.0%
South Newton School Corporation	4,940,561	5,276,457	2,049,095	6.8%	-61.2%	-29.8%
Brook Public Library	186,072	190,778	198,401	2.5%	4.0%	4.0%
Goodland Public Library	81,668	83,285	87,938	2.0%	5.6%	5.6%
Kentland Public Library	128,307	130,029	212,286	1.3%	63.3%	63.3%
Newton County Public Library	748,607	798,747	818,137	6.7%	2.4%	2.4%
Northwest Indiana Solid Waste Mgt. District	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Note: 2008 – 2009 Comparable Levy Change reflects the percentage change in the remaining levies after levy reductions for state assumption of pre-1977 police and fire pension fund payments and elimination of these funds: state fair, state forestry, school general, preschool special education, family and children, children’s psychiatric residential treatment, medical assistance to wards, children with special health care needs, and hospital care for the indigent.

## Newton County Assessed Values, Levies, Tax Rates, and Credit Rates by Taxing District

Taxing District	Net Assessed Value (In Millions \$)			Gross Levy (\$)			Tax Rate (%)		State PTRC	State Homestead, Total		Total Local Income Tax Credits, Homesteads	
	2008	2009	% Change	2008	2009	% Change	2008	2009	Rate-Real	2008	2009	2008	2009
Beaver Township	40.9	37.9	-7.3%	1,060,596	713,860	-32.7%	2.5936	1.8824	24.19%	51.19%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Morocco Corp (Beaver)	32.8	23.9	-27.1%	989,486	606,897	-38.7%	3.0124	2.5356	23.64%	54.22%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Coffax Township	50.5	55.5	9.9%	1,182,113	878,678	-25.7%	2.3403	1.5833	25.38%	50.91%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Grant Township	37.7	38.5	2.0%	1,011,891	612,646	-39.5%	2.6830	1.5920	23.13%	47.70%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Goodland Corp (Grant)	30.6	26.8	-12.3%	1,044,651	664,059	-36.4%	3.4193	2.4777	21.85%	51.32%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Iroquois Township	42.5	42.7	0.6%	1,164,781	707,845	-39.2%	2.7416	1.6559	22.78%	47.45%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Brook Corp (Iroquois)	19.1	14.6	-23.6%	723,739	454,946	-37.1%	3.7857	3.1139	21.54%	52.95%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Jackson Township	41.7	44.4	6.3%	987,607	714,644	-27.6%	2.3659	1.6104	25.29%	51.07%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Mount Ayr Corp (Jackson)	2.1	1.6	-26.7%	60,730	36,250	-40.3%	2.8658	2.3339	24.00%	53.78%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Jefferson Township	52.2	52.7	0.8%	1,396,697	884,990	-36.6%	2.6733	1.6799	23.14%	47.61%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Kentland Corp (Jefferson)	76.2	67.1	-12.0%	2,398,850	1,486,695	-38.0%	3.1463	2.2150	22.19%	50.02%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Lake Township	108.5	90.3	-16.8%	2,697,900	1,596,484	-40.8%	2.4865	1.7676	24.69%	51.16%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Lincoln Township	177.1	144.9	-18.2%	4,259,686	2,414,603	-43.3%	2.4048	1.6663	25.00%	50.83%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Mcclellan Township	28.9	28.9	0.2%	694,000	477,351	-31.2%	2.4021	1.6496	25.17%	51.27%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Washington Township	46.1	45.1	-2.1%	1,262,407	745,589	-40.9%	2.7408	1.6543	22.89%	47.76%	8.06%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>County Totals/Averages</b>	<b>787.1</b>	<b>715.0</b>	<b>-9.2%</b>	<b>20,935,131</b>	<b>12,995,537</b>	<b>-37.9%</b>	<b>2.6599</b>	<b>1.8177</b>	<b>23.86%</b>	<b>50.92%</b>	<b>8.06%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Notes: A *taxing district* is a geographic area of a county where taxing units overlap, so the sum of the taxing unit tax rates is the total district rate.

The *Net Assessed Value* is the total taxable assessed value of all property types, after deductions. It declined in 2009 because of the introduction of the new 35% supplemental deduction for homesteads.

The *Gross Levy* is the amount of property tax to be collected, before credits. It declined in 2009 because of the elimination of the levies for school general funds, county welfare funds, and several smaller funds.

The *Tax Rate* is the gross levy divided by net assessed value, in dollars per \$100 assessed value. Rates fell because the drop in the levies due to levy elimination was greater than the reduction in assessed value due to the new deduction.

*State PTRC Rate - Real* is the state property tax replacement credit for real property in 2008. This credit was eliminated in 2009.

The *State Homestead, Total* is the sum of the regular state homestead credit rate, which was eliminated in 2009, and the HEA1001-2008 special rate, which was reduced in 2009.

The *Total Local Income Tax Credits - Homesteads* is the sum of the COIT and CEDIT homestead credit rates and the LOIT credit rates for homesteads, residential property, and all property. These are credits funded by local income taxes, including the COIT, the CEDIT, and the CAGIT for property tax relief.

## Newton County 2009 Circuit Breaker Cap Credits

Taxing Unit	Total Levy	Circuit Breaker Credits by Property Type				
		(1.5%) Homesteads	(2.5%) Other Residential/ Farmland	(3.5%) All Other Real/Personal	Elderly	Total
Newton County	4,846,003	0	14,958	0	2,120	17,079
Beaver Township	148,771	0	176	0	129	305
Colfax Township	6,992	0	0	0	0	0
Grant Township	35,542	0	0	0	9	9
Iroquois Township	36,888	0	883	0	18	901
Jackson Township	18,122	0	0	0	4	4
Jefferson Township	79,311	0	0	0	18	18
Lake Township	177,839	0	0	0	49	49
Lincoln Township	138,533	0	0	0	48	48
McClellan Township	22,832	0	0	0	4	4
Washington Township	31,594	0	0	0	0	0
Brook Civil Town	217,253	0	0	0	0	0
Goodland Civil Town	245,447	0	0	0	0	0
Kentland Civil Town	414,262	0	0	0	0	0
Morocco Civil Town	200,385	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Ayr Civil Town	11,349	0	0	0	0	0
North Newton School Corporation	2,998,555	0	966	0	1,316	2,283
South Newton School Corporation	2,049,095	0	14,747	0	892	15,639
Brook Public Library	198,401	0	4,008	0	82	4,089
Goodland Public Library	87,938	0	0	0	33	33
Kentland Public Library	212,286	0	0	0	104	104
Lake Village Public Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newton County Public Library	818,137	0	264	0	359	623
Northwest Indiana Solid Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total - All Taxing Units</b>	<b>12,995,535</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,185</b>	<b>41,187</b>

Notes: Circuit breaker tax cap credits are tax savings for taxpayers and revenue losses for local government units. Circuit breaker credits are highest in tax districts with the highest tax rates. These are usually districts that include cities or towns because the municipal tax rate is included in the district tax rate. This means that most circuit breaker credits are in cities and towns and in units that overlap cities and towns.

The *Total Levy by Unit* is gross property taxes levied, before all tax credits. It is included to allow comparison to the circuit breaker revenue losses.

**Circuit Breaker Credits:**

*Homesteads* are owner-occupied primary residences and include homestead land and buildings in the 1.5% tax cap category. Owner-occupied mobile homes and agricultural homesteads are included in this category. This category only includes credits on the portion of the property that qualifies as a homestead.

*Other Residential/Farmland* includes small rental housing units, larger commercial apartments, long-term care facilities, and farmland, in the 2.5% tax cap category.

*All Other Real/Personal* is commercial, industrial, and utility land and buildings, and business equipment, including agricultural equipment, in the 3.5% tax cap category. This category also includes credits on the portion of homeowner properties that do not qualify as a homestead.

*Elderly* includes credits for the 2% annual limit on homestead tax bill increases for low-income homeowners, age 65 and over.

Numbers may not total due to rounding.