

2009 SULLIVAN COUNTY PROPERTY TAX REPORT

WITH COMPARISONS TO 2007 AND 2008

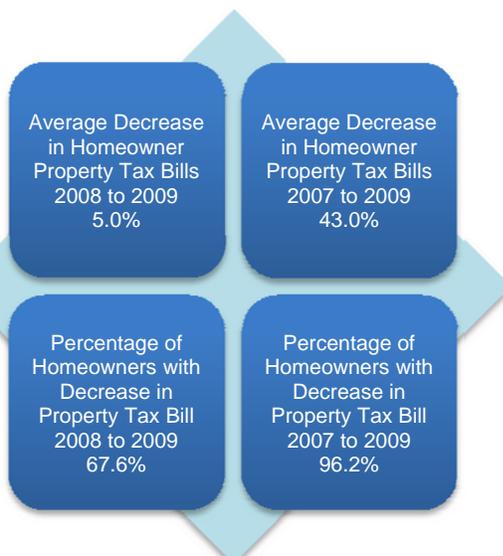


Legislative Services Agency

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 Sullivan 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	355	6.7%	64	1.2%
10% to 19%	303	5.7%	12	0.2%
1% to 9%	922	17.3%	22	0.4%
0%	143	2.7%	103	1.9%
-1% to -9%	951	17.9%	44	0.8%
-10% to -19%	1,115	21.0%	170	3.2%
-20% to -29%	525	9.9%	397	7.5%
-30% to -39%	183	3.4%	829	15.6%
-40% to -49%	111	2.1%	1,525	28.7%
-50% to -59%	73	1.4%	1,060	19.9%
-60% to -69%	71	1.3%	333	6.3%
-70% to -79%	59	1.1%	127	2.4%
-80% to -89%	59	1.1%	107	2.0%
-90% to -99%	44	0.8%	83	1.6%
-100%	405	7.6%	443	8.3%
Total	5,319	100.0%	5,319	100.0%
Higher Tax Bill	1,580	29.7%	98	1.8%
No Change	143	2.7%	103	1.9%
Lower Tax Bill	3,596	67.6%	5,118	96.2%
Average Change in Tax Bill	-5.0%		-43.0%	

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	Sullivan County	State Average
Net Assessed Value, 2008 to 2009 (% change)	-6.7%	-14.3%
Gross Tax Levy, 2008 to 2009 (% change)	-26.2%	-30.6%
State PTRC Percentage, 2008	21.5%	20.1%
Total State Homestead Credit, 2008	47.8%	39.5%
Total State Homestead Credit, 2009	9.1%	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 Sullivan County decreased by 5.0%. The elimination of the property tax levies, and the added 35% supplemental homestead deduction, were almost offset by the elimination of the property tax replacement credits and the state homestead credits. Sullivan County did not adopt a local option income tax for property tax relief, and few Sullivan County homeowners were eligible for the circuit breaker tax cap

credits. Homeowner taxes were substantially lower in 2009 compared to 2007 in Sullivan County, as they were in almost all Indiana counties.

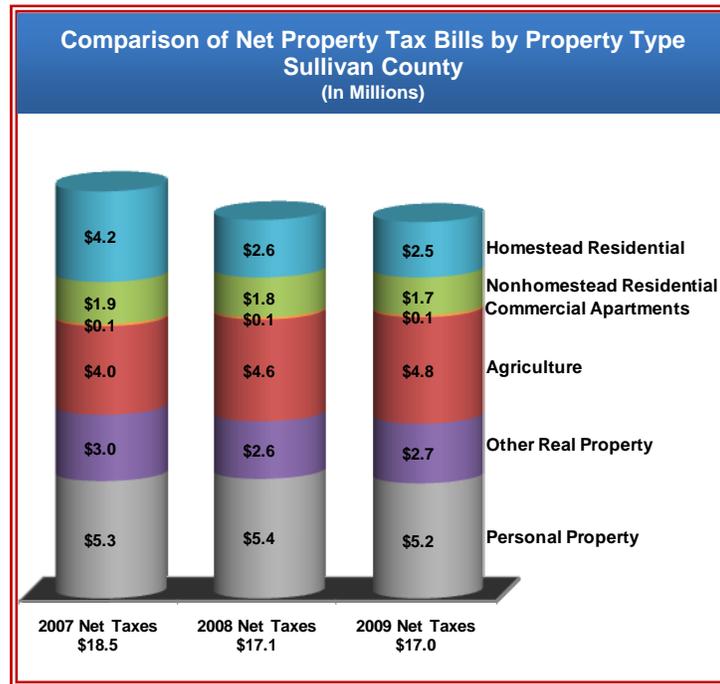
2009 Property Tax Changes:

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 Sullivan County from 2008 to 2009, nonhomestead residential properties (small rentals and second homes) saw a 5.6% decline in average property tax bills. Average tax bills on commercial apartments decreased 16.5%. Agricultural business real property (which includes farmland and farm buildings, but not homesteads) saw a 4.3% average tax increase. Other commercial, industrial, and utility real property average tax bills increased 3.8%. Personal property, which is largely business equipment, saw a 3.7% decrease in average tax bills.

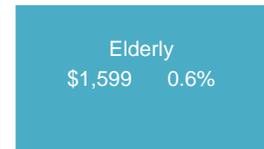
Circuit Breaker Tax Caps. Property tax caps limit taxpayers' tax bills to a fixed percentage of their property's assessed value before deductions. Tax bills that exceed the caps are reduced by a tax credit. The cap rates were 1.5% for homesteads, 2.5% for other residential property and farmland, and 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 Sullivan County \$252.597

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



Sullivan 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
County Total	\$24,065,691	\$23,557,942	\$17,292,955	-2.1%	-26.6%	1.3%
State Unit	18,766	19,811	0	5.6%	-100.0%	
Sullivan County	6,188,891	5,261,399	5,355,169	-15.0%	1.8%	5.5%
Cass Township	44,776	49,706	51,242	11.0%	3.1%	3.1%
Curry Township	193,197	187,942	196,609	-2.7%	4.6%	4.6%
Fairbanks Township	54,150	55,180	57,057	1.9%	3.4%	3.4%
Gill Township	121,053	127,283	129,580	5.1%	1.8%	1.8%
Haddon Township	76,146	76,946	81,803	1.1%	6.3%	6.3%
Hamilton Township	126,438	130,977	135,384	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%
Jackson Township	49,250	51,708	54,365	5.0%	5.1%	5.1%
Jefferson Township	43,339	46,578	48,390	7.5%	3.9%	3.9%
Turman Township	54,727	56,168	58,615	2.6%	4.4%	4.4%
Sullivan Civil City	1,029,437	1,075,929	1,076,434	4.5%	0.0%	5.0%
Carlisle Civil Town	90,510	79,514	93,615	-12.1%	17.7%	17.7%
Dugger Civil Town	93,068	96,929	71,049	4.1%	-26.7%	-26.7%
Farmersburg Civil Town	55,336	57,649	59,287	4.2%	2.8%	2.8%
Hymera Civil Town	53,845	56,540	52,992	5.0%	-6.3%	-6.3%
Merom Civil Town	18,803	16,749	16,514	-10.9%	-1.4%	-1.4%
Shelburn Civil Town	74,445	80,801	73,632	8.5%	-8.9%	-8.9%
Northeast School Corporation	4,373,367	4,705,358	2,761,347	7.6%	-41.3%	-1.1%
Southwest School Corporation	10,438,217	10,420,910	5,964,604	-0.2%	-42.8%	-2.3%
Sullivan County Public Library	867,930	903,865	955,267	4.1%	5.7%	5.7%
Sullivan County 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.

Sullivan 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 Rate-Real	State Homestead, Total		Total Local Income Tax Credits, Homesteads	
	2008	2009	% Change	2008	2009	% Change	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008	2009
Cass Township	33.7	31.6	-6.0%	870,108	654,260	-24.8%	2.5834	2.0673	23.09%	48.43%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Dugger Town	14.4	11.0	-23.5%	461,209	291,643	-36.8%	3.1980	2.6449	21.89%	51.44%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Curry Township	60.2	57.9	-3.9%	1,614,285	1,261,116	-21.9%	2.6797	2.1784	22.35%	47.64%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Farmersburg Town	22.3	17.8	-20.2%	654,658	446,735	-31.8%	2.9384	2.5121	21.55%	48.24%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Shelburn Town	15.6	12.7	-18.5%	475,118	331,012	-30.3%	3.0360	2.5963	22.02%	50.41%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Fairbanks Township	54.2	53.0	-2.1%	1,389,186	1,080,713	-22.2%	2.5640	2.0374	22.95%	47.80%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Gill Township	192.3	196.5	2.2%	5,207,401	4,013,601	-22.9%	2.7073	2.0423	21.36%	44.96%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Merom Town	3.4	2.3	-32.6%	106,235	62,027	-41.6%	3.1621	2.7397	20.67%	47.59%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Haddon Township	81.0	84.6	4.4%	2,211,013	1,749,033	-20.9%	2.7302	2.0681	21.43%	45.38%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Carlisle Town	11.0	9.4	-14.5%	375,566	285,389	-24.0%	3.4083	3.0297	20.33%	48.59%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Hamilton Township	128.9	109.1	-15.4%	3,514,184	2,268,435	-35.4%	2.7258	2.0795	21.34%	45.13%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Sullivan City	83.6	69.8	-16.6%	3,308,529	2,495,058	-24.6%	3.9557	3.5766	19.74%	50.40%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Jackson Township	41.6	36.7	-11.7%	1,068,932	758,070	-29.1%	2.5711	2.0651	23.25%	48.71%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Hymera Town	8.6	6.1	-29.9%	275,978	177,053	-35.8%	3.1919	2.9215	21.90%	51.42%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Jefferson Township	25.1	25.4	1.2%	665,271	539,724	-18.9%	2.6496	2.1244	22.89%	48.72%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Turman Township	50.4	47.3	-6.1%	1,388,036	994,745	-28.3%	2.7524	2.1010	21.36%	45.46%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%
County Totals/Averages	826.5	771.3	-6.7%	23,585,709	17,408,615	-26.2%	2.8540	2.2556	21.52%	47.77%	9.14%	0.00%	0.00%

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. The *State PTRC - 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.

Sullivan County 2009 Circuit Breaker Cap Credits

Taxing Unit	Total Levy	Circuit Breaker Credits by Property Type				Total
		(1.5%) Homesteads	(2.5%) Other Residential/ Farmland	(3.5%) All Other Real/Personal	Elderly	
Sullivan County	5,355,169	698	45,744	4,175	398	51,015
Cass Township	51,242	0	117	0	0	117
Curry Township	196,609	0	165	0	6	171
Fairbanks Township	57,057	0	0	0	10	10
Gill Township	129,580	0	17	0	0	17
Haddon Township	81,803	0	212	0	0	212
Hamilton Township	135,384	34	1,856	205	16	2,112
Jackson Township	54,365	0	274	0	0	274
Jefferson Township	48,390	0	0	0	6	6
Turman Township	58,615	0	0	0	6	6
Sullivan Civil City	1,076,434	1,564	84,553	9,358	387	95,863
Carlisle Civil Town	93,615	0	4,532	0	2	4,534
Dugger Civil Town	71,049	0	997	0	0	997
Farmersburg Civil Town	59,287	0	72	0	0	72
Hymera Civil Town	52,992	0	2,601	0	0	2,601
Merom Civil Town	16,514	0	569	0	0	569
Shelburn Civil Town	73,632	0	919	0	48	968
Northeast School Corporation	2,761,347	0	6,881	0	222	7,103
Southwest School Corporation	5,964,604	1,153	68,376	6,895	426	76,850
Sullivan County Public Library	955,267	124	8,160	745	71	9,100
Sullivan County Solid Waste Management District	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total - All Taxing Units	17,292,955	3,574	226,047	21,378	1,599	252,597

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.