

2020 Allegan County Tax Limitation

Question and Answers (9-29-2020)

1. How were the proposed separate tax limitations developed?

Under the Property Tax Limitation Act, PA 62 of 1933, specifically MCL 211.205k, the role of a County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee is to “prepare separate tax limitations for the county and the townships and intermediate school districts in the county, aggregating not more than [8.91 for Allegan County] mills that the majority of the committee considers will provide for the financial needs of the county, townships, and intermediate school districts.”

The Allegan County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee was composed of the following:

(a) The County Treasurer.	Sally Brooks
(b) The Chairperson of the County Board of Commissioners.	Jim Storey
(c) The Intermediate School District Superintendent or his/her representative.	William Brown
(d) A resident of a municipality within the county who shall be selected by the judge or judges of the Probate Court of the County.	Larry Ladenburger
(e) A member not officially connected with or employed by any local or county unit, who shall be selected by the Board of County Commissioners.	Hon. Harry Beach
(f) A member who shall be a township supervisor and who shall be selected by a majority of the township supervisors in the county.	Mark Evans

The committee met on May 21, 2020, during a posted public meeting and unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the separate tax limitations be set at the previously public voted levels.

2. What will the ballot language be?

ESTABLISHING SEPARATE TAX LIMITATIONS FOR ALLEGAN COUNTY, THE TOWNSHIPS, AND THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall separate tax limitations be established for an indefinite period, or until altered by the voters of the county, for the County of Allegan and the townships and the intermediate school district within the county, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 6.91 mills as follows:

	<u>Mills</u>
County of Allegan	5.70
Townships	1.07
Intermediate School Districts	<u>0.14</u>
Total	6.91

3. When will the tax limitation question appear on a ballot?

The State General Election on November 3.

4. What are the County’s plans if the tax limitations were to be reset to the 1965 level?

The tax limitations do not mandate a specific tax levy but rather a limit. The Board of Commissioners could levy the appropriate amount each year up to the limitation. However, specific plans have been developed to address certain needs based on input from various sources including a citizen survey. These plans primarily relate to Law Enforcement, Transportation and Pension Debt.

5. What did voters approve in 1965 as the separate tax limitations?

The Allegan County voters approved such separate limitations in 1965 which included:

	<u>Mills</u>
County of Allegan	5.70
Townships	1.07
Intermediate School Districts	<u>0.14</u>
Total	<u>6.91</u> (Leaving 2 mills unallocated)

6. What is Allegan County’s history of taxable value and Allegan County Government’s current voted tax limitation in comparison to the current operating rate as a result of rollbacks?

The 1965 voted tax limitation for the County was 5.7 mills and as of 2019 that has been rolled back to 4.5407 mills.

7. Where can I find the County’s current and previous budgets, cost allocation plans and audits?

This information can be accessed through the following link:
<http://cms.allegancounty.org/sites/Office/Finance/SitePages/Home.aspx>

8. Will the tax limitation question impact a Charter Township?

No. The tax limitations are established for the County, Townships (general law) and Intermediate School District under the Property Tax Limitation Act. Charter Townships are not subject to the tax limitation limits of the Property Tax Limitation Act. Charter Townships will not be impacted if the voters reset the tax limits to the 1965 voted limits or otherwise.

9. What about Headlee and Proposal A?

While there is certainly impact on the annual tax limitations as a result of Headlee and Proposal A, the process of “resetting” the tax limitations falls entirely under the Property Tax Limitation Act. However, even in the event the tax limitations are “reset” the new limits will also be subject to “rollback” and caps from Headlee and Proposal A.