TAX FACTS

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Effective Property Tax Rates in 89 Illinois Communities

By Mike Klemens

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INTRODUCTION

A home's effective property tax rate is the percentage of the house's value paid in property taxes for a given year, a straightforward calculation that allows comparison of tax burdens, be it among different states or within Illinois, where we have one system in Cook County and another in the rest of the state. The Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois periodically calculates effective tax rates (ETRs) for houses in selected communities throughout Illinois. The rates presented here are for 2016 property taxes paid in 2017, the most recent data available.

The 89 communities studied are those that were included in our 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2013 studies. (Studies before 2005 included fewer cities.) The communities have been chosen for their size and availability of data, with an eye towards providing an accurate representation of the entire state. The methodology we employ takes into account different levels of assessment (primarily the Cook County classification system), state equalization factors (commonly called multipliers), differing exemption levels, and different tax rates.

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NOTES FROM THE INSIDE. . .

By Carol S. Portman

This month's edition of *Tax Facts* contains an update to our periodic study calculating effective residential property tax rates – property taxes paid as a percentage of value – for 89 Illinois cities and villages. Effective tax rates (ETRs) are a useful tool for comparing the impacts of different laws and practices in different communities, but they do not measure the actual amount of property taxes paid.

We use the same \$250,000 value house that we have used since 2005, to provide continuity. To stress the importance of looking at data in context, this year we added a companion study that calculates the ETR on a median value home in 10 communities. In some cases, the differences are striking.

Here are some takeaways from the study:

- For the first time since TFI has done the study, Chicago does not have the lowest Effective Tax Rate among the cities studied. That honor has passed to Glenview.
- Property taxes paid are particularly high in the north Cook County suburbs, even in communities with low ETRs, because home values are relatively high there.
- Over the last 11 years, south suburban Cook County communities have seen their relative ETRs increase significantly, while most north suburban cities and villages maintained relatively low ETRs (but not low property tax bills).

Last year, for the first time in eight years, property values grew faster that property taxes billed. As a result, the average statewide tax rate fell for the first time since 2008. This is small consolation to property owners, though: property taxes billed jumped \$1.1 billion, the largest increase since 2008.

For this effort we are assuming a home with a market value of \$250,000 – the same market value used since 2005. For comparison purposes we used the same value home for each municipality, although we recognize that housing values vary widely around the State. See Other Ways of Calculating Effective Tax Rates on page 8.

While we calculate the ETR for a city or village, there are often variations within the city. Most commonly, there can be different taxing districts within a city, such as different elementary school districts. Or, for example, as shows up in Chicago there may be different levels of assessment. We use the overall level of assessment for Triad 1 in Cook County to calculate the assessment level in Chicago. (Cook County Triad 1 is Chicago, Triad 2 is the north suburbs and Triad 3 is the south suburbs.) However, within Chicago the sales ratio calculations from the Illinois Department of Revenue also present the data by township within the city. Using the Triad 1-wide data, we calculated a 1.61 percent ETR. Had we used township levels, ETRs would have ranged from 1.52 percent for West Chicago Township to 1.87 for Hyde Park Township, all within the City of Chicago.

The intra-city data illustrates that using averages masks some differences, but the value of the study — looking at identical communities over time—remains valid. Toward this end, we added a column to the table to show where the cities ranked in 2005 and illustrate how communities have moved in the rankings over this period that spans the end of the real estate boom, the ensuing collapse of market values of homes,

particularly in the Chicago metropolitan area, and the gradual recovery.

We assume the house is eligible for a General Homestead Exemption, but not eligible for the additional senior citizens homestead exemption, the senior assessment freeze, or for any other kind of homestead exemption. (See *Examining the Effects of Increased Homestead Exemptions*, in the April 2017 *Tax Facts* for a discussion of the proliferation of property tax exemptions and their impact on other taxpayers.)

METHODOLOGY

The calculation of an ETR for a community requires the following steps for a hypothetical house worth \$250,000.

Step 1 –Determine the Assessed Value (AV)
Obtain the adjusted median level of assessment for residential property for the township in which the community is located from the Illinois Department of Revenue's sales ratio studies and multiply it by \$250,000. For Chicago we use the median level for Triad 1. We use the 2015 sales ratio studies which were used to create the equalization factor for 2016.

Step 2— Determine the property's Equalized Assessed Value (EAV)

Multiply the assessed value by the county's "multiplier" (equalization factor) to determine the property's Equalized Assessed Value. The Department of Revenue assigns a multiplier to each county to equalize assessments across the state, bringing the median level of assessment to the required 33 1/3%. When assessments in a county are within 1% of the required level, they

do not need to be adjusted, and the county is given a multiplier of 1.

Step 3 – Determine the EAV after exemption (taxable value)

Subtract the homestead exemption from the EAV. In 2016 the General Homestead Exemption was \$6,000 outside of Cook County. For Cook the General Homestead Exemption was \$7,000.

Step 4 – Figure the tax bill

Obtain the community's aggregate tax rate from the Department of Revenue's Annual Property Tax Statistics report. The aggregate tax rate is the sum of the property tax rates calculated for cities, counties, townships, fire protection districts, park districts, school districts, sanitary districts, airport authorities, and a host of other governmental entities. Multiply it by the taxable value.

Step 5 —Calculate the Effective Tax Rate
Divide the tax bill by the \$250,000 fair market
value of the home to find the ETR.

FINDINGS

For the first time since TFI has been doing an ETR study, Chicago does not have the lowest ETR on residential property. Glenview, in north suburban Cook County now holds the honor. This is not surprising: when the 2016 rates were calculated, Cook County Clerk David Orr, who calculates the rates property owners actually see on their bills, noted that for the first time since 2008, the lowest tax rate was not in the City of Chicago, which he attributed to tax levy increases by Chicago and the Chicago Public Schools.

Looking at changes in rankings between 2005 and 2016, cities in Cook County Triad 3 (the south suburbs) have moved up the ladder (i.e. have seen their ETR increase). Park Forest, which has the highest ETR, was always at the top, but Dolton, Chicago Heights, Oak Lawn, Cicero, and Oak Park have all moved up significantly. In Triad 2, the north suburbs, Streamwood moved up while Palatine, Northbrook, Des Plaines and Evanston remained near the bottom of the pack.

The periods covered by our studies include the boom and bust years. For 2016 the tax base actually grew faster than property taxes billed, meaning that average tax rates (total taxes billed divided by total equalized assessed value) fell, reversing a seven-year trend. See *Property Tax Rates Fall in 2016*, page 10

Illinois Tax Facts

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Effective tax rates and estimated 2016 property taxes (collected in 2017) on a \$250,000 home in 89 Illinois cities

2016 Effective Tax Rate as a % of Fair Market Value 6.89% 5.69%	5.66% 5.37% 4.98% 4.98%	4.88% 4.54% 4.26% 4.06%	3.88% 3.64% 3.54% 3.53%	3.49% 3.45% 3.35% 3.29% 3.28%	3.26% 3.21% 3.20% 3.19% 3.11% 3.11%
2016 Tax Bill on a \$250,000 Home \$17,234	\$14,154 \$13,423 \$12,459 \$12,446	\$12,196 \$11,341 \$10,645 \$10,146	\$9,697 \$9,093 \$8,857 \$8,824	\$8,736 \$8,620 \$8,568 \$8,378 \$8,313 \$8,281 \$8,223 \$8,196	\$8,149 \$8,021 \$8,000 \$7,993 \$7,809 \$7,776 \$7,775
Tax Rate (%) 27.413 22.742	17.058 17.089 19.966 17.786	19.399 15.106 13.061 17.248	12.664 13.083 12.621 12.637	10.468 11.440 11.278 10.469 12.298 10.672 10.939 13.954	10.051 10.44 12.298 10.629 10.566 10.475 10.215 17.119
Taxable Value \$62,870	\$82,975 \$78,550 \$62,400 \$69,975	\$62,870 \$75,075 \$81,500 \$58,825	\$76,575 \$69,500 \$70,175 \$69,825	\$83,450 \$75,350 \$75,975 \$80,025 \$67,600 \$77,600 \$75,175 \$58,735	\$81,075 \$76,825 \$65,050 \$75,200 \$75,575 \$74,550 \$76,125 \$45,420
Homestead Exemption \$7,000 7,000	000'9 000'9 000'9	7,000 6,000 6,000 6,000	000'9 000'9 000'9	000'9 000'9 000'9 000'9 000'9 000'9	000,9 000,9 000,9 000,9 000,9 000,9 000,7
Multiplier 2.8032 2.8032	1.0000 1.0000 1.0000	2.8032 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000	1.0000	1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 2.8032	1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 2.8032
Assessment Level 9.97 9.93	35.59 33.82 27.36 30.39	9.97 32.43 35.00 25.93	33.03 30.20 30.47 30.33	35.78 32.54 32.79 34.41 29.44 33.44 32.47	34.83 33.13 28.42 32.48 32.22 32.85 7.48
County Cook Cook	Kankakee St. Clair Lake Alexander	Cook Winnebago Stephenson Lake	Knox Lake McHenry DeKalb	Ogle Henry Iroquois Jackson McHenry Cass Whiteside Cook	Bond Livingston McHenry Champaign Macon LaSalle St. Clair Cook
City Park Forest Dolton	Kankakee East St. Louis Zion Cairo	Chicago Heights Rockford Freeport North Chicago	Galesburg Waukegan Woodstock DeKalb	Oregon Kewanee Watseka Carbondale Crystal Lake Virginia Sterling Oak Lawn	Greenville Pontiac McHenry Urbana Decatur LaSalle Belleville Cicero
16 2005 nk Rank 2 2 40	4 6 2 1				3 33 5 71 6 36 8 37 9 21 0 69
2016 Rank 1	6 4 8	7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14	15 16 17 18 18 20 21 22	23 25 26 27 27 28 30 30

Effective tax rates and estimated 2016 property taxes (collected in 2017) on a \$250,000 home in 89 Illinois cities (continued)

| Lifetine las | Kate as a
% of Fair | Market | Value | 3.08% | 2.96% | 2.93% | 2.92% | 2.92% | 2.90% | 2.89% | 2.87% | 2.86% | 7.86%

 | 2.85% | 2.85% | 2.84% | 2.83% | 2.83%
 | 2.80% | 2.77%
 | 2.76% | 2.71% | 2.71% | 2.69% | 2.69% | 2.65% | 2.65% | 2.64%
 | 2.63% | 7.62% | 2.61% | 2.61% | 2.59% |
|----------------|------------------------|------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--
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--|---|--|---|--
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--|---|--|--|---|---|--
---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--
---|
| 0707
E 2070 | on a | \$250,000 | Home | \$2,688 | \$7,402 | \$7,337 | \$7,307 | \$7,305 | \$7,256 | \$7,218 | \$7,187 | \$7,153 | \$7,152

 | \$7,128 | \$7,122 | \$7,109 | \$7,081 | \$2,065
 | \$7,009 | \$6,919
 | \$6,912 | \$6,776 | \$6,775 | \$6,724 | \$6,714 | \$6,619 | \$6,617 | \$6,602
 | \$6,573 | \$6,554 | \$6,533 | \$6,519 | \$6,485 |
| | | Tax Rate | (%) | 10.843 | 10.047 | 11.067 | 868.6 | 9.22 | 14.358 | 10.267 | 11.134 | 10.401 | 10.328

 | 9.351 | 9.276 | 9.584 | 9.53 | 9.639
 | 11.090 | 9.673
 | 9.186 | 9.487 | 10.116 | 8.824 | 10.401 | 8.867 | 9.525 | 9.891
 | 8.592 | 10.623 | 9:036 | 9.004 | 8.322 |
| | | Taxable | Value | \$70,900 | \$73,675 | \$66,300 | \$73,825 | \$79,225 | \$50,536 | \$70,300 | \$64,550 | \$68,775 | \$69,250

 | \$76,225 | \$76,775 | \$74,175 | \$74,300 | \$73,300
 | \$63,200 | \$71,525
 | \$75,250 | \$71,425 | \$66,975 | \$76,200 | \$64,550 | \$74,650 | \$69,475 | \$66,750
 | \$76,500 | \$61,700 | \$72,300 | \$72,400 | \$77,925 |
| | | Homestead | Exemption | 6,000 | 6,000 | 000′9 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 7,000 | 000′9 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000

 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 9000'9 | 6,000 | 9000'9
 | 6,000 | 6,000
 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 000′9 | 6,000 | 6,000
 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 9'000 |
| | | | Multiplier | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 2.8032 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000

 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000
 | 1.0000 | 1.0000
 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000
 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 |
| | | Assessment | Level | 30.76 | 31.87 | 28.92 | 31.93 | 34.09 | 8.21 | 30.52 | 28.22 | 29.91 | 30.10

 | 32.89 | 33.11 | 32.07 | 32.12 | 31.72
 | 27.68 | 31.01
 | 32.50 | 30.97 | 29.19 | 32.88 | 28.22 | 32.26 | 30.19 | 29.10
 | 33.00 | 27.08 | 31.32 | 31.36 | 33.57 |
| | | | County | Boone | Fulton | Vermillion | Moultrie | Bureau | Cook | Rock Island | Kendall | LaSalle | Will

 | Madison | Logan | Rock Island | Warren | McDonough
 | Kane | Fayette
 | Tazewell | Johnson | Franklin | Coles | Kendall | Peoria | Will | Will
 | Tazewell | Kane | Will | Morgan | Jefferson |
| | | | City | Belvidere | Canton | Danville | Sullivan | Princeton | Oak Park | Rock Island | Yorkville | Ottawa | Joliet

 | Alton | Lincoln | Moline | Monmouth | Macomb
 | Elgin | Vandalia
 | East Peoria | Vienna | Benton | Charleston | Oswego | Peoria | Plainfield | Lockport
 | Pekin | Aurora | Frankfort | Jacksonville | Mt. Vernon |
| | | | | 31 63 | 32 24 | 33 23 | 34 22 | 35 43 | 36 79 | 37 16 | | | 40 65

 | 41 53 | 42 32 | 43 25 | 44 77 | 45 15
 | 46 46 | 47 26
 | 48 39 | 49 18 | 50 17 | 51 10 | 52 68 | 53 34 | 54 64 | 55 51
 | 26 50 | 22 66 | 58 70 | 59 49 | 98 09 |
| | | _ | Tax Bill on a Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Rate \$250,000 | Tax Bill on a Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Rate \$250,000 Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home | Tax Bill on a Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Rate \$250,000 Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Rate \$250,000 Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$66,300 \$65,300 11.067 \$7,337 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$66,300 11.067 \$7,337 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$66,300 11.067 \$7,337 22 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.898 \$7,307 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value %) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$66,300 11.067 \$7,337 22 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.898 \$7,307 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,305 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Rate \$250,000 Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$66,300 \$1.067 \$7,337 22 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.898 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,305 79 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 \$7,256 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Rate \$250,000 Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$66,300 11.067 \$7,337 25 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.898 \$7,307 43 Princeton Bureau 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 14.358 \$7,256 79 Oak Park Cook 8.21 1.0000 6,000 \$50,536 14.358 \$7,256 79 Oak Park Cook 8.21 1.0000 6,000 \$70,300 \$70,305 \$7,218 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.898 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,305 79 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 14.358 \$7,256 16 Rock Island Rendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$70,300 10.267 \$7,218 74 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$600 \$50,330 11.134 \$7,187 | 2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 23 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 25 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 11.067 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.29 \$7,305 79 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 14.358 \$7,218 16 Rock Island Rendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$70,300 10.267 \$7,218 74 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$70,300 10.267 \$7,218 74 <td< th=""><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestage 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Balvidere Boonel 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 24 Canton Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 9.898 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,385 79 Oak Park Cook 82.1 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 14.358 \$7,218 74 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$70,300 10.247 \$7,187 30</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,305 79 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 11.354 \$7,187 74 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$6,030 10.267 \$7,187
 30 Ottawa Lasalle 29.91 1.0000 6,000 \$6,030 11.134 \$7,187 4 Yorkv</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestead 53 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 25 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 9.898 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,337 79 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 14.358 \$7,256 74 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$70,300 10.267 \$7,187 30 Ottawa Lasalle 29.91 1.0000 6,000 \$60,550 10.401 \$7,122 53</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value %) Homestead 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 1.004 \$7,090 1.0843 \$7,688 23 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 1.0047 \$7,402 24 Canton Fulton 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 25 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.89 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,305 74 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$60,505 \$76,525 9.22 \$7,125 30 Ottawa LaSalle 29.91 1.0000 6,000 \$60,505 \$76,725</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Tax Bill Pon a Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestead 23 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 25 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.829 \$7,307 43 Princeton Bureau 32.1 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.29 \$7,305 44 Princeton Bureau 30.52 1.0000 6,000 \$70,305 10.41 \$7,126 50 Oak Park Rock Island 30.52 1.0000 6,000 \$6,055 9.22 \$7,125 51 <t< th=""><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Faxabil Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestead 20 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 2 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 2 Canton Fulton 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 2 Canton Fulton 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 9.898 \$7,337 3 Princeton Bounditrie 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.898 \$7,337 4 Princeton Bounditrie 32.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.22 \$7,305 7 Oak Park Cook 8.21 1.0000 6,000 \$66,300 11.34 \$7,18 3 Ottawa</th></t<><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 10.047 \$7,402 43 Princeton Bureau 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,305 50 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 14.358 \$7,305 43 Princeton Bureau 32.92 1,0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,305 54 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1,0000 6,000 \$60,530 11.34 \$7,128 53 Jol</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Tax Bale Fability Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 6.3 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,608 2.3 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 2.3 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 4.3 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 4.3 Danville Wermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 9.22 \$7,337 5.0 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,536 \$1,134 \$7,135 5.0 Oak Park Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$76,525 9.22 \$7,305 5.0</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestead 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 43 Danville Noultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,825 9.898 \$7,305 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.736 50 Oak Park Cook 8.21 1.0000 6,000 \$70,265 \$7,128 50 Ottawa LaSalle 29.91 1.0000 6,000 \$76,025 \$7,128 51 Alton Will 30.10 1</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Ball 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$70,900 10.843 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 43 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 43 Danville Noultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.898 \$7,307 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,256 14.358 \$7,136 43 Pock Island Rock Island 30.52 1.0000 6,000 \$50,536 14.01 \$7,138 50 Ottawa Losale 29.91 1.0000 6,000 \$76,025 \$7,128 51 Alton</th><th>2005 Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000
6.000 \$7.0,900 10.843 \$7.402 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6.000 \$7.0,507 10.047 \$7.402 23 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6.000 \$7.0,507 \$7.402 24 Canton Moultrie 28.21 1.0000 6.000 \$7.3,675 \$7.402 25 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6.000 \$7.3,675 \$7.307 30 Danville Vorkville Rendall 28.21 1.0000 6.000 \$7.0,300 \$7.2,32 4 Yorkville Kendall 28.22 1.0000 6.000 \$7.0,300 \$7.1,32 5 Joliet Will 28.23 1.0000</th><th>City Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Rate \$250,000 Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 1.004 6,000 \$73,875 1.004 6,000 \$73,875 1.004 \$73,875 \$74,02</th><th>Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestead 63 City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 1.0047 \$74,02 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 1.0047 \$74,02 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.28 \$7,337 43 Princeton Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,337 50 Oak Park Cook 8.21 2.8932 7,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,337 43 Oak Park Cook 8.21 1.0000 6,000 \$79,225 9.22 \$7,337 50 Ottawa Rock Island 29.91 1.0000 6,000 \$75,225 9.22</th><th>Rank City Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value \$50,000 200 Rank City Lounty Level Multiplier Exemption Value \$50,000 23 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 \$50,000 \$7,083 \$7,688 23 Belvidere Boone 31.93 1.0000 \$0000 \$73,875 \$7,000 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 \$6000 \$73,875 \$7,305 43 Princeton Bureau 34.99 1.0000 \$6000 \$73,875 \$7,305 50 Oak Park Rock Island 30.10 1.0000 \$6000 \$56,350 1.1134 \$7,118 30 Ottawa LaSalle 29.91 1.0000 \$6000 \$74,175 \$7,183 4 Rock Island 32.10 1.0000 \$6000 \$74,175 \$7,183</th></th></td<> <th>Rank City Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestead 23 Belvidere Boone 30.76 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 1.0043 \$7,688 23 Belvidere Boone 31.75 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.004 \$7,708 23 Darkon Bureau 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.004 \$7,408 34 Dark Park Cook 8.21 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.22 \$7,305 30 Oltawa Bureau 34.09 1.0000 6,000 \$70,305 \$7,305 30 Oltawa LaSalle 28.21 1.0000 6,000 \$70,305 \$7,105 4 Werdell 20.91 1.0000 6,000 \$70,305 \$7,105 5 Joliet Verdall 20.22 1.0000</th> <th>Rank City Assessment Homestead Tax Bale Tax Bale Assessment Rank City County Level Multiplier Keemption Value (%) Homestead 23 Belvindere Boone 3.0.76 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,688 24 Canton Fulton 3.8.75 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,688 25 Sullivan Mountrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 3 Posk Park Cook 8.22 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 9.22 \$7,307 3 Oak Park Cook 8.22 1.0000 6,000 \$73,875 9.22 \$7,307 3 Oak Park Cook 8.22 1.0000 6,000 \$75,275 9.22 \$7,307 4 Portaville Kendalil 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$76,375 9.22 \$7,307</th> <th>2005 Assessment Homestead Tax Bill Assessment Homestead Tax Bill Assessment Homestead Tax Bill \$50.00 Rank City Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 63 Belvidere Boone 3.1.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,602 23 Danville Vermillion 28.92 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,402 24 Canton Fullton 3.1.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,925 9.22 \$7,902 25 Sullivan Moultrie 3.1.93 1.0000 6,000 \$7,326 \$7,326 36 Dak Park Cook 8.21 2.8032 7,000 \$50,336 \$1,256 \$7,326 37 Oak Park Rendall 28.22 1.0000 6,000 \$76,256 \$9.22 \$7,300 38 Jollet Will 30.1 1.0000 6,000 \$76</th> <th>Rank City Assessment Homestead Taxable Tax Bale \$25,000 Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Homestead 23 Belvidere Boon and Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,682 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,682 25 Sullivan Moultrie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 10.047 \$7,482 43 Princen Cook 8.21 2.0000 6,000 \$73,675 9.22 \$7,300 34 Princen Cook 8.21 2.8032 1,000 \$600 \$50,336 11.34 \$7,128 35 Jolet Los 1,000 6,000 \$70,300 10.32 \$7,188 36 Jolet Will 30.10 1,000 6,000 \$70,328 \$7,188 37</th> <th>City Assessment Homestead Tax Bill Rank City County Level Multiplier Exemption Value (%) Home 23 Belvidere Boone 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 1.047 \$7,682 24 Canton Fulton 31.87 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 1.047 \$7,482 25 Sullivan Moutilie 31.93 1.0000 6,000 \$73,675 1.047 \$7,482
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Effective tax rates and estimated 2016 property taxes (collected in 2017) on a \$250,000 home in 89 Illinois cities (continued)

2016	ETTECTIVE 1 ax	Rate as a	% of Fair	Market	Value	2.56%	2.54%	2.54%	2.48%	2.48%	2.45%	2.41%	2.37%	2.36%	2.34%	2.33%	2.32%	2.28%	2.27%	2.23%	2.20%	2.17%	2.16%	2.11%	2.05%	2.04%	1.99%	1.91%	1.90%	1.79%	1.77%	1.74%	1.61%	1.41%
0	2016	Tax Bill	on a	\$250,000	Home	\$6,405	\$6,362	\$6,358	\$6,197	\$6,193	\$6,132	\$6,020	\$5,937	\$5,906	\$2,855	\$5,822	\$5,800	\$5,710	\$5,682	\$5,569	\$5,493	\$5,414	\$5,407	\$2,268	\$5,123	\$5,100	\$4,968	\$4,771	\$4,760	\$4,465	\$4,419	\$4,346	\$4,026	\$3,517
				Tax Rate	(%)	9.252	8.404	11.555	8.282	8.176	8.106	8.272	8.391	7.807	8.801	7.973	8.149	7.87	7.556	7.282	7.753	7.388	7.643	10.115	7.607	6.82	10.362	6.811	80.6	6.712	6.206	9.065	7.145	7.512
				Taxable	Value	\$69,225	\$75,700	\$55,021	\$74,825	\$75,751	\$75,650	\$72,775	\$70,750	\$75,650	\$66,525	\$73,025	\$71,175	\$72,550	\$75,200	\$76,475	\$70,850	\$73,275	\$70,750	\$52,077	\$67,350	\$74,775	\$47,943	\$70,050	\$52,428	\$66,525	\$71,200	\$47,943	\$56,352	\$46,821
				Homestead	Exemption	000′9	6,000	2,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	9,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	000′9	6,000	6,000	6,000	7,000	9000'9	6,000	7,000	000′9	7,000	6,000	6,000	2,000	7,000	2,000
					Multiplier	1.0000	1.0000	2.8032	1.0000	1.0168	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	2.8032	1.0000	1.0000	2.8032	1.0000	2.8032	1.0000	1.0000	2.8032	2.8032	2.8032
				Assessment	Level	30.09	32.68	8.85	32.33	32.16	32.66	31.51	30.70	32.66	29.01	31.61	30.87	31.42	32.48	32.99	30.74	31.71	30.70	8.43	29.34	32.31	7.84	30.42	8.48	29.01	30.88	7.84	9.04	7.68
					County	Kane	McLean	Cook	Sangamon	Lawrence	McLean	Champaign	DuPage	Edgar	DuPage	Grundy	Richland	White	Christian	Crawford	Lake	Effingham	DuPage	Cook	Lake	Adams	Cook	DuPage	Cook	DuPage	Madison	Cook	Cook	Cook
					Citv	Geneva	Bloomington	Streamwood	Springfield	Lawrenceville	Normal	Champaign	Lombard	Paris	Addison	Morris	Olnev	Carmi	Taylorville	Robinson	Lake Zurich	Effingham	Wheaton	Palatine	Libertyville	Quincy	Northbrook	Naperville	Des Plaines	Elmhurst	Edwardsville	Evanston	Chicago	Glenview
				2016 2005								67 36									76 57		78 78		80 72	81 62	82 88	83 80	84 86		86 73	87 85	88 89	89 87

Other Ways of Calculating Effective Tax Rates

Effective tax rate (ETR) studies are imperfect and best used to put property taxes in context rather than to measure the absolute level of taxation. The TFI study, which we repeat periodically using the same methodology, is no exception. It allows us to view both the differences in property taxation among communities in different parts of the state and how those differences change over time. It also accounts for Cook County's unique classification system, with its low assessment levels and high state multipliers.

Looking at an identically valued house, in our case a \$250,000 property in each community, is both the study's strength and chief drawback. The strength is that the fixed \$250,000 value approach illustrates how different laws and practices affect tax bills; the weakness is that a \$250,000 house in Naperville is going to be very different from a \$250,000 house in East St. Louis. In their 50-State Property Tax Study the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence, compute ETRs two ways: (1) for identically valued homes in various cities, to show how differences in tax laws affect ETRs and (2) for the median valued home in each city, to show the ETR on a "typical" home. See A Fresh Look at *Illinois Property Taxes, Tax Facts,* November 2017.

As a comparison to what we did in this study, we recomputed the ETRs for 10 communities using median values that we obtained from Census Bureau data. The information is presented in Table 2; the median value calculation is in yellow and the TFI fixed \$250,000 value approach is shown in green. Several things pop out:

- 1. A difference in median values makes a difference in ETRs. Where a community's median value is close to the \$250,000 used in our methodology (e.g. in Chicago) there is little difference in ETRs. Where there is a large difference between median value and \$250,000 (e.g. East St. Louis) there is a large difference in ETRs.
- 2. If the actual median is lower than \$250,000, the ETR is lower than in the TFI study, while if the actual median is higher than the \$250,000 the ETR is higher than in the TFI study. That happens because the fixed value General Homestead Exemption has a much more significant impact on the ETR of a lower valued home than of a higher valued property.
- 3. Looking at true medians reinforces the point that low ETRs don't mean low tax bills. Glenview had the lowest ETR in the TFI study, but taxes on a median valued home were third highest among 10 communities we looked at. Along the same line, the fixed \$250,000 value shows a Lawrenceville homeowner paying more tax than one in Libertyville. However, when differences in median values are taken into account, the taxes on a median valued home in Libertyville are 10 times higher.

A third methodology that calculates ETR using averages has been developed by the Department of Revenue and is published in Table 10 of its 2016 Property Tax Statistics. The Department has

available to it a lot of data on property taxes by township, including: (1) level of assessment, (2) assessed value, (3) residential taxable value, and (4) the number of residential parcels. It uses that data to produce per parcel averages for market value and for taxable value, arriving at an average ETR without having to account for multipliers or exemptions.

One advantage of the DOR methodology is that it takes all homestead exemptions into consideration, not just the General Homestead Exemption that TFI assumes in its calculations. The DOR methodology results are presented in the blue section of Table 2.

As you can see, on larger communities the IDOR method produces an ETR closer to the median value calculation than does the TFI study. For some smaller communities — East St. Louis and Vienna, for example, it produces values that appear markedly lower. Ironically, the lowest ETR in the DOR average methodology is Winnetka which has among the highest residential tax bills in Illinois.

The lesson here is clear. ETRs are a good way to make comparisons across different tax systems. But they don't account well for property values, and higher valued property means higher tax bills.

TABLE 2. Eff	ective Tax	Rates Cor	nputed ⁻	Three Ways	in Selecte	d Comn	nunities						
Community		Median alue View			d \$250,000 lue View)	IDOR Average Value View						
	Median Value	Tax	ETR	Value	Tax	ETR	Average Value	Tax	ETR				
Park Forest	\$71,900	\$3,590	4.99%	\$250,000	\$17,234	6.89%	\$96,474	\$5,691	5.90%				
East St. Louis	\$45,900	\$1,627	3.55%	\$250,000	\$13,423	5.37%	\$10,963	\$212	1.93%				
Vienna	\$76,400	\$1,676	2.19%	\$250,000	\$6,776	2.71%	\$49,547	\$567	1.14%				
Peoria	\$130,500	\$3,201	2.45%	\$250,000	\$6,619	2.65%	\$88,124	\$2,192	2.49%				
Aurora	\$176,200	\$4,431	2.51%	\$250,000	\$6,554	2.62%	\$139,787	\$3,595	2.57%				
Lawrenceville	\$58,100	\$1,063	1.83%	\$250,000	\$6,193	2.48%	\$57,080	\$799	1.40%				
Libertyville	\$504,900	\$10,812	2.14%	\$250,000	\$5,123	2.05%	\$356,774	\$7,752	2.17%				
Naperville	\$421,400	\$8,322	1.97%	\$250,000	\$4,771	1.91%	\$315,308	\$6,245	1.98%				
Chicago	\$243,900	\$3,916	1.61%	\$250,000	\$4,026	1.61%	\$270,757	\$4,295	1.59%				
Glenview	\$476,800	\$7,185	1.51%	\$250,000	\$3,517	1.41%	\$883,440	\$16,396	1.86%				
Sources: Comp	uted by aut	hor from	Departm	nent of Reve	nue and C	ensus B	ureau data						

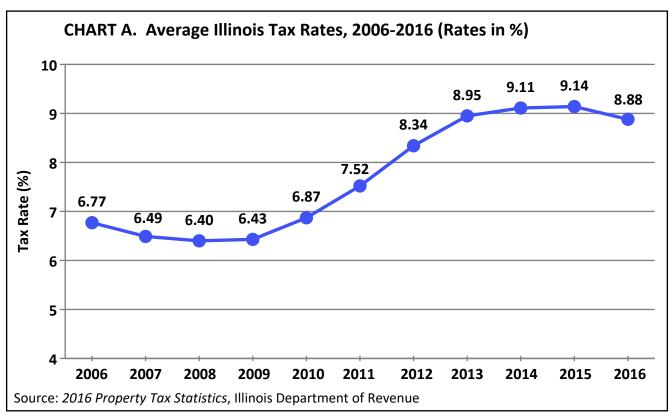
Property Tax Rates Fall in 2016

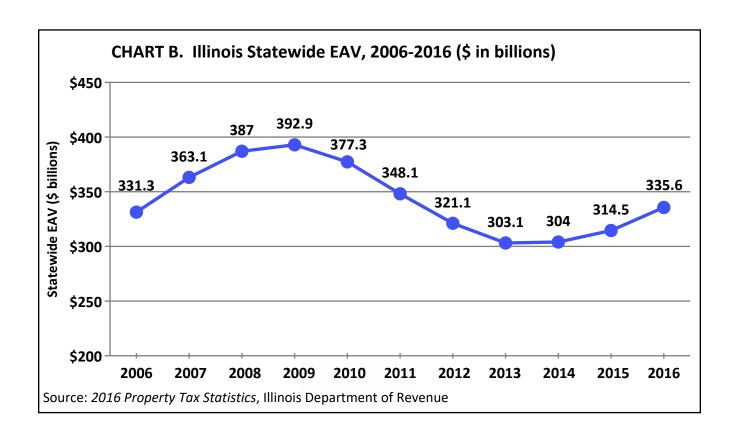
Property tax rates fell in Illinois last year, while total property taxes billed rose by the largest percentage since 2008. On the tax rate side of the question, average tax rates (total property taxes billed divided by total property value) marked an end to a seven-year run up that saw average rates rise each year and skyrocket 43 percent over the period. Data published by the Department of Revenue shows that the state-wide average tax rate dropped to 8.88 percent for 2016 taxes paid in 2017, from 9.14 percent the previous year. Rates fell in Cook County, the collar counties, and in the other 96 counties. Chart A illustrates what has happened with property tax rates since 2006.

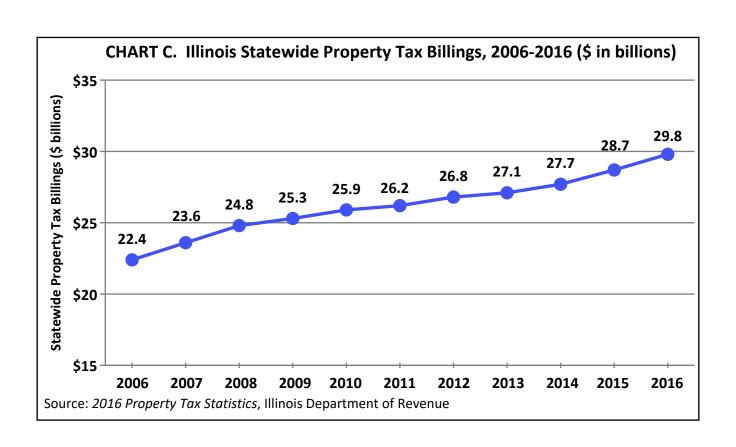
The rate decrease did not mean anyone's taxes went down; the \$1.1 billion in increased property tax billings for 2016 was the fifth largest in the last 20 years. Instead, it means that Illinois has returned to the more typical pattern that existed before the 2009 real estate crash: property values increased faster than taxes billed, allowing rates to fall. Between 2009 and 2013, the real estate crash and the ensuing market chaos eroded the property tax base by \$89 billion, or 23 percent, as illustrated in Chart B.

While property values were falling, property taxes billed continued to grow, albeit relatively slowly – averaging less than 2 percent per year. Chart C illustrates slowly increasing property taxes billed, which when coupled with the falling values in Chart B produced the skyrocketing property tax rates we saw in Chart A. From the perspective of homeowners and other property owners, their taxes went up while their property values fell.

The return to the stability of the "normal" pattern should comfort both homeowners who will see their property values grow faster than their tax bills and local governments who will again be able to rely on growth in their tax base.







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