



Findings in the review of 2014 Property Tax Rates

Background	Section 137.073, RSMo, requires the State Auditor's office to annually review the local property tax rates of all taxing authorities in the state to determine whether taxing authorities levied taxes in accordance with Missouri law and adjusted property tax rates to keep property reassessments from affecting revenue.
Results	We reviewed 4,865 property tax rates for 2,832 taxing authorities. Three taxing authorities (Madison Special Road District in Monroe County, Elmwood Park Street Light District in St. Louis County, and the Village of Velda Village Hills in St. Louis County) levied tax rates greater than the tax rate certified, resulting in excess property taxes levied of \$35,091. The Madison Special Road District tax rate was non-compliant due to an error in ballot language. In accordance with Section 137.073.6(2), RSMo, we referred the three non-compliant taxing authorities to the Missouri Attorney General's office.
Additional Comments	The State Auditor's office has no authority to determine or review individual tax assessments. All individual tax assessment matters are the responsibility of the county assessor and board of equalization. Appeals to the state on tax assessment matters are handled by the Missouri State Tax Commission.

Because of the limited objective of this review, no overall rating is provided.

*The rating(s) cover only audited areas and do not reflect an opinion on the overall operation of the entity. Within that context, the rating scale indicates the following:

Excellent: The audit results indicate this entity is very well managed. The report contains no findings. In addition, if applicable, prior recommendations have been implemented.

Good: The audit results indicate this entity is well managed. The report contains few findings, and the entity has indicated most or all recommendations have already been, or will be, implemented. In addition, if applicable, many of the prior recommendations have been implemented.

Fair: The audit results indicate this entity needs to improve operations in several areas. The report contains several findings, or one or more findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated several recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, several prior recommendations have not been implemented.

Poor: The audit results indicate this entity needs to significantly improve operations. The report contains numerous findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated most recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, most prior recommendations have not been implemented.