



Nicole R. Galloway, CPA
Missouri State Auditor

CITIZENS SUMMARY

Findings in the review of 2015 Property Tax Rates

Background	Property taxes largely fund Missouri's public schools and provide revenue for county boards and special purpose political subdivisions. The State Auditor's Office works with county officials to assist local governments in determining the data necessary to complete the tax rate computations of local property tax rates. Local governments are required to submit proposed property tax rates to county authorities, along with data to support those proposed rates. Counties send that data to the State Auditor's Office, which determines whether the proposed rates comply with state law.
Rate Calculations	Rate ceilings set the limit for the amount of taxes that can be levied. Ceilings are determined annually and are adjusted to ensure that revenue remains neutral. Ceilings are determined for the entire taxing district and are not calculated on an individual taxpayer basis. The 2015 tax rate ceilings were determined based on Section 137.073 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and Article X, Section 22 of the Missouri Constitution, which limits taxation by the state and local governments.
Results	In 2015, the State Auditor reviewed 4,841 property tax rates for 2,821 taxing authorities. The rates included debt service tax rates, new property tax rates approved by voters, property tax rates that were increased by voter approval, and other existing property tax rates. This marks the first year since the State Auditor's Office began reviewing property tax rates that no taxing authorities levied a tax rate above the tax rate certified.
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 complete 2015 Property Tax Rates Report is available on our Web site: auditor.mo.gov.