



# DOES GOVERNMENT HAVE A PERPETUAL RIGHT TO YOUR MONEY?



The number one reason your property taxes increase is because the county, city, and school districts increase spending. It's that simple. The levies, rollbacks, assessed values and tax rates, etc. are just how the taxing authority gets to the amount of money they need to take out of your pocket.

Currently, the number one issue in our county and state, by a wide margin, is the level of our property taxes. It's a huge problem for seniors on a fixed income, for farmers, for business owners, and for owners of rental housing who are then forced to pass on any increases to their renters. Madison County property taxes have grown significantly over the last 10 years, well beyond the rate of inflation and the rate of our population increase. According to the 2020 Census, our county had only grown by 5.5%, or 869 people, over the previous 10 years, yet our taxes grew far faster than that for every local taxing authority as you can see in the chart below:

Taxing Entity	Net Property Tax Increase/Decrease	
	Between FY 2020 & 2024	Between FY 2015 & 2024
Madison County	17.76%	76.09%
Bevington	9.64%	77.55%
Earlham	18.32%	62.73%
East Peru	13.92%	49.00%
Macksburg	6.98%	12.19%
Patterson	55.35%	82.70%
St. Charles	-1.58%	11.04%
Truro	80.22%	93.85%
Winterset	20.71%	50.66%
Earlham School	-0.93%	24.64%
I35 School	25.12%	54.36%
Winterset School	14.85%	36.76%

\*Source: Iowa Dept. of Management

Local government spending has surpassed any reasonable rate of inflation and actual population growth. It is so bad that the legislature finally passed a law last year to force them to be more responsible with our money, as they refused to do it on their own. (We must remember this in the next election)

According to a recent WalletHub article, Iowa has one of the highest property tax burdens in the country, coming in at the 10th highest! This must change!

The Madison County Republican Central Committee urges our local elected officials during this current budgetary period for county, city and school districts to remember that they represent the taxpayers of Madison County, and are their voice at the budget table. Given our history of property tax increases, coupled with the enormous increase in the cost of living for taxpayers, elected officials must prioritize budgetary discipline. Anyone who has had to figure out how to buy groceries or put fuel in their car knows the pain of this.

We urge you to contact your respective elected officials and request that there be no increase in taxes. Let your thoughts be known! You can find a contact list of local government officials at our website: <https://madisoncoiagop.org/local-government-contacts>