

# The Source

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## Township millage rates to remain the same in 2014

By SEAN DELANEY  
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The Shelby Township Board of Trustees on Sept. 17 voted to keep local tax rates the same for the fifth consecutive year.

"Even though we're looking at another year with a forecasted decline in revenues, we have made a promise to the taxpayers that we will not pass our financial hardships on to them," said Supervisor Richard Stathakis.

According to Assessor Matt Schmidt, Shelby Township's tax rate will remain at 9.2999 mills for 2014, with 2.4062 mills dedicated to the general fund, 1 mill to the police and fire pension fund, 3.2575 to the fire department operating fund and 2.6362 to the police operating fund.



Shelby Township Assessor Matt Schmidt says the township's millage rates will remain the same for the fifth consecutive year.

"It is the same millage rate as approved in the 2013 budget," Schmidt said. "It is also the same millage rate that was approved in Shelby Township for the past several years."

The total 9.2999 mills tax rate costs

taxpayers owning \$100,000 homes, which have a taxable value of \$50,000, \$464.99 per year, with \$120.31 going to the general fund,

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\$50 to the police and fire pension fund, \$162.88 to the fire department and \$131.81 to the police department.

"We knew that, with property values shrinking, it meant our bottom line would shrink, but it also meant that our residents were facing hard times, too," Stathakis said. "That is why it was more important than ever to make do with what we had and not ask taxpayers for a penny more."

Township officials also reaffirmed that, despite a

financial crisis within the police department stemming from continued declines in revenue and growing expenditures because of rising retiree pension and healthcare costs, they will face such hardships with the resources and finances available.

"Our commitment to make do with the resources we have has been paramount to everything the conservative majority of our board has accomplished since November of 2008," Stathakis said. "And it is

the top reason why our township has weathered the state's economic storm better than most communities."

The supervisor credited the township's employees for helping to keep the millage rates low.

"Keep up the good work," he said.

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