

Gwinnett County Government NEWS RELEASE

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COMMISSIONERS LEAVE MILLAGE RATE SAME

(Lawrenceville, Ga., June 23, 2010) – Gwinnett commissioners left the millage rate unchanged from last year’s final rate as they authorized the 2010 property tax billings on Tuesday.

Last year the Board of Commissioners passed the final 2009 millage rate of 13.25 mills, which reflected a modest tax increase to restore core services such as public safety. The same rate will remain in effect for 2010.

While the tax base continues to lose value during the recession, commissioners and County staff built the 2010 budget to account for some reduced revenue. However, the Board of Commissioners will address the 2010 budgetary impact of the digest loss in July with the adoption of the reconciliation budget.

The Board’s action allows tax bills to be mailed in July. Property owners can make payments in two installments. Payment options include mail, online, by phone, or at the Tax Commissioner’s office either in person or by using a special drop box.

The Board is holding the line on the millage rate despite the fact that the five-year millage rate history recently advertised shows a decline of \$3.2 billion in the 2010 gross digest. Due to the decline in commercial and residential property values, the 2010 millage rate is expected to generate about \$31 million less in property tax revenue than it did in 2009.

The County will continue its public outreach and education efforts regarding future services and service levels, which will include fully exploring recommendations from the Engage Gwinnett citizens committee for the future of Gwinnett County.

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