



By State Statute, the City Council must adopt a property tax rate for the upcoming year. Florida law permits municipalities to levy a property tax, without referendum approval, to a maximum of ten mills (1 mill = \$1 of tax per \$1,000 of taxable value). Property assessments and tax collections are administered by the Pinellas County Property Appraiser and County Tax Collector. Homeowners may claim on their principal place of residence a \$25,000 homestead exemption.

The taxable values of property with the City of Clearwater increased by \$786 million for this new fiscal year, to a total of \$7.5 billion in 2004/05. Taxable value of new construction totals \$132 million, a decrease of \$9 million from 2003/04, while taxable value of existing property increased by \$795 million. The total recommended ad valorem rate of 5.753 mills will generate a total of \$41,332,660 of property taxes. This equates to \$38,852,560 to support General Fund operations and \$2,480,100 for road maintenance and improvement projects.

The results of economic redevelopment that the City has been experiencing in the last few years continue to provide an increase in taxable values, even during a period of nationwide economic downturn. City property values reflected an 11.7% increase for budget purposes in the 2004/05 fiscal year, and represent 38% of the total General Fund revenues.