

9/9/05

Oconee County, South Carolina
Proposed Millage Rates for Fiscal Year 2005 - 2006

	Mills
I. County Council	
County Operations	68.0
Economic Development	1.0
 County Bonds:	
Courthouse	2.0
2002 GO Bond	2.0
 Total County Council	 73.0
 II. School District	
School Operations	123.0
 School Bonds:	
1995 School	0.1
1998 School	0.7
2001 School	3.9
03 Refunding	4.1
04 Refunding	3.2
2005 School	6.0
 Total School District	 141.0
 III. Tri-County Technical College	
Tri County Operations	2.1
Tri County Bonds	0.5
 Total Tri-County	 2.6
 Grand Total All Mills	 216.6

Proposed by County Auditor


Linda R. Nix
Oconee County Auditor

Approved by Oconee County Council
September 9, 2005:

H. Frank Ables, Jr.
Council Chairman

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY
OCONEE COUNTY, SC**

**COUNCIL MEETING DATE: September 6, 2005
COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 7:00 pm**

ITEM TITLE OR DESCRIPTION:

Adoption of ad valorem tax millage rates for 2005.

BACKGROUND OR HISTORY:

This action is for annual adoption of the millage rates required to fund the budgeted appropriations which have been previously approved by County Council for Oconee County, the School District of Oconee County, and the Tri-County Technical College.

Pursuant to South Carolina Statute Section 6-1-320 (C), Council is required to conduct a specially called and separate meeting solely to levy millage greater than the rate limitation provided for in Section 6-1-320 (A) as determined by the State (this year 2.7%). Subsection (C) of the aforementioned State Statute allows the 2.7% figure to be overridden and the millage rate further increased by a positive majority vote of the governing body. The governing body must provide public notice of the meeting notifying the public that the governing body is meeting to vote to override the statutory limitation and increase the millage rate. This required public notice was posted at the Courthouse, the Pine Street Annex, and distributed to the media on September 2, 2005 (copy attached).

The public was provided an opportunity to comment upon the contemplated increase in millage at an advertised public hearing held at 1 p.m. August 16, 2005 in compliance with provisions of South Carolina Code Section 6-1-320.

Per Section 12 of the Oconee County Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 2005-10, "THE GOVERNING BODY OF OCONEE COUNTY, upon recommendation of the Auditor shall levy sufficient mills upon all taxable property in Oconee County, and the Treasurer shall collect all revenues arising therefrom, as may be necessary or desirable for general County and School purposes as provided in SECTION 3 hereof and as may be necessary for the funding of such contingency funds and capital improvements as may be directed by the Oconee County Council." "School purposes" include the necessary millage to fund the Tri-County Technical College.

The millage required to repay the scheduled bonded debt obligations are also provided by the Auditor as information to County Council in order to provide a clear presentation of the overall millage to be assessed.

The proposed rates and the underlying estimates of the net assessment values for School and County purposes have been the subject of concerted study and cooperation. The County Auditor has included representatives of the county offices of Finance and Management & Budget, as well as representatives of the School District of Oconee County who are in agreement as to the appropriate millage to be levied.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS OR CONCERNS:

Council and the public will note at attachment #2 that the overall county millage rate (County Council and Schools) has increased only 12.2% over the last 10 years, which is just over 1.2% per year. Millage growth for each entity over a 10 year period are shown below:

	Millage Growth over 10 years (1997-2006) (Operating and Debt)	Average Annual Growth
County Council	5.3%	0.5%
School District	16.4%	1.6%
Tri-County Tech	None	0%

The recent State Department of Revenue-determined industrial abatement (reduction) related to Duke Power utility assessments increased by more than \$15 million this year, causing a net decrease in assessment by almost \$10 million for county tax purposes. Experiencing this reduction, instead of the modest expectation of increase at the time budget forecasts were originally prepared in May 2005, is the reason that the proposed county operations millage is one mill greater than previously expected.

As the school assessment is not affected by the industrial abatement, the projected school millage increase is the same as originally forecasted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the County Council adopt the millage rates proposed by the County Auditor, and as shown on attachment #1.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This action will provide that the amounts included in the various affected budgets for revenues from local ad valorem taxes will be realized.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Schedule of proposed millage rates for calendar year 2006.
2. Historical Millage Tables.
3. Graphic illustration – Use of Tax Dollar.
4. Public Notice of specially called meeting

Submitted or Prepared By:

Garry Freeman
Garry Freeman, Manager – OMB

Reviewed By/ Initials:

N/A County Attorney

Approved for Submittal to Council:

Ron H. Rabun
Ron H. Rabun, County Administrator

DOAS

C: Clerk to Council

Oconee County, South Carolina
Proposed Millage Rates for Calendar Year 2006

	Mills
I. County Council	
County Operations	68.0
Economic Development	1.0
subtotal:	69.0
County Bonds:	
Courthouse	2.0
2002 GO Bond	2.0
subtotal:	4.0
Total County Council	73.0
II. School District	
School Operations	123.0
School Bonds:	
1995 School	0.1
1998 School	0.7
2001 School	3.9
03 Refunding	4.1
04 Refunding	3.2
2005 School	6.0
subtotal:	18.0
Total School District	141.0
III. Tri-County Technical College	
Tri County Operations	2.1
Tri County Bonds	0.5
Total Tri-County	2.6
Grand Total All Mills	216.6

Approved by Oconee County Council
September 6, 2005:

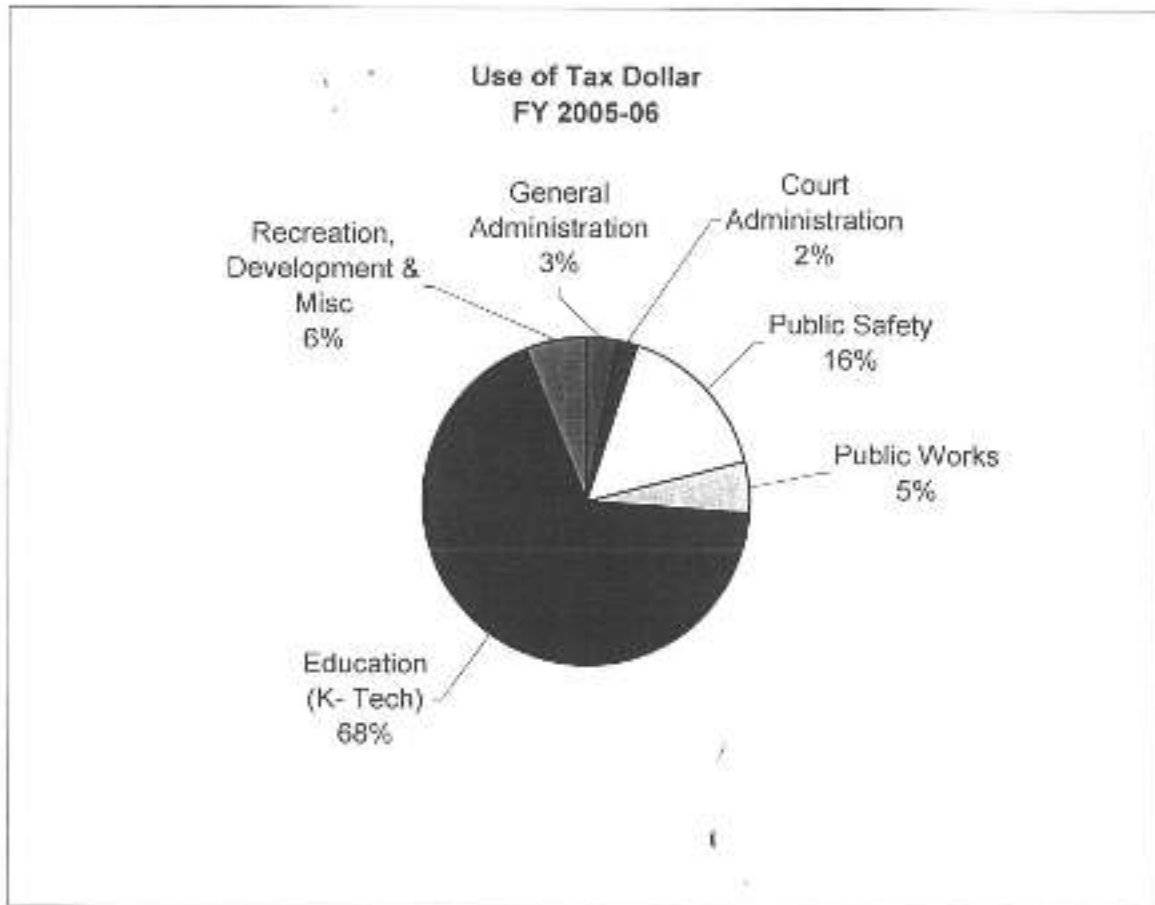
H. Frank Ables, Jr.
Council Chairman

Oconee County, South Carolina
Historical Millage Tables

Millage Year	County	Cty Debt	Total County	School	Sch Debt	Total School	TCTC	Total
1996	63.4	6.7	70.1	93.5	20.9	114.4	2.5	187.0
1997	63.6	5.7	69.3	101.1	20.0	121.1	2.8	193.0
1998	63.6	4.0	67.6	105.2	18.1	123.3	2.1	193.0
1999	61.3	4.6	65.9	111.1	19.6	130.7	2.4	199.0
2000	61.3	3.7	65.0	115.1	19.6	134.7	2.3	202.0
2001	61.3	7.1	68.4	119.8	5.7	125.3	2.3	196.0
2002	55.1	6.4	61.5	117.3	14.7	132.0	2.5	196.0
2003	55.7	7.1	62.8	117.3	14.8	131.9	2.3	197.0
2004	62.8	2.5	65.3	126.0	11.0	137.0	2.7	205.0
2005	65.0	3.0	68.0	120.5	13.9	134.4	2.6	205.0
2006	69.0	4.0	73.0	123.0	18.0	141.0	2.6	216.6

Percentage Increase (Decrease)	County	Cty Debt	Total County	School	Sch Debt	Total School	TCTC	Total
1997	0.3	(14.9)	(1.1)	8.1	(4.3)	5.9	4.0	3.2
1998	-	(29.8)	(2.5)	4.1	(9.5)	1.8	(19.2)	-
1999	(3.6)	15.0	(2.5)	5.6	8.3	6.0	14.3	3.1
2000	-	(19.6)	(1.4)	3.6	-	3.1	(4.2)	1.5
2001	-	91.9	5.2	3.9	(70.9)	(7.0)	-	(3.0)
2002	(10.1)	(9.9)	(10.1)	(1.9)	157.9	5.3	8.7	-
2003	1.1	10.9	2.1	-	(0.7)	(0.1)	(8.0)	0.5
2004	12.7	(64.8)	4.0	7.4	(24.7)	3.9	17.4	4.1
2005	3.5	20.0	4.1	(4.4)	25.4	(1.9)	(3.7)	-
2006	6.2	33.3	7.4	2.1	29.5	4.9	-	5.7
Last 10 Years Millage Rate Percentage	8.5	(29.8)	5.3	21.7	(10.0)	16.4	-	12.2

Oconee County, South Carolina
Graphic Illustration - Use of Tax Dollar
FY 2005-06



Total Schools - 68%
Total County Council - 32%

A G E N D A
SPECIAL MEETING, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005
5:00 PM
OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
415 SOUTH PINE STREET
WALHALLA, SC

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance to US Flag
4. As per Section 6-1-320, SC Code of Laws, Oconee County Council Will Consider Approval of a Millage Rate Which Will Override the Limitation of the State CPI for Fiscal Year 2005-06
5. Adjourn