

AJUSD 2009-2010 School Tax Rate Drops 51 cents

For the thirteenth consecutive year, the Apache Junction Unified School District is announcing a tax rate decrease for the upcoming 2009-2010 tax year. The tax rate for the upcoming year is \$4.24, a 51-cent drop from last year's rate of \$4.75.

The primary portion of the rate (that portion which supports maintenance and operations) will be \$3.11, down 36 cents from last year's primary rate of \$3.47. The secondary portion of the rate, which goes toward paying off bonded indebtedness for new construction and also funds the Override, is down 15 cents to \$1.13.

According to Dr. Jim Lockwood, Associate Superintendent, this significant drop in the primary tax rate was due to the lowering of the qualifying tax levy and the non-levy for excess utilities (approx. \$.22). The drop in the secondary rate was mainly attributable to the second year phase down of the M&O Budgetary Override, he explained.

The AJUSD tax rate is among the lowest in the East Valley and Pinal County school districts. It is also one of the lowest in the history of the AJUSD.

A comparison showing this is as follows:

Fountain Hills Schools –\$ 3.04
Apache Jct. Schools - \$4.24
Coolidge Schools – \$4.25
Higley Schools - \$4.86
Mesa Schools - \$4.92
Queen Creek Schools - \$5.01
Gilbert Schools - \$5.04
J.O. Combs Schools - \$5.12
Superior Schools - \$5.57
Florence Schools - \$6.08

AJUSD Tax Rate History

2000-2001 - \$7.98
2001-2002 - \$7.96
2002-2003 - \$7.67
2003-2004 - \$7.00
2004-2005 - \$6.75
2005-2006 - \$6.28
2006-2007 - \$5.99
2007-2008 - \$5.85