

Mayor

Derek Easterling

City Manager

Jeff Drobney, ICMA-CM

City Clerk

Lea Alvarez, CMC

**Council**

Mayor Pro Tem Antonio

Jones

Madelyn Orochena

Tracey Viars

Pat Ferris

Anthony Gutierrez

City Council**Special Called Meeting Agenda**

August 5, 2024 10:30 AM

Council Chambers

(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>

1. Invocation**2. Pledge of Allegiance****3. Call to Order****4. Announcements**

- A. If you are not able to attend a meeting in-person and would like to provide public comment on a specific agenda item, you can email kennesawcouncil@kennesaw-ga.gov no later than 6:00 PM the night of the regular meeting. Your comments on a specific agenda item will be read aloud or grouped into categories for the record. **Facebook Live is not monitored for public comment.**

5. Presentations**6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor****7. Old Business****8. New Business****9. Committee and Board Reports****10. Public Hearing(s)**

- A. **Second Public Hearing: Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution adopt the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate.

B. Second Public Hearing: Bond Millage Rate

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to adopt the Bond Millage Rate.

11. Consent Agenda

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

19. City Manager's Report

20. Mayor's Report

21. Council Reports & Discussions

22. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

23. Adjourn



Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Latisha Gunn, Property Tax Administrator

DATE: August 5, 2024

TITLE: **Second Public Hearing: Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution adopt the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate.

Summary:

The City of Kennesaw is proposing a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O which is the same as last year. The dates of the public hearings and the Current 2024 Tax Digest and 5 Year History of Levy were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 20, 2024, whereas the other advertisements were published on both July 20 and 27, 2024 in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32. The third and final public hearing will take place on August 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. RES 2024 - M&O Millage Rate Adoption
2. Advertisement of current & 5 year history and adoption date-Kennesaw Tax Year 2024 FY 25 no rollback
3. Notice of Property Tax Increase Ad Tax Year 2024 FY25
4. Additional Ad 2024
5. Press Release TY 2024 FY25
6. 2024-07-20 3 Tax Ads
7. 2024-07-27 2 Tax Ads

**CITY OF KENNESAW
GEORGIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-, 2024

**RESOLUTION OF THE KENNESAW CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH
A MAINTENANCE & OPERATION (M&O) MILLAGE RATE
FOR THE CITY OF KENNESAW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNESAW,
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw, Georgia desires to establish its ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority has advertised its intent to establish said millage rate by placing an advertisement conforming to O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) in a newspaper of general circulation of Cobb County serving the residents of the City of Kennesaw, said advertisement appearing two (2) weeks prior to the hearing at which said millage rate is to be considered; and

WHEREAS, the public hearings required by O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) were duly held on July 29, 2024 and August 5, 2024 prior to the adoption of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the final millage rate has been calculated by the governing authority to be 7.75 mills for Maintenance & Operation (M&O) and the final millage rate for the Bond will be adopted by separate resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kennesaw City Council does hereby establish the M&O millage rate for the City of Kennesaw, Georgia, ad valorem property tax, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year at 7.75 mills.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Kennesaw City Council on this ___ day of August, 2024.

ATTEST:

CITY OF KENNESAW

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

Derek Easterling, Mayor

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2024 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Real & Personal	1,518,982,186	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824	2,293,915,007	2,497,672,724
Motor Vehicle	12,503,840	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760	6,794,230	5,839,070
Mobile Homes	1,640,186	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674	1,613,365	1,566,354
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	8,526	30,741	7,873	87,115	36,503	32,339
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487
Less M&O Exemptions	305,346,338	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125	537,172,801	609,207,363
Net M&O Digest	1,227,788,400	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248	1,765,186,304	1,895,903,124
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	9,822,307	10,432,809	11,427,914	12,486,250	13,680,194	14,693,249
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487
Less Bond Exemptions	215,923,976	229,834,718	192,887,844	251,473,580	265,480,930	289,439,587
Net Bond Digest	1,317,210,762	1,409,075,056	1,557,100,174	1,775,612,793	2,036,878,175	2,215,670,900
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	1,975,816	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419	3,055,317	3,323,506
Net M&O Taxes \$ Increase	388,819	610,502	995,105	1,058,336	1,193,944	1,013,055
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	4.1%	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%	7.4%
Net Bond Taxes \$ Increase	91,608	137,796	222,037	327,769	391,898	268,189
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	4.9%	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%	14.7%	8.8%
All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw GA on the dates and times below: Monday, July 29, 2024 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting) Monday, August 5, 2024 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)						

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of .629 mills for M&O and .104 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.121 mills for M&O and 1.396 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000 is approximately \$88 increase for M&O and \$15 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$625,000 is approximately \$157 increase for M&O and \$26 increase for Bond.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES**

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw today announces its intention to increase the 2024 property taxes it will levy this year by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond over the rollback millage rate.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

The budget tentatively adopted by the City of Kennesaw Council requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate; therefore, before the City of Kennesaw Council may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the City of Kennesaw Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM and August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

DATELINE ■ COBB

Cobb's drinking water public information sessions**Staff reports**

Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, the wholesale drinking water provider to utilities in Cobb and surrounding counties, is hosting educational seminars at 6:30 p.m. July 30 and 10 a.m. Aug. 10 at its Administrative Building, 1170 Atlanta Industrial Drive, Marietta.

During each event, representatives of the CCMWA will review the sources of drinking water in Cobb County, the processes used to transform the water into clean drinking water and the means of distributing drinking water from the water treatment facilities to CCMWA's wholesale customers. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and sign up for a drinking water treatment facility tour.

Space is limited. To register, call 770-514-5300 or email CCMWA at elandres@ccmwa.org.

National Night Out kicks off in August

National Night Out will bring public safety employees and the citizens they serve together for an evening of fun on Aug. 6. National Night Out events in Cobb County are:

- ♦ The Cobb Police Department, Fire and Emergency Services will have a variety of equipment on display from 6 to 9 p.m. at Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road SW in Marietta, and the Threadmill Complex, 5000 Austell Powder Springs Road in Austell. Specialty teams such as SWAT, Bomb Squad, Dive, K-9, Motors and Medical Operations will be present. Families can enjoy food vendors, desserts, children's activities and learn more about recycling and giveaways from Keep Cobb Beautiful. For more information, visit <https://www.cobbcounty.org/events/national-night-out-keep-cobb-beautiful-booths>.

- ♦ The Kennesaw Police Department will have their event from 6 to 8 p.m. at Swift Cantrell Park, 3140 Old 41 Highway NW in Kennesaw. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3y5kb6jt>.

- ♦ The Acworth Police Department will have their event from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with a golf cart parade at Caule Park. All registered PTVs are eligible to attend the parade. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/NMHeQae2zKtWpW1L8>. For more information, contact Cpl. Mistretta at emistretta@acworth-ga.gov.

4-H Open House

The UGA Cobb Extension, 678 South Cobb Drive in Marietta, will kick off the school year with its annual 4-H Open House on Aug. 8 from 5 to 8 p.m.

There will be a variety of 4-H programs such as STEM, archery, creative arts, public speaking, cooking, horse and pony, competitive teams and agriculture. Parents can visit each club, enroll their children in 4-H, learn how to register for specialty clubs and meet youth leaders, adult volunteers and 4-H staff. Programs are available for students in K-12th grade.

To sign up for an open house time slot, visit <https://tinyurl.com/7485t4s>. For more information, call 770-528-4070 or visit <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cobb/4-h-youth-development.html>.

Gala supports Cobb children in need

The Hearing Children's Voices Gala and Casino Night is the premier fundraiser for SafePath Children Advocacy Center's programs and annual operating budget.

The event will be 6 to 10 p.m. on Aug. 10 at

Truist Park.

The purpose of Hearing Children's Voices is twofold: raising essential funds for SafePath's programs and raising awareness about child abuse. For tickets, visit <https://safeath.org/event/HCV2024/>.

Tabernacle at Temple Square performance

Tabernacle at Temple Square will perform at Morehouse College as part of its Songs of Hope World Tour from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 9. They will be accompanied by the Morehouse College and Spelman College Glee Clubs. General seating for this concert is limited. Guests younger than 8 years old will not be admitted.

For tickets, visit <https://www.thetabernaclechor.org/special-performance-martin-luther-king-chapel?lang=eng>.

Councilman Andre L. Sims town hall meeting

Ward 6 Marietta Councilman Andre L. Sims will hold a town hall meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on July 24 at Marietta Fire Station 56, 850 Sawyer Road in Marietta.

Marietta History Center hosts Annual Rummage and Book Sale

The Marietta History Center, 1 Depot Street in Marietta, will host the annual Rummage and Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 15-17.

The sale features books, photography, militaria, children's items, home décor and more. Admission is free. All proceeds from the sale

will directly benefit the Center, helping to fund ongoing educational programs, exhibitions and preservation efforts.

For more information, visit www.MariettaHistory.org.

Scout Henderson hosts Back to School event

Portland Trail Blazers Point Guard Scoot Henderson and Next Play 360 will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new STEM Lab from 6 to 9 p.m. on July 26 and O.D.D. Con from 1 to 7 p.m. from July 27-28.

Next Play 360 has announced a partnership with The 2K Foundation, an extension of the video game company 2K. Through the partnership, 2K will work to enhance and improve the Smart Lab, the physical space where students take S.T.E.M. classes at Next Play 360, 3910 Canton Road in Marietta.

The event will feature speakers, panelists and participants who are experts in their fields. Attendees can receive free school supplies for students and take part in learning and personal growth workshops and seminars on topics such as entrepreneurship, wellness, STEM education and personal development. There will be friendly competitions such as basketball, volleyball and pickleball; yoga and meditation; live performances, interactive art installations and workshops led by local artists and musicians; and a cu-

rated fashion show, featuring local designers and models showcasing their latest creations and trends.

Run for Cobb County's first responders

Cobb County's First Responder 5K will be Aug. 17 at The Battery Atlanta. Participants can walk, jog or run either in-person or virtually. The family-friendly event is for all fitness levels and will include first responder vehicles and displays, field games with The Atlanta Braves' mascot Blooper and a performance from the Braves Heavy Hitters. The event is a qualifier for the Peachtree Road Race.

For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Atlanta/CobbCountyPublicSafetyFoundation5K>.

Ebenezer Downs Park Fishing Rodeo rescheduled

Low water levels have caused county officials to reschedule the remaining Cobb County fishing rodeos planned for this month. The event originally scheduled for Ebenezer Downs Park has been rescheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. on Oct. 19 in conjunction with Fish with Your Commish.

Pet adoptions

For July, Cobb County Animal Services will have an adoption special.

Pets one year old and older are free and other pets are just \$20. Veterans can also adopt pets at no cost through the Superior Pets

for Patriotic Vets program. For more information, visit <https://www.cobbcounty.org/animal-services>.

Final resurfacing on East Piedmont continues

As part of the county's 2022 SPLOST resurfacing program, contractors have begun roadway resurfacing of East Piedmont Road.

Nightly resurfacing will take place between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. from Piedmont Forest Court to Sandy Plains Road. It is expected to last through the end of July, weather permitting. Residents can expect minor traffic delays during construction. Traffic control measures will be in place along the corridor.

For more information on the status and location of other 2024 resurfacing efforts, visit <https://www.cobbcounty.org/transportation/projects/updates>.

Dinners at Mableton Masonic Lodge

The Mableton Masonic Lodge No. 171 F&AM, 90 Veterans Memorial Highway in Mableton, will have dinners for the community

at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

For more information, visit <https://shorturl.at/WGnf> or contact John Miller at 770-256-6750 or jjmiller1988@gmail.com.

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour is Nov. 29

The Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre will present the annual holiday tradition of Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour at 8 p.m. on Nov. 29.

Tickets go on sale 10 a.m. on July 19 on Ticketmaster.com.

Marking the 27th anniversary of the longest-running jazz-based Christmas tour, Dave Koz & Friends will perform timeless Christmas classics, a Chanukah melody and hits from each artist's respective catalogue. This year's tour, which will visit 18 cities in less than a month, reunites Koz with long-time musical partner, guitarist/singer Jonathan Butler and features special guests, saxophonist Vincent Ingala, guitarist Adam Hawley and vocalist Rebecca Jaded.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES**

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25mills.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of .629 mills for M&O and .104 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.121 mills for M&O and 1.396 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000 is approximately \$88 increase for M&O and \$15 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$625,000 is approximately \$157 increase for M&O and \$26 increase for Bond.

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2024 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Real & Personal	1,518,982,196	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824
Motor Vehicle	12,503,840	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760
Mobile Homes	1,640,186	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	8,526	30,741	7,873	87,115
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373
Less Bond Exemptions	305,346,338	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125
Net M&O Digest	1,227,788,400	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	9,822,307	10,432,809	11,427,914	12,486,250
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373
Less Bond Exemptions	215,923,976	229,834,718	222,887,844	251,473,580
Net Bond Digest	1,317,210,762	1,409,075,056	1,527,100,174	1,775,612,793
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	1,975,816	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419
Net M&O Taxes \$ Increase	388,819	610,502	995,105	1,058,336
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	4.1%	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%
Net Bond Taxes \$ Increase	91,608	137,796	222,037	327,769
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	4.9%	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on the dates and times below: Monday, July 29, 2024 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting) Monday, August 5, 2024 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)



A CobbLinc bus turns onto South Marietta Parkway.

Staff — File

COBBLINC

From A1

"Most of our equipment is broke, so everybody's riding for free," one driver said at the time.

In addition to pointing out the lost revenue, drivers complained that the farebox issues made their jobs more stressful, distracting them from operating their vehicles.

The new fareboxes are made by Illinois — based Genfare, the same company which produced the old ones.

CobbLinc buses will now be outfitted with Genfare's "Fast Fare" model, the "latest and greatest" technology available, said Cobb Transportation Director Drew Raessler.

Riders will still be able to use exact cash and coins to pay for their ride, though transfers to other routes will not be possible if paying in cash. Transfers are available for riders using Breeze cards or the Breeze Mobile app.

"From an equity standpoint, the cash collection is an important piece of that, because not everyone necessarily has access to a bank account or a breeze card,"

DECISION '24
COBB
TRANSIT
TAX

On Nov. 5, 2024, Cobb County will vote on approving a 30-year, 1% sales tax to fund public transit projects. Cobb's sales tax would increase from 6% to 7%.

The Mobility Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (M-SPLOST) would collect \$11 billion to construct 108 miles of rapid bus routes, half a dozen new transit centers and a countywide system of on-demand "microtransit" service.

Learn more at mdjonline.com/transit or by scanning this QR code:



Hunter Ragall

Pictured is one of the old CobbLinc fareboxes, which date to 2005. The county has spent nearly \$1.4 million to outfit its entire fleet with new fareboxes.

SIMPLY

Superior
PLUMBING

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

Raessler said. Raessler said the new system meets the need for interoperability across metro Atlanta's different transit providers. Breeze cards and the Breeze Mobile app can be used to pay fare for CobbLinc, MARTA, Ride Gwinnett and the state's Xpress commuter buses.

Equipment problems on the old fareboxes meant the county was foregoing an unknown amount of potential revenue. It also raised questions about the accuracy of ridership data CobbLinc reports to the federal government.

(Raessler previously not-

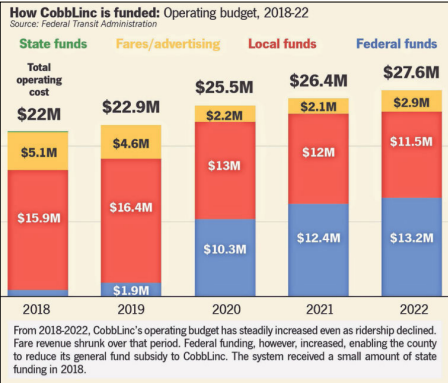
ed, however, that the county made other efforts to collect reliable data, such as equipping buses with automated passenger counters and asking drivers to manually input passenger counts.)

While the full financial impact of the malfunctioning fareboxes was not clear, CobbLinc over the past decade has seen dwindling ridership, and therefore revenue. Operating costs have risen in that time, and the county hasn't raised fares since 2011.

The combination of rising costs and shrinking ridership meant that in 2022, fares paid for just 7% of operating expenses, down from 20% in 2019.

CobbLinc cost the county \$27.6 million to operate in 2022. Of that, \$13.2 million came from federal dollars, \$11.5 million came from the county government and \$2.9 million was generated by fares and other direct revenue.

CobbLinc's declining rid-



ership and revenue have been central to the campaign against the county's proposed

30-year, 1% transit tax. On Nov. 5, Cobb residents will vote on the Mobility Spe-

cial Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (M-SPLOST). If approved, it would collect \$11 billion to construct 108 miles of rapid bus routes, half a dozen new transit centers and a countywide system of on-demand "microtransit" service.

Cobb's sales tax rate would rise from 6% to 7%. (Learn more: mdjonline.com/transit.)

Opponents of the transit tax have labeled the system a drain on county finances and argued low ridership shows a lack of appetite for transit investment in Cobb.

Supporters of the tax, meanwhile, say CobbLinc has been chronically underfunded, and argue a much enhanced public transportation system would attract far more riders.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of .629 mills for M&O and .104 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.121 mills for M&O and 1.396 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000 is approximately \$88 increase for M&O and \$15 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$625,000 is approximately \$157 increase for M&O and \$26 increase for Bond.

FIND
US ON



/mdjonline



Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Latisha Gunn, Property Tax Administrator

DATE: August 5, 2024

TITLE: **Second Public Hearing: Bond Millage Rate**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution to adopt the Bond Millage Rate.

Summary:

The City of Kennesaw is proposing a millage rate of 1.5 for the Bond, which is the same as last year. The Bond millage rate is levied to fund the debt service on the \$15 million Recreation and Traffic Safety Bonds that were approved by the voters September 21, 2004. The dates of the public hearings and the Current 2024 Tax Digest and 5 Year History of Levy were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 20, 2024, whereas the other advertisements were published on both July 20 and 27, 2024 in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32. The third and final public hearing will take place on August 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. RES 2024- Bond Millage Rate Adoption
2. Advertisement of current & 5 year history and adoption date-Kennesaw Tax Year 2024 FY 25 no rollback
3. Notice of Property Tax Increase Ad Tax Year 2024 FY25
4. Additional Ad 2024
5. Press Release TY 2024 FY25
6. 2024-07-20 3 Tax Ads
7. 2024-07-27 2 Tax Ads

**CITY OF KENNESAW
GEORGIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-, 2024

**RESOLUTION OF THE KENNESAW CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH
THE BOND MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF KENNESAW FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNESAW,
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw, Georgia desires to establish its ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority has advertised its intent to establish said millage rate by placing an advertisement conforming to O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) in a newspaper of general circulation of Cobb County serving the residents of the City of Kennesaw, said advertisement appearing two (2) weeks prior to the hearing at which said millage rate is to be considered; and

WHEREAS, the public hearings required by O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) were duly held on July 29, 2024 and August 5, 2024 prior to the adoption of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Bond millage rate has been calculated by the governing authority to be 1.5 mills and the final millage rate for Maintenance & Operation (M&O) will be adopted by separate resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kennesaw City Council does hereby establish the bond millage rate for the City of Kennesaw, Georgia, ad valorem property tax, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year at 1.5 mills.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Kennesaw City Council on this __ day of August, 2024.

ATTEST:

CITY OF KENNESAW

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

Derek Easterling, Mayor

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2024 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Real & Personal	1,518,982,186	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824	2,293,915,007	2,497,672,724
Motor Vehicle	12,503,840	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760	6,794,230	5,839,070
Mobile Homes	1,640,186	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674	1,613,365	1,566,354
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	8,526	30,741	7,873	87,115	36,503	32,339
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487
Less M&O Exemptions	305,346,338	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125	537,172,801	609,207,363
Net M&O Digest	1,227,788,400	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248	1,765,186,304	1,895,903,124
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	9,822,307	10,432,809	11,427,914	12,486,250	13,680,194	14,693,249
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487
Less Bond Exemptions	215,923,976	229,834,718	192,887,844	251,473,580	265,480,930	289,439,587
Net Bond Digest	1,317,210,762	1,409,075,056	1,557,100,174	1,775,612,793	2,036,878,175	2,215,670,900
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	1,975,816	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419	3,055,317	3,323,506
Net M&O Taxes \$ Increase	388,819	610,502	995,105	1,058,336	1,193,944	1,013,055
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	4.1%	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%	7.4%
Net Bond Taxes \$ Increase	91,608	137,796	222,037	327,769	391,898	268,189
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	4.9%	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%	14.7%	8.8%
All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw GA on the dates and times below: Monday, July 29, 2024 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting) Monday, August 5, 2024 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)						

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of .629 mills for M&O and .104 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.121 mills for M&O and 1.396 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000 is approximately \$88 increase for M&O and \$15 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$625,000 is approximately \$157 increase for M&O and \$26 increase for Bond.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES**

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw today announces its intention to increase the 2024 property taxes it will levy this year by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond over the rollback millage rate.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

The budget tentatively adopted by the City of Kennesaw Council requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate; therefore, before the City of Kennesaw Council may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the City of Kennesaw Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM and August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

DATeline ■ COBB

Cobb's drinking water public information sessions

Staff reports

Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, the wholesale drinking water provider to utilities in Cobb and surrounding counties, is hosting educational seminars at 6:30 p.m. July 30 and 10 a.m. Aug. 10 at its Administrative Building, 1170 Atlanta Industrial Drive, Marietta.

During each event, representatives of the CCMWA will review the sources of drinking water in Cobb County, the processes used to transform the water into clean drinking water and the means of distributing drinking water from the water treatment facilities to CCMWA's wholesale customers. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and sign up for a drinking water treatment facility tour.

Space is limited. To register, call 770-514-5300 or email CCMWA at elandres@ccmwa.org.

National Night Out kicks off in August

National Night Out will bring public safety employees and the citizens they serve together for an evening of fun on Aug. 6. National Night Out events in Cobb County are:

- ♦ The Cobb Police Department, Fire and Emergency Services will have a variety of equipment on display from 6 to 9 p.m. at Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road SW in Marietta, and the Threadmill Complex, 5000 Austell Powder Springs Road in Austell. Specialty teams such as SWAT, Bomb Squad, Dive, K-9, Motors and Medical Operations will be present. Families can enjoy food vendors, desserts, children's activities and learn more about recycling and giveaways from Keep Cobb Beautiful. For more information, visit <https://www.cobbcounty.org/events/national-night-out-keep-cobb-beautiful-booths>.

- ♦ The Kennesaw Police Department will have their event from 6 to 8 p.m. at Swift Cantrell Park, 3140 Old 41 Highway NW in Kennesaw. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3y5kb6jt>.

- ♦ The Acworth Police Department will have their event from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with a golf cart parade at Cauble Park. All registered PTVs are eligible to attend the parade. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/NXHtQzazcKtWpW1L8>. For more information, contact Cpl. Mistretta at emistretta@acworth-ga.gov.

4-H Open House

The UGA Cobb Extension, 678 South Cobb Drive in Marietta, will kick off the school year with its annual 4-H Open House on Aug. 8 from 5 to 8 p.m.

There will be a variety of 4-H programs such as STEM, archery, creative arts, public speaking, cooking, horse and pony, competitive teams and agriculture. Parents can visit each club, enroll their children in 4-H, learn how to register for specialty clubs and meet youth leaders, adult volunteers and 4-H staff. Programs are available for students in K-12th grade.

To sign up for an open house time slot, visit <https://tinyurl.com/7485t4s>. For more information, call 770-528-4070 or visit <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cobb/4-h-youth-development.html>.

Gala supports Cobb children in need

The Hearing Children's Voices Gala and Casino Night is the premier fundraiser for SafePath Children Advocacy Center's programs and annual operating budget. The event will be 6 to 10 p.m. on Aug. 10 at

Truist Park.

The purpose of Hearing Children's Voices is twofold: raising essential funds for SafePath's programs and raising awareness about child abuse. For tickets, visit <https://safepath.org/event/HCV2024/>.

Tabernacle at Temple Square performance

Tabernacle at Temple Square will perform at Morehouse College as part of its Songs of Hope World Tour from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 9. They will be accompanied by the Morehouse College and Spelman College Glee Clubs. General seating for this concert is limited. Guests younger than 8 years old will not be admitted.

For tickets, visit <https://www.thetabernaclechor.org/special-performance-martin-luther-king-chapel?lang=eng>.

Councilman Andre L. Sims town hall meeting

Ward 6 Marietta Councilman Andre L. Sims will hold a town hall meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on July 24 at Marietta Fire Station 56, 850 Sawyer Road in Marietta.

Marietta History Center hosts Annual Rummage and Book Sale

The Marietta History Center, 1 Depot Street in Marietta, will host the annual Rummage and Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 15-17.

The sale features books, photography, militaria, children's items, home décor and more. Admission is free. All proceeds from the sale

will directly benefit the Center, helping to fund ongoing educational programs, exhibitions and preservation efforts.

For more information, visit www.MariettaHistory.org.

Scout Henderson hosts Back to School event

Portland Trail Blazers Point Guard Scoot Henderson and Next Play 360 will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new STEM Lab from 6 to 9 p.m. on July 26 and O.D.D. Con from 1 to 7 p.m. from July 27-28.

Next Play 360 has announced a partnership with The 2K Foundation, an extension of the video game company 2K. Through the partnership, 2K will work to enhance and improve the Smart Lab, the physical space where students take S.T.E.M. classes at Next Play 360, 3910 Canton Road in Marietta.

The event will feature speakers, panelists and participants who are experts in their fields. Attendees can receive free school supplies for students and take part in learning and personal growth workshops and seminars on topics such as entrepreneurship, wellness, STEM education and personal development. There will be friendly competitions such as basketball, volleyball and pickleball; yoga and meditation; live performances, interactive art installations and workshops led by local artists and musicians; and a cu-

rated fashion show, featuring local designers and models showcasing their latest creations and trends.

Run for Cobb County's first responders

Cobb County's First Responder 5K will be Aug. 17 at The Battery Atlanta. Participants can walk, jog or run either in-person or virtually. The family-friendly event is for all fitness levels and will include first responder vehicles and displays, field games with The Atlanta Braves' mascot Bopper and a performance from the Braves Heavy Hitters. The event is a qualifier for the Peachtree Road Race.

For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Atlanta/CobbCountyPublicSafetyFoundation5K>.

Ebenezer Downs Park Fishing Rodeo rescheduled

Low water levels have caused county officials to reschedule the remaining Cobb County fishing rodeos planned for this month. The event originally scheduled for Ebenezer Downs Park has been rescheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. on Oct. 19 in conjunction with Fish with Your Commish.

Pet adoptions

For July, Cobb County Animal Services will have an adoption special.

Pets one year old and older are free and other pets are just \$20. Veterans can also adopt pets at no cost through the Superior Pets

for Patriotic Vets program. For more information, visit <https://www.cobbcounty.org/animal-services>.

Final resurfacing on East Piedmont continues

As part of the county's 2022 SPLOST resurfacing program, contractors have begun roadway resurfacing of East Piedmont Road.

Nightly resurfacing will take place between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. from Piedmont Forest Court to Sandy Plains Road. It is expected to last through the end of July, weather permitting. Residents can expect minor traffic delays during construction. Traffic control measures will be in place along the corridor.

For more information on the status and location of other 2024 resurfacing efforts, visit <https://www.cobbcounty.org/transportation/projects/updates>.

Dinners at Mableton Masonic Lodge

The Mableton Masonic Lodge No. 171 F&AM, 90 Veterans Memorial Highway in Mableton, will have dinners for the community

at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

For more information, visit <https://shorturl.at/WGnf> or contact John Miller at 770-256-6750 or Jmiller1988@gmail.com.

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour is Nov. 29

The Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre will present the annual holiday tradition of Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour at 8 p.m. on Nov. 29.

Tickets go on sale 10 a.m. on July 19 on Ticketmaster.com.

Marking the 27th anniversary of the longest-running jazz-based Christmas tour, Dave Koz & Friends will perform timeless Christmas classics, a Chanukah melody and hits from each artist's respective catalogue. This year's tour, which will visit 18 cities in less than a month, reunites Koz with long-time musical partner, guitarist/singer Jonathan Butler and features special guests, saxophonist Vincent Ingala, guitarist Adam Hawley and vocalist Rebecca Jade.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25mills.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of .629 mills for M&O and .104 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.121 mills for M&O and 1.396 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000 is approximately \$88 increase for M&O and \$15 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$625,000 is approximately \$157 increase for M&O and \$26 increase for Bond.

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2024 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Real & Personal	1,518,982,196	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824
Motor Vehicle	12,503,840	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760
Mobile Homes	1,640,186	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	8,526	30,741	7,873	87,115
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373
Less Bond Exemptions	305,346,338	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125
Net M&O Digest	1,227,788,400	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	9,822,307	10,432,809	11,427,814	12,486,250
Gross Tax Digest	1,533,134,738	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373
Less Bond Exemptions	215,923,976	229,834,718	192,887,844	251,473,580
Net Bond Digest	1,317,210,762	1,409,075,056	1,557,100,174	1,775,612,793
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	1,975,816	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419
Net M&O Taxes \$ Increase	388,819	610,502	995,105	1,058,336
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	4.1%	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%
Net Bond Taxes \$ Increase	91,608	137,796	222,037	327,769
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	4.9%	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on the dates and times below: Monday, July 29, 2024 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting) Monday, August 5, 2024 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)



A CobbLinc bus turns onto South Marietta Parkway.

Staff — File

COBBLINC

From A1

"Most of our equipment is broke, so everybody's riding for free," one driver said at the time.

In addition to pointing out the lost revenue, drivers complained that the farebox issues made their jobs more stressful, distracting them from operating their vehicles.

The new fareboxes are made by Illinois — based Genfare, the same company which produced the old ones.

CobbLinc buses will now be outfitted with Genfare's "Fast Fare" model, the "latest and greatest" technology available, said Cobb Transportation Director Drew Raessler.

Riders will still be able to use exact cash and coins to pay for their ride, though transfers to other routes will not be possible if paying in cash. Transfers are available for riders using Breeze cards or the Breeze Mobile app.

"From an equity standpoint, the cash collection is an important piece of that, because not everyone necessarily has access to a bank account or a breeze card,"

DECISION '24
COBB
TRANSIT
TAX

On Nov. 5, 2024, Cobb County will vote on approving a 30-year, 1% sales tax to fund public transit projects. Cobb's sales tax would increase from 6% to 7%.

The Mobility Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (M-SPLOST) would collect \$11 billion to construct 108 miles of rapid bus routes, half a dozen new transit centers and a countywide system of on-demand "microtransit" service.

Learn more at mdjonline.com/transit or by scanning this QR code:



Hunter Ragall

Pictured is one of the old CobbLinc fareboxes, which date to 2005. The county has spent nearly \$1.4 million to outfit its entire fleet with new fareboxes.

SIMPLY

Superior
PLUMBING

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

Raessler said. Raessler said the new system meets the need for interoperability across metro Atlanta's different transit providers. Breeze cards and the Breeze Mobile app can be used to pay fare for CobbLinc, MARTA, Ride Gwinnett and the state's Xpress commuter buses.

Equipment problems on the old fareboxes meant the county was foregoing an unknown amount of potential revenue. It also raised questions about the accuracy of ridership data CobbLinc reports to the federal government.

(Raessler previously not-

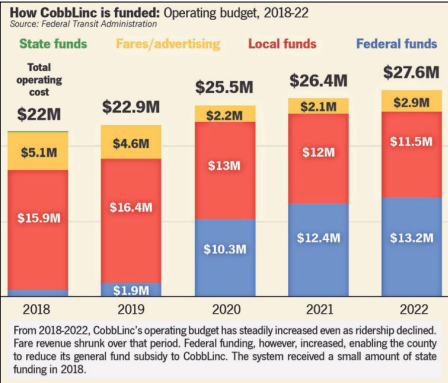
ed, however, that the county made other efforts to collect reliable data, such as equipping buses with automated passenger counters and asking drivers to manually input passenger counts.)

While the full financial impact of the malfunctioning fareboxes was not clear, CobbLinc over the past decade has seen dwindling ridership, and therefore revenue. Operating costs have risen in that time, and the county hasn't raised fares since 2011.

The combination of rising costs and shrinking ridership meant that in 2022, fares paid for just 7% of operating expenses, down from 20% in 2019.

CobbLinc cost the county \$27.6 million to operate in 2022. Of that, \$13.2 million came from federal dollars, \$11.5 million came from the county government and \$2.9 million was generated by fares and other direct revenue.

CobbLinc's declining ridership and revenue have been central to the campaign against the county's proposed



30-year, 1% transit tax. On Nov. 5, Cobb residents will vote on the Mobility Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (M-SPLOST). If approved, it would collect \$11 billion to construct 108 miles of rapid bus routes, half a dozen new transit centers and a countywide system of on-demand "microtransit" service.

Cobb's sales tax rate would rise from 6% to 7%. (Learn more: mdjonline.com/transit.)

Opponents of the transit tax have labeled the system a drain on county finances and argued low ridership shows a lack of appetite for transit investment in Cobb. Supporters of the tax, meanwhile, say CobbLinc has been chronically underfunded, and argue a much enhanced public transportation system would attract far more riders.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 8.83 percent for M&O and 7.45 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of .629 mills for M&O and .104 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.121 mills for M&O and 1.396 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000 is approximately \$88 increase for M&O and \$15 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$625,000 is approximately \$157 increase for M&O and \$26 increase for Bond.

FIND
US ON



/mdjonline