

# What your **TRIM notice** means this year.



**TRIM (Truth-In-Millage) notices** are mailed each year around this time to inform property owners of the proposed property taxes for the following year. Specifically outlined in the notices are the proposed County millage rates, or the amount per \$1,000 that is used to calculate taxes on a property. For the past

seven years, the Marion County Commission has been able to maintain the total of County millage rates at a steady 3.90 or less. **This year, your TRIM notices will show proposed County millage rates at a total of 4.31. The proposed MSTU for Law Enforcement is 3.84, compared to 3.47 currently.**



## What is a TRIM notice?

The Commission is responsible for setting the budget for 24 departments and offices that make up county government, as well as approving the budget for the five, independent constitutional offices (Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Property Appraiser, Sheriff's Office, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector).

Increases in the proposed property tax rates for Marion are primarily reflected in the General Fund and in the Municipal Service Taxing Unit for Law Enforcement. **The increases are largely attributable to public safety related services.** This includes budget increase requests from the Sheriff's office that, by law, must be

included and funded in the tentative budget and may only be addressed and adjusted by the Commission during final budget hearings. Increases are also reflected in the county's ambulance service budget, as the county is currently in negotiations regarding compensation of the County's fire rescue and ambulance personnel. In all other areas of property tax funded operations, the County budget reflects current or reduced levels of expenditures in the upcoming year.

**Florida Statute requires the Commission to establish proposed millage rates that will fund the proposed budgets and provide those rates to the Property Appraiser for use in preparing the TRIM notices.**

Your TRIM notice also reflects a **1.0 millage rate increase for schools which was voter-approved in a referendum.** The Commission has no control over this millage rate increase.

## Why the change?

Setting the proposed millage rate is not the end of the budget review process. Per statute, the Commission will have the opportunity to amend the budget in September, when the final public hearings to set the tentative and final millage rates are scheduled to take place. **The Commission remains committed to pursuing opportunities to adjust the budget prior to final adoption to minimize any increase in property tax rates.**

**Both public hearings will be held in the McPherson Complex Auditorium (601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala).**

### Upcoming public hearings:

**Sept. 10, 7 p.m.** – First public hearing to consider the adoption of the county tentative budget and millage rates.

**Sept. 24, 7 p.m.** – Final public hearing to establish the final county budget and millage rates.

**For more information, please contact the Commission Office at 352-438-2323.**



## What's next?