



September 9, 2023

CAMPAIGN EMAIL NEWSLETTER-2

Dear Residents,

I know that many of you are about as tech savvy as I am, which is not much. However, I can provide some important information that I copied from the City's website concerning your 2023 Property Taxes. The Mayor and Council will be voting on the proposed 13.00 % millage rate at the September 18, 2023, Council Meeting. At the second Public Hearing, I asked the Mayor and Council to reduce the proposed 13.00% millage rate to the roll back rate of 11.91%. I was very surprised that no other residents to include the Candidates for the upcoming Election did not speak out on this important during the Public Hearing.

Some of you are looking at a very large increase in your property taxes especially if you don't qualify for the HTRG GRANT from the State of Georgia. Please read the highlighted information that I copied from the City's website concerning Property Taxes.

Property Tax

Fulton County Assessment Notice

This division of the Finance Department is responsible for billing, collecting and disbursing city property taxes. These taxes are generated based on property values that are determined by the Fulton County Tax Assessor's Office, which also include personal property, boats, airplanes and business assets. Tax bills are levied in the fall of each tax year for the period of January 1st through December 31st of that year.

For more information, please contact Deborah Oke at (404) 270-7084 or send an email to propertytaxes@eastpointcity.org.

Hopefully, East Point homeowners who still pay property taxes have checked to see if you are eligible.

Information about the 2023 Homeowner Tax Relief Grant (HTRG)

The State of Georgia approved a one-time Homeowner Tax Relief Grant (HTRG) for homeowners with a valid basic, senior or special homestead exemption, or for a homeowner who applied for one by the April 1, 2023 deadline. Homeowners with valid homesteads will receive the tax relief grant of up to a \$18,000 reduction of the assessed value of their property. The HTRG will automatically be applied to your 2023 property tax bill. The grant was approved by the Governor and General Assembly of the State of Georgia and became law on March 13, 2023.

What you need to know:

- The HTRG is a one-time reduction in the assessed value on the property tax bill. The tax relief grant is not a refund payment.
- The HTRG reduction, which will appear on your property tax bill, will amount up to a \$18,000 reduction of the assessed value of their property if a valid homestead exemption exists.
- The HTRG is separate from a homestead exemption; it is an additional savings. No extra steps are required to receive the reduction.
- An existing homestead exemption must be in place as of 2023 to qualify for the HTRG reduction on your tax bill. Check your assessment notice for your homestead status. The deadline to apply was April 1, 2023.
- The HTRG does not apply to rental, commercial or personal property.
- The HTRG applies to county and city taxes on your Fulton County property tax bill. If you live in the city limits of East Point, please contact your city directly to inquire about the HTRG reduction.

The homeowners, who are not eligible for the \$18,000 reduction in their assessed property value, will see a large increase in their tax bill with the proposed 13.00 % millage rate and a smaller increase with the 11.91% millage rate. Please check your Fulton County Property Tax Bill to see if you qualified for the \$18,000 one-time reduction in the assessed value.

East Point is estimating that the amount billed to residents and businesses with a proposed \$13.00% millage rate will equal more than \$25 million. East Point residents are paying more taxes than at any time in the history of the City. Yes, several of the taxes were voted on by residents on referendums at the ballot box. Below is a list of all the taxes and fees that you pay.

- 1. TRANSPORTATION SPLOST TAX**
- 2. WATER AND SEWER SPLOST TAX**
- 3. ELECTRIC UTILITY TAX**
- 4. REGULAR STATE and LOCAL SALES TAX**

5. **MISC. FEE ON UTILITY BILL**
6. **PCA (POWER COST ADJUSTMENT)**
7. **ECCR (ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE COST RECOVERY)**
8. **STORMWATER FEE**
9. **PROPERTY TAXES (RESIDENTIAL RENTERS PAY PROPERTY TAX IN THEIR RENT)**

The Mayor and Council should give the Residents a break, after all the increases in the Revenue is due mainly to the Residents and the increase of their property assessment and commercial property assessment. See below.

1. **The Camp Creek TAD has been paid off and the increased assessment property taxes are no longer needed to pay off the tax bonds. The total Camp Creek tax assessment now goes directly to East Point, Fulton County, and the School Board. It is a bundle!**
2. **Electric Utility is also collecting a BUNDLE in PCA and ECCR FEES due to the all the new apartments, townhouses, and condominiums built within the last seven years as well as infill homes and updated home renovations.**
3. **Commercial development has greatly increased the amount of property taxes thanks to McDonald properties and Duke Properties, and the development in Ward A .**
4. **The \$54 million Unfunded Pension is in its last year of payments.**
5. **Houses are coming off the Fifty Worst Properties list and providing increased tax Revenue.**

In one of my next Newsletter, I will state where cuts in the FY24 Budget can be easily made. However, NOW is the time for the Mayor and Council to REDUCE the millage rate. If you agree, attend the September 18, 2023, Council Meeting, and you can email/call your elected officials.

Please see the attachments below.

1. **List of all the streets in Ward C for the upcoming Election. The highlighted streets were formerly in Ward D and were transferred to Ward C.**
2. **Latest copy of the Sign Ordinance**