

Revenue Source Descriptions

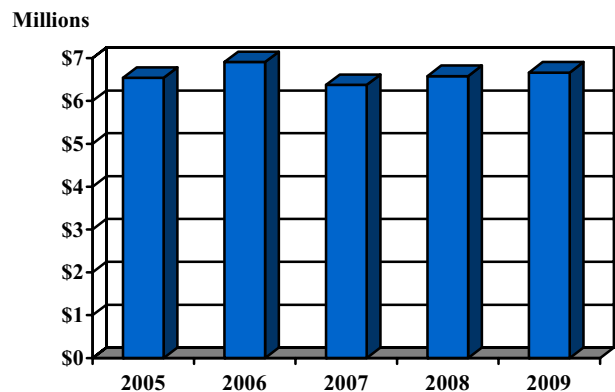
Primary Government

Property Taxes

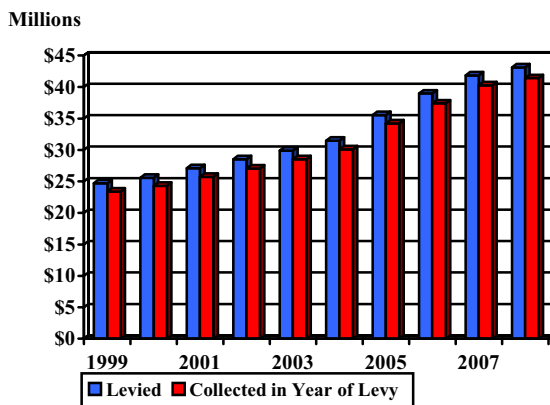
Property Taxes are levied against the assessed taxable valuation of real and personal property in the County. The tax rates are expressed in "mills" per one dollar of the assessed taxable valuation of the property; one mill of taxation is equal to one dollar on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Reductions, due to various legislative acts to provide exemptions, are based on historical trends. In addition to the operating levy, in August, 1989, Ottawa County residents voted a 20 year millage at the rate of .5 mill to fund the equipment lease obligation and the cost of operating the E-911 Central Dispatch system. In November 1996, a 10-year .33 mill was approved for Park Expansion, Development and Maintenance. The Park levy was renewed for 10 years by the voters during 2006, and the E-911 Central Dispatch levy was renewed for 20 years during 2008. The property tax levies conform with the Headlee constitutional tax limitation amendment as well as P.A. 5 of 1982, Truth in Taxation requirements.

The graph to the right highlights the millage "cushion" for Ottawa County. For the last twelve years, the County has levied less than its maximum allowed mills for operations. For the 2009 *operating* levy, the current maximum is 4.2650 mills; the County is levying 3.6 mills. Consequently, the County has a substantial "cushion" available for funding operations that equates to approximately \$6.7 million in 2009. This "cushion" can be accessed with a vote of the Board of Commissioners. The 2010 operating levy will remain at 3.6 mills, so the "cushion" is expected to change in proportion to the taxable value change.

Ottawa County Millage Cushion
Difference between Maximum and Actual Levy



Property Tax Levies and Collections



Like any municipality, Ottawa County is concerned with its tax collection rate. The County's current collection rate is slightly higher than it was in the late nineties. The graph to the right provides a ten-year history of collections for the County. The collection rate for the year the levy was made was 94.66% in 1999; in 2008, 96.04%.