



## Assessor's Office

444 West Grand Ave  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

The City will undergo a city-wide revaluation for the 2024 assessment year. Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions that should help answer many of the questions you may have.

Our goal is to conduct an accurate and transparent revaluation. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in the revaluation process and ask that you please direct any additional questions to the Assessor's Office.

### Revaluation FAQs

#### 1. What is a revaluation?

A revaluation is a process by which the assessors go through each property record in the city and give it a new value (they revalue each property). There are different types of revaluations, but the goal of all revaluations is the same: produce a more accurate and equitable value than was in place previously on a given property and City-wide. This means that assessments should reflect market sale prices and properties with comparable amenities should be assessed similarly.

For example, if the assessed value on a property is \$150,000, we would expect the property to sell for about \$150,000. In other words, the assessed value is supposed to be 100% of market value. Foreclosure sales, sales between related parties and any other sale that is concluded under duress are not considered reflective of market value.

To be at 100% for every property annually is an ideal situation and not entirely realistic. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) recognizes that and allows a cushion of +/- 10% (i.e. between 90% - 110% of estimated market value) to remain in compliance with the law. This allows for both market fluctuations and the human element of a sale.

From our previous example, if a home sells for \$150,000, that means the assessed value should be between \$135,000-\$165,000.

#### 2. Why is the City undergoing this revaluation process?

Wisconsin Department of Revenue statutes require municipalities to be within 10% of market value (between 90% - 110%) to be considered "in compliance". The City's overall ratio was 71.74% in 2023.

#### 3. How does the revaluation work?

There are different types of revaluations that can be undertaken: market update, drive-by revaluation, exterior revaluation, and full revaluation. In this case, the City will be undergoing a combination of a market update and drive-by revaluation.

Appraisers will be going through each property's record card to confirm that information we have on file is accurate via electronic and remote means (e.g. satellite/GIS imagery, Google Maps, etc.). Then we will perform sales studies, neighborhood studies, income/expense studies (for income-producing properties), and other necessary studies to assist in creating new models. Using these models, we will adjust valuation tables as necessary to better reflect market conditions.

4. **How are City taxes calculated?**

Tax rates are built using two numbers: total City valuation and total City budget. The tax rate then gets applied to each individual property's valuation to determine what amount of taxes each property is responsible for. Given that the budget is put in place after the values are set, there is no way to determine exact tax rates or amounts during the revaluation.

5. **How is this going to change my property's taxes?**

Some property owners may see a decrease in both value and taxes owed, some may see an increase in both value and taxes owed, and some may see an increase or decrease in value and the opposite in taxes owed. A property's value going up does not alone cause a higher tax amount owed.

We can use sample numbers to illustrate this concept.

Total Budget	=	\$20,000,000
City Valuation Total	=	\$1,000,000,000

Tax Rate (Mill Rate):  $\$20,000,000 \div \$1,000,000,000 = \$.0200$  (or \$20.00 per thousand)

A home valued at \$150,000, the taxes owed would be \$3,000.

Now, let us suppose the sample underwent a revaluation.

Total Budget	=	\$20,000,000	<i>*Not affected by revaluation</i>
City Valuation Total	=	\$1,100,000,000	

Tax Rate (Mill Rate):  $\$20,000,000 \div \$1,100,000,000 = \$.0182$  (or \$18.20 per thousand)

A home valued \$150,000, the taxes owed would be \$2,730.

It is important to remember though, that during a revaluation all property values are adjusted closer to market value. If the home were reassessed from \$150,000 to \$165,000, the taxes owed would be \$3,003 (similar to the taxes owed prior to the revaluation).

***Please note*** that the Assessor's Office is strictly tasked with attaining accuracy in valuation. This is true both of revaluation years and non-revaluation ("maintenance") years. Technically, taxes and budget are outside the scope of the Assessor's Office. Please also understand that the total tax rate includes other taxing entities such as Schools and the County.

6. **Do I personally need to do anything for my property to get revalued? (OR) Does this mean somebody needs to go through my house?**

Most of the work will be done in office and through drive-by review. An exception to that would be inspections for new permits, sales, and rechecks for work from prior years, but those will be worked separately.

If you want someone to go through your home, for whatever reason, the Assessor's office will accommodate your wishes.

7. **I just put up a new garage (or updated my kitchen, or tore down a shed, etc.) Do the assessors know that?**

It never hurts to bring any changes to the attention of the Assessor's Office. If the changes were done without permits, then that's information that the Assessor's Office might not have. Any changes that would have been completed with a permit will be inspected independently of the revaluation process.

8. **Where can I see my property information?**

All property data is available at [www.assessordata.org](http://www.assessordata.org). We encourage property owners to look at and verify their property information and bring to our attention any discrepancies they find.

9. **Who can I contact with further questions?**

Please email us at [assessoroffice@wirapids.org](mailto:assessoroffice@wirapids.org) or call at 715-421-8230.