Village of Downers Grove

Report for the Village Council Meeting

Table 1 - Council Agenda item.

Subject	2026 Aggregate Tax Levy
Submitted By	Robin Lahey, Finance Director

Synopsis

Ordinances have been prepared establishing and abating certain tax levies for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The levy must be filed by December 31, 2026.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The goals for 2025-2027 include *Steward of Fiscal, Environmental and Neighborhood Sustainability*.

Fiscal Impact

Without the abatement of any debt, the proposed levy is estimated to be $34,647,300. However, it is recommended that tax levy abatements totaling $7,708,563 which would abate all Village debt, be approved. Therefore, the net taxes to be raised by taxation for 2026 upon the taxable property are $26,938,737 which includes the levy for the Village, Special Service Areas and the Public Library. The Village portion of the levy after abatements is estimated to be $18,467,205. This levy amount is reflected in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Recommendation

Approval on the December 8, 2026 Active Agenda.

Background

The tax levy process requires the adoption of the motion presented in advance of the following:

- 11/20/26 - Publication of Truth in Taxation Notice and Announcement of Public Hearing.
- 12/01/26 - Public Hearing on Tax Levy.
- 12/08/26 - Adoption of Tax Levy.
- 12/08/26 - Abatement of Certain Debt Levies.
- 12/31/26 - Last day to file Levy with the County.

Annually, the Village Council is required to levy taxes for the following 1) Village Services defined as corporate/police, fire protection, police pension, fire pension, the total amount of all General Obligation (G.O.) Bond payments due for the fiscal year, 2) Library operating and 3) all Special Services Areas.

Following the levy of taxes, the Council may abate or reduce the levy (reduce the property tax collections) for the specific amount that the Village has other resources available to pay for debt service. The amount to be abated is determined by the budget when specific revenues such as water revenues that are identified to pay for bonds issued to improve the water system, and revenues from stormwater and capital funds that are available and budgeted for debt service.

Table 2 - 2026 recommended levy items with abatements.

Levy Items	Before abatements	After abatements
Corporate levy	$2,586,645	$2,586,645
Fire Protection levy	$2,935,500	$2,935,500
Fire Pension	$5,901,234	$5,901,234
Police Pension	$6,072,302	$6,072,302
Capital	$971,524	$971,524
Debt Service GO Bonds, Series 2014	$1,365,025	$0
Debt Service GO Bonds, Series 2015	$514,250	$0
Debt Service GO Bonds, Series 2019	$486,100	$0
Debt Service GO Bonds, Series 2020	$1,827,044	$0
Debt Service GO Bonds, Series 2022	$2,220,225	$0
Debt Service GO Bonds, Series 2026A	$1,124,119	$0
Debt Service GO Bonds, Series 2026B	$171,800	$0
Total Debt Service	$7,708,563	$0
Village Levy	$26,175,768	$18,467,205
Projected Village Tax Rate	N/A	0.4896
Library Operating	$7,815,189	$7,815,189
Special Service Area #6	$133,343	$133,343
Special Service Area #11	$523,000	$523,000
Total All Levies	$34,647,300	$26,938,737

Ordinance

An Ordinance Abating a Portion of the 2026 Tax Levy Related to the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2014

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of the Illinois Municipal Code, has heretofore adopted an ordinance levying taxes for the corporate purposes of the Village of Downers Grove for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January, 2026, and ending on the thirty-first day of December, 2026, (hereinafter referred to as the "Ordinance"), which Ordinance shall, pursuant to law, be filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County, Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the Ordinance provided for a levy for funds budgeted for the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 (Ordinance 5404 adopted August 19, 2014) in the amount of $1,365,025; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove has sufficient funds available in the Corporate Fund to abate a portion of the amount of tax to be levied for the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 and to reduce the amount of tax to be levied pursuant to the Ordinance accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the funds available in the Corporate Fund of the Village of Downers Grove be applied to the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 in the amount of $1,365,025.

SECTION 2. That the amount of $1,365,025 levied for purposes of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 be abated from the tax levy for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of January, 2026, and ending on the thirty-first day of December, 2026.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, is hereby directed to file with the County Clerk of DuPage County, Illinois, a copy of this Ordinance, duly certified by said Village Clerk.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as required by law.

SECTION 5. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

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By: Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest:

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By: Village Clerk