

**NOTICE OF TAX INCREASE AND PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET
AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR GEORGE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

The George County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on a proposed ad valorem tax revenue increase for fiscal year 2017-2018 and on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for fiscal year 2017-2018 on September 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Board of Supervisors in the George County Administrative Building, 329 Ratliff Street, Lucedale, Mississippi.

George County is now operating with the projected total budget revenue of \$35,683,200 (42.61 percent) or \$15,205,350 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$40,086,500. Of that amount, (41.03 percent) or \$16,445,00 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the George County Board of Supervisors plans to increase your ad valorem tax millage rate by 3.40 mills from 118.98 mills to 122.38. This increase means that you will pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile, tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property.

Any citizen of George County is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax revenue increase in the budget and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

A millage rate of 116.50 will produce the same amount of revenue from ad valorem taxes as was collected the prior year. The millage rate for the prior year was 118.98.

The George County Board of Supervisors is not increasing taxes for any County purpose under its control. The only reason the ad valorem tax millage rate is increasing by a total of 3.40 mills this year is because the George County School District has asked for more money, and by law, the County must comply. The School District has requested a total of \$585,660 in additional revenues from the County for the upcoming fiscal year.

The increase in the tax levy is necessary only because of the increased funding request made by the George County School District.