
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Community College Property Tax Revenue

Iowa's 15 community college districts are permitted to levy taxes against the value of taxable property within the boundaries of each district. In addition to the general levy, there are currently eight special purpose levies available to the community colleges under specific circumstances. Six of the nine levies require simple board approval; the three exceptions, which require voter approval, are noted below.

Property Tax Levies

The following are the levies available to the community colleges and the rate restrictions and statutory authority for each:

- General — To fund the general operation of the community college. Limited to \$0.20250 per \$1,000 in valuation. (Iowa Code section [260C.17](#))
- Tort Liability — To fund tort-related settlements. Limited to the amount necessary. (Iowa Code section [296.7](#))
- Insurance — To fund insurance premiums for loss of property, environmental hazards, or other risks. Limited to the amount necessary. (Iowa Code section [296.7](#))
- Unemployment Compensation — To fund unemployment benefits for community college employees. Limited to the amount necessary. (Iowa Code section [96.31](#))
- Early Retirement — To fund early retirement benefits for community college employees. Limited to the amount necessary. (Iowa Code section [279.46](#))
- Equipment — To fund equipment replacement, program sharing, and the purchase of instructional equipment. Limited to \$0.03000 per \$1,000 in valuation for equipment replacement. The community college board of directors may seek voter approval for an additional \$0.06000 per \$1,000 in valuation for program sharing and instructional equipment. (Iowa Code section [260C.28](#))
- Standby — To secure the payment of certificates for the Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training Program. Limited to \$0.27000 per \$1,000 in valuation. (Iowa Code section [260E.6](#))
- Facilities — To fund the purchase of grounds; the construction of buildings; the payment of debts contracted for the construction of buildings; the purchase of buildings and equipment for buildings; the acquisition of libraries; the costs of utilities; and the maintenance, remodeling, improvement, or expansion of the community college. Limited to \$0.20250 per \$1,000 valuation. Requires voter approval. (Iowa Code section [260C.22](#))
- Bond and Interest — To fund principal and interest on bonds. Limited to the amount necessary. Requires 60.0% voter approval. (Iowa Code section [260C.20](#))

More Information

Department of Management, Community College Resources: dom.iowa.gov/community-college-property-tax-rates?%page=1

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Current Use of Levies

For FY 2024, statewide community college revenue from property tax levies will total an estimated \$221.6 million, an increase of 6.4% compared to FY 2023. **Figure 1** shows the levy rates for FY 2024 by community college.

Figure 1
FY 2024 Community College Property Tax Levy Rates

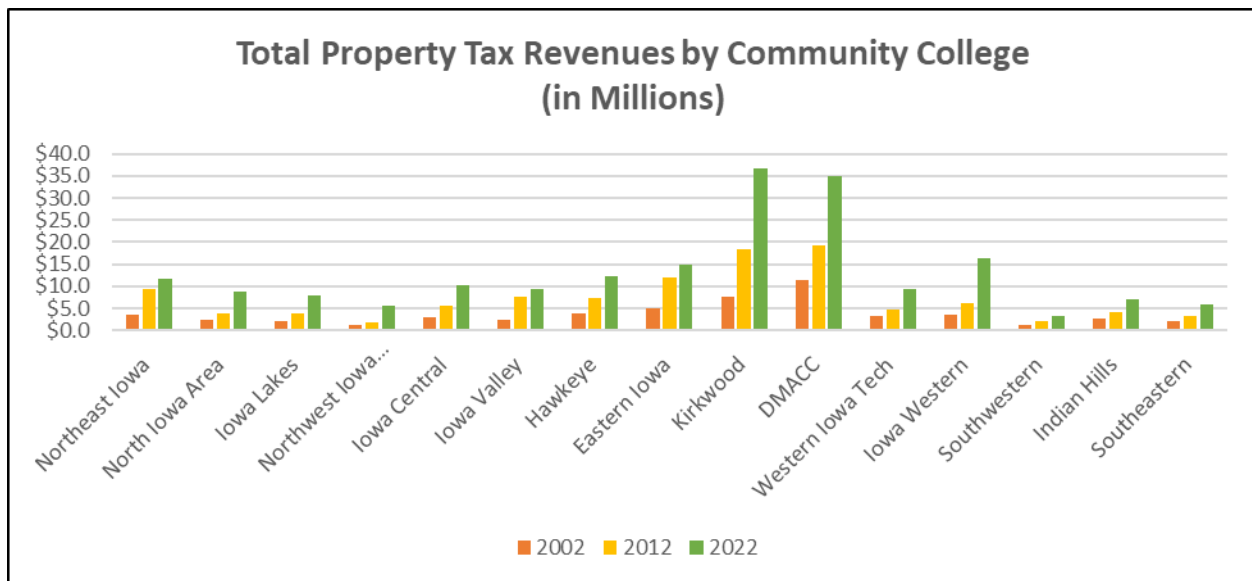
	Unrestricted	Unemployment	Tort	Early		Equipment	Plant	Bonds Interest	Grand Total -	
	General	Compensation	Liability	Insurance	Retirement	Replacement	Standby	Funds	All Funds	
Northeast Iowa	0.20250	0.00000	0.02334	0.03544	0.00000	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.35429	0.90807
North Iowa Area	0.20250	0.02335	0.01977	0.02724	0.06537	0.09000	0.00981	0.20250	0.00000	0.64054
Iowa Lakes	0.20250	0.00177	0.03357	0.11665	0.00000	0.09000	0.00590	0.20250	0.00000	0.65289
Northwest Iowa	0.20250	0.00408	0.02994	0.07486	0.06261	0.09000	0.02450	0.20250	0.00000	0.69099
Iowa Central	0.20250	0.00548	0.06299	0.06983	0.08900	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.17441	0.89671
Iowa Valley	0.20250	0.00235	0.04331	0.22476	0.08842	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.94103	1.79487
Hawkeye	0.20250	0.01329	0.03871	0.08667	0.19067	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.12654	0.95088
Eastern Iowa	0.20250	0.00284	0.02174	0.02961	0.12930	0.09000	0.02928	0.20250	0.22005	0.92782
Kirkwood	0.20250	0.00697	0.00622	0.34935	0.00000	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.20000	1.05754
Des Moines Area	0.20250	0.00181	0.01116	0.11160	0.03767	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.00000	0.65724
Western Iowa Tech	0.20250	0.01095	0.02950	0.22930	0.01489	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.00000	0.77964
Iowa Western	0.20250	0.00559	0.01957	0.18449	0.01677	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.43384	1.15526
Southwestern	0.20250	0.00352	0.03523	0.08806	0.17436	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.00000	0.79617
Indian Hills	0.20250	0.04218	0.06231	0.18998	0.14723	0.09000	0.01179	0.20250	0.00000	0.94849
Southeastern	0.20250	0.01389	0.08910	0.15980	0.07499	0.09000	0.00000	0.20250	0.20615	1.03893

The following three figures compare data from FY 2002, FY 2012, and FY 2022, the most recent year for which full-time equivalent enrollment (FTEE) is available.

Total Revenue from Levies

Total statewide community college revenue from property tax grew from \$56.1 million in FY 2002 to \$194.2 million in FY 2022. **Figure 2** shows property tax revenue by community college.

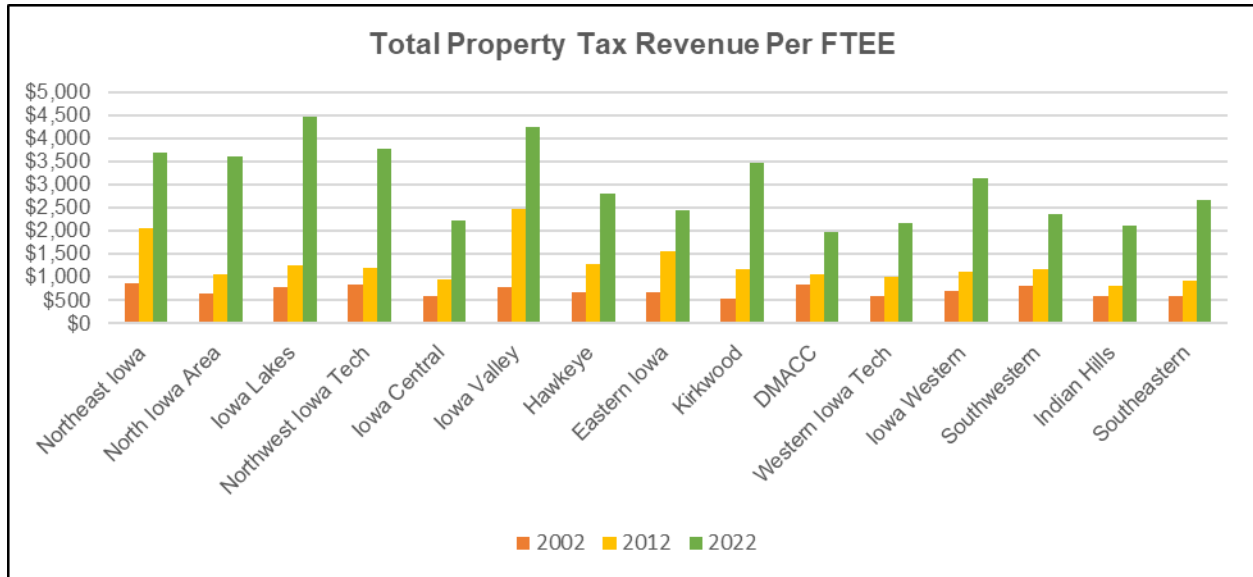
Figure 2



Property Tax Revenue Per FTEE

Statewide community college revenue from property tax per FTEE grew from \$687.92 in FY 2002 to \$2,746.18 in FY 2022. **Figure 3** shows the revenue per FTEE by community college.

Figure 3



Taxable Valuation

Total statewide taxable valuation (excluding utility replacement) increased from \$92.070 billion in FY 2002 to \$184.720 billion in FY 2022. Over the same period, total valuation per FTEE increased from \$1.1 million to \$2.6 million statewide. **Figure 4** shows the valuation per FTEE by community college.

Figure 4

