

2015

Assessment Roll Report



Assessor's Office
City of Grand Rapids
6/16/2015

Table of Contents

I.	Assessor's Transmittal Letter	3
II.	Overview	
	a. Mission Statement	4
	b. Organizational Chart	5
III.	2015 Assessment Roll	
	a. Parcel Counts	6
	b. State Equalized Values	7
	c. Taxable Values	9
	d. School District Totals	11
	e. Highest Taxpayers	12
IV.	Assessment Districts & Zones	
	a. Renaissance Zones	13
	b. Tax Capture Districts	15
V.	Significant Legislative Changes Impacting Property Tax Administration	
	a. Personal Property	17
	b. Disabled Veteran's Exemption	17
VI.	Real Estate Trends & Forecast	
	a. Foreclosures	18
	b. Preliminary Sales Study Indications	18



June 16, 2015

Gregory A. Sundstrom, City Manager:

The City Assessor has completed the Annual Assessment Roll Report for tax year 2015, Fiscal Year 2016.

The purpose of this report is threefold: 1) to provide a synopsis of the City's FY2016 property tax base, 2) to provide key economic indicators related to the real estate market, and 3) to provide an overview of the City's various property tax incentive programs and property tax capture districts.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Engerson
City Assessor

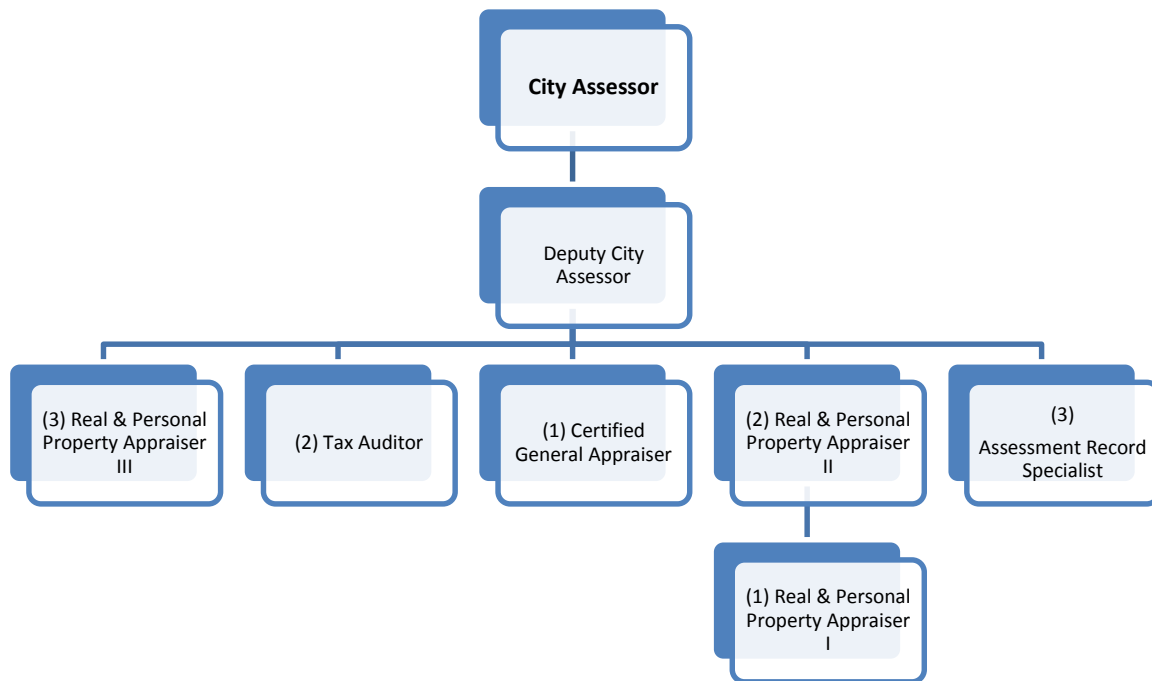
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN MISSION STATEMENT

We, the elected and appointed officials and employees of the City of Grand Rapids, believe in the dignity and worth of all people and in the right of every citizen to have equitable access to the benefits of urban life. We believe in the rights of all citizens to express their views and the responsibility of the City government to respond to those views.

As government representatives, we will help shape the future to assure that the City will continue to be a place where the benefits of urban life can be enjoyed. We will:

- Provide leadership in focusing community resources to address community needs and opportunities.*
- Develop and nurture partnerships that encourage and support collaboration.*
- Encourage economic prosperity for City residents and businesses to ensure the City's ability to provide important urban services.*
- Foster the economic health of our City within an economically healthy metropolitan region and assure that responsibility is shared equitably across the metropolitan area.*
- Celebrate and strengthen the diversity of our community, ensure the dignity of all citizens, and equitably deliver services.*
- Provide for the security of persons and property.*
- Provide leadership to ensure that children, families, and seniors thrive in our community.*
- Develop, maintain, and improve City-owned physical infrastructure.*
- Maintain and enhance residential neighborhoods and increase homeownership.*
- Enhance citizens' quality of life using the City's cultural, recreational, and occupational infrastructure.*
- Provide high quality municipal services efficiently, fairly, and courteously.*
- Foster a learning environment, which promotes employee and team excellence in delivery of City services.*
- Provide environmental stewardship to enhance quality of life for residents.*
- Collaborate with residents to provide a neighborhood based City service delivery system.*

Fiscal Services Assessor's Office Organization Chart, Fiscal Year 2015



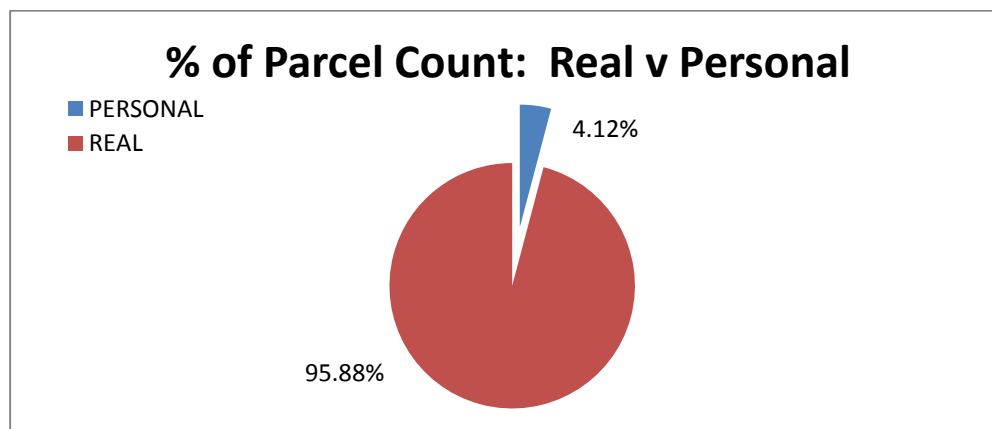
2015 Assessment Rolls

Parcel Counts

The City Assessor is responsible for administering five separate assessment rolls. The ad valorem roll contains all real and personal property subject to taxation at either the full millage rate or the renaissance zone millage rate. **The Industrial Facilities (IFT) roll¹, Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) roll², and Obsolete Properties (OPRA) roll³, known as Special Acts Assessment Rolls**, contain eligible real and personal property subject to taxation at a reduced millage rate for a limited period of time. **The Tax Reverted Clean Title Act (TRCTA) roll⁴** contains properties that are subject to the full millage rate, but half of the levy is allocated to the Kent County Land Bank Authority.

Assessable property in the State of Michigan is categorized as either real or personal. All assessable property is further classified as agricultural, commercial, development, industrial, residential, timber-cutover, or utility. Parcel counts by type and classification for each of the five rolls are contained in the chart below.

2015 Parcel Counts							
	Class ↓	Ad Valorem	IFT	NEZ	OPRA	TRCTA	Totals
Real Property	Commercial	4,185	4	0	50	9	4,248
	Industrial	650	70	0	0	1	721
	Residential	56,500	0	236	0	266	57,002
	Exempt	2,384	0	0	0	5	2,389
	Real Property Totals	63,719	74	236	50	281	64,360
Personal Property	Commercial	2,495	1	0	0	0	2,496
	Industrial	228	142	0	0	0	370
	Utility	13	0	0	0	0	13
	Personal Property Totals	2,736	143	0	0	0	2,879
Parcel Count Totals		66,455	217	236	50	281	67,239



¹ As authorized by Public Act 198 of 1974.

² As authorized by Public Act 147 of 1992.

³ As authorized by Public Act 146 of 2000.

⁴ As authorized by Public Act 260 of 2003.

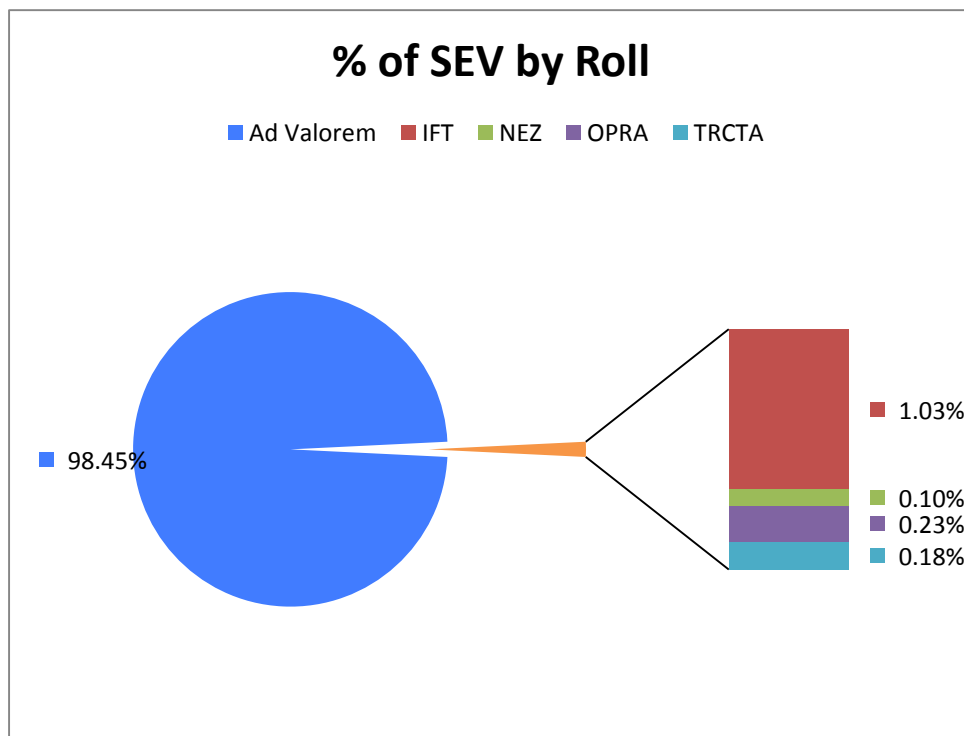
2015 Assessment Rolls

State Equalized Values

State Equalized Value, commonly referred to as SEV, represents an estimate of 50% of the fair market value of the properties assessed on the roll. The chart below summarizes the SEV's by property type, classification, and roll.

2015 State Equalized Values (SEV)							
	Class ↓	Ad Valorem	IFT	NEZ	OPRA	TRCTA	Totals
Real Property	Commercial	\$1,296,222,300	\$80,300	\$0	\$11,593,100	\$606,200	\$1,308,501,900
	Industrial	\$185,509,600	\$10,866,100	\$0	\$0	\$223,600	\$196,599,300
	Residential	\$2,901,252,000	\$0	\$5,170,500	\$0	\$7,815,600	\$2,914,238,100
	Exempt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Real Property Totals	\$4,382,983,900	\$10,946,400	\$5,170,500	\$11,593,100	\$8,645,400	\$4,419,339,300
Personal Property	Commercial	\$200,794,800	\$27,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,822,100
	Industrial	\$176,724,400	\$39,926,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$216,650,900
	Utility	\$99,415,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,415,500
	Personal Property Totals	\$476,934,700	\$39,953,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$516,888,500
SEV Totals		\$4,859,918,600	\$50,900,200	\$5,170,500	\$11,593,100	\$8,645,400	\$4,936,227,800

As the following chart displays, over 98% of the City's assessable property is assessed on the ad valorem roll.

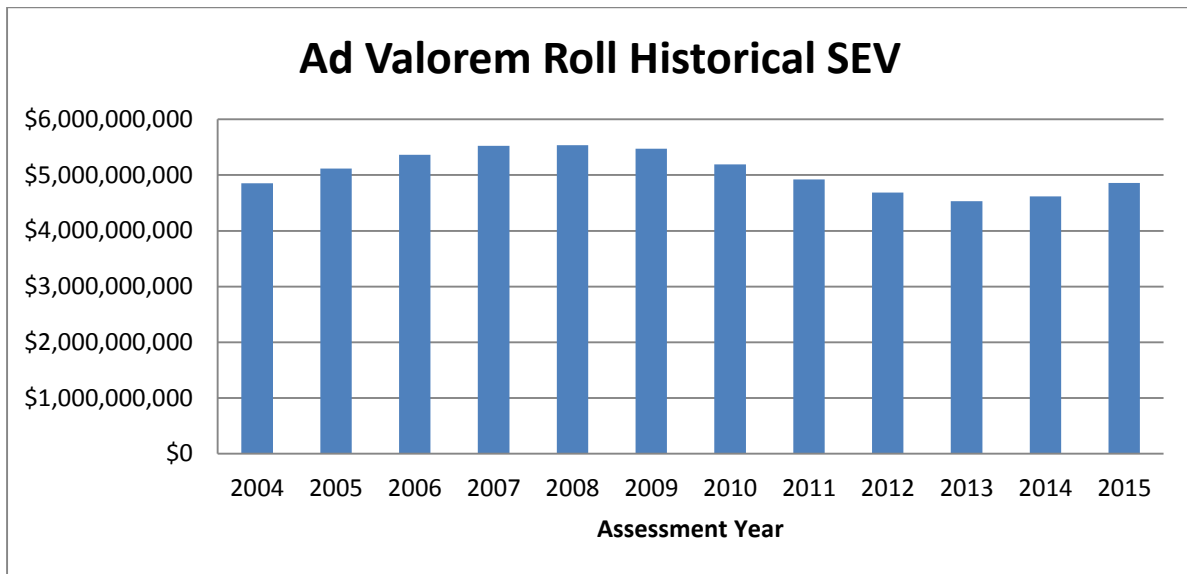


2015 Assessment Rolls

Historical State Equalized Value

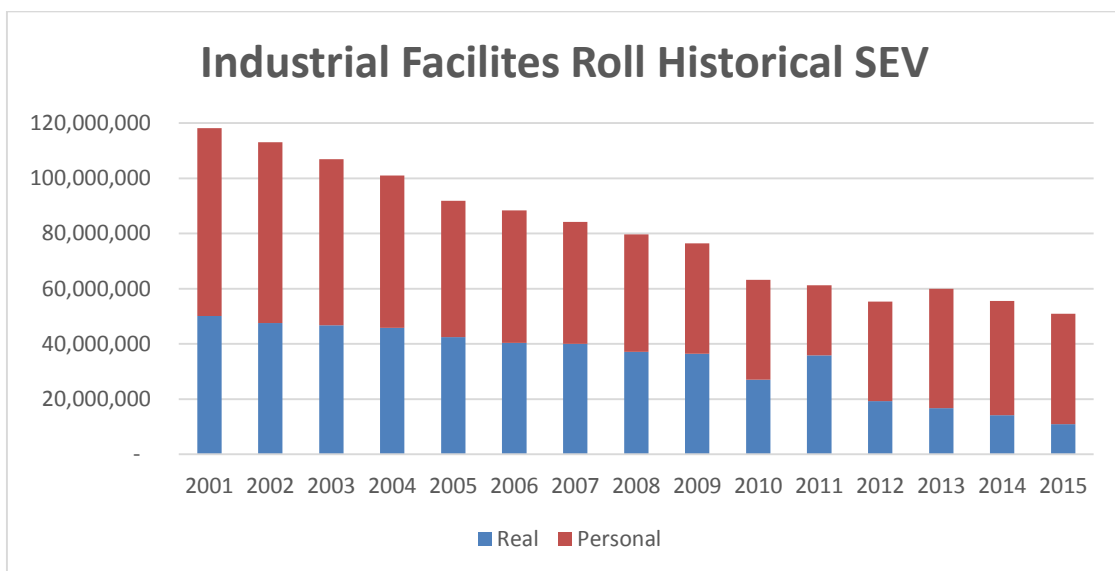
Ad Valorem Roll

Property values and investment contributed to an increase in SEV for the second consecutive year after the previous five years of reduction. The increase is the result of recovering real estate values, a stronger residential market and healthy investment in personal property.



Industrial Facilities Roll

While the four Special Acts Assessment Rolls comprise less than 2% of the City's 2015 SEV, the IFT roll is considered to be a reliable indicator of the amount of annual private sector investment in industrial real property and industrial machinery and equipment.



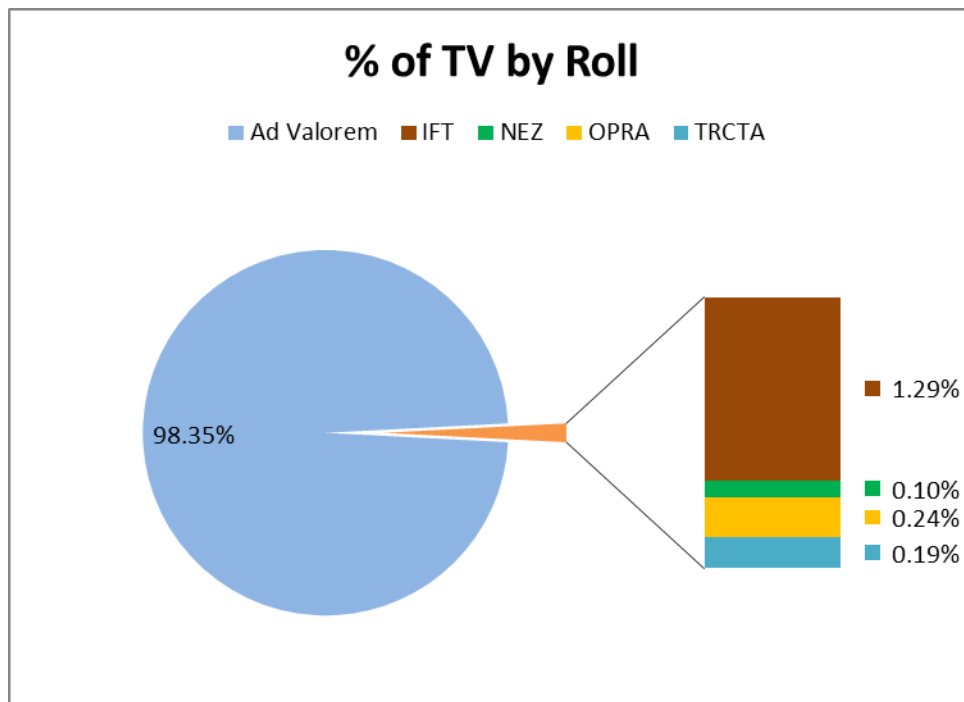
2015 Assessment Rolls

Taxable Values

Taxable value represents the property tax base of the City. While the State Equalized Value (SEV) is a measure of 50% of fair market value of property on the roll, the Taxable Value (TV) is the number used to multiply against the millage rate to calculate property taxes.

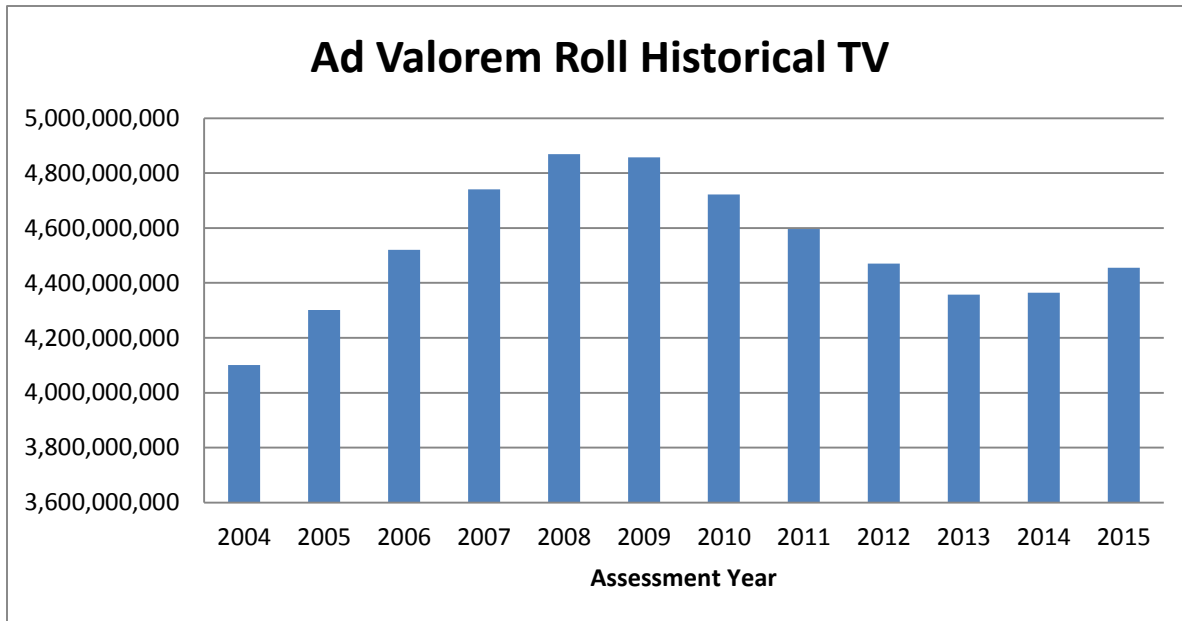
2015 Taxable Values (TV)							
	Class ↓	Ad Valorem	IFT	NEZ	OPRA	TRCTA	Totals
Real Property	Commercial	\$1,197,154,599	\$80,300	\$0	\$11,002,213	\$579,227	\$1,208,816,339
	Industrial	\$174,669,827	\$10,295,799	\$0	\$0	\$223,600	\$185,189,226
	Residential	\$2,606,974,602	\$0	\$4,745,278	\$0	\$7,680,181	\$2,619,400,061
	Exempt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Real Property Totals	\$3,978,799,028	\$10,376,099	\$4,745,278	\$11,002,213	\$8,483,008	\$4,013,405,626
Personal Property	Commercial	\$200,794,800	\$27,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,822,100
	Industrial	\$176,724,400	\$39,926,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$216,650,900
	Utility	\$99,415,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,415,500
	Personal Property Totals	\$476,934,700	\$39,953,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$516,888,500
TV Totals		\$4,455,733,728	\$50,329,899	\$4,745,278	\$11,002,213	\$8,483,008	\$4,530,294,126

As displayed on the following chart, over 98% of the City's property tax base resides on the ad valorem roll.



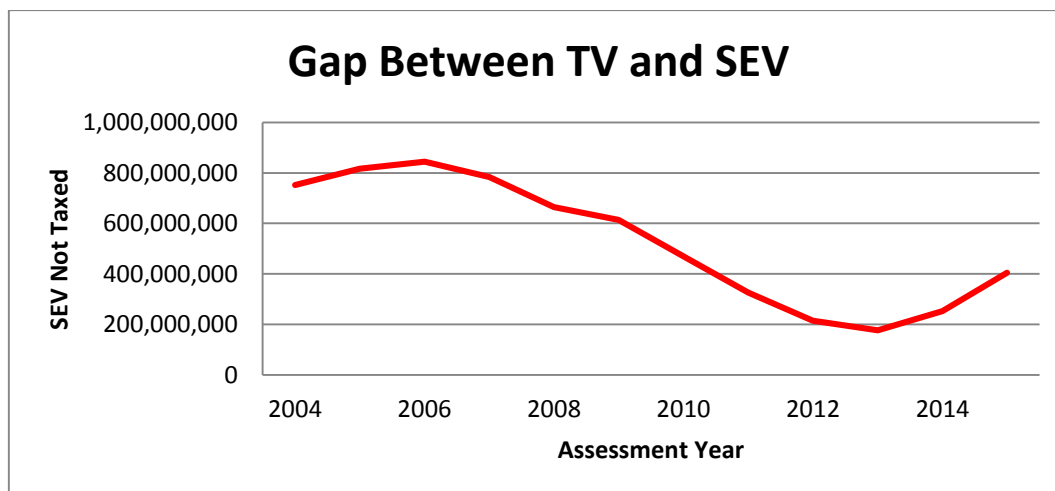
Ad Valorem Roll

The 2% increase in taxable value brings the City’s tax base almost to the 2012 level, indicating a stronger recovery from the previous year.



Ad Valorem TV vs SEV

The relationship of taxable value to state equalized value provides insight into the limiting effects of Proposal A. The graph below displays the gap between taxable value and state equalized value. The gap represents the loss in the property tax base due to the capping provisions contained in Proposal A. While this gap has narrowed significantly with the loss in property value during the last several years, it is beginning to widen as the market recovers.



2015 Assessment Rolls

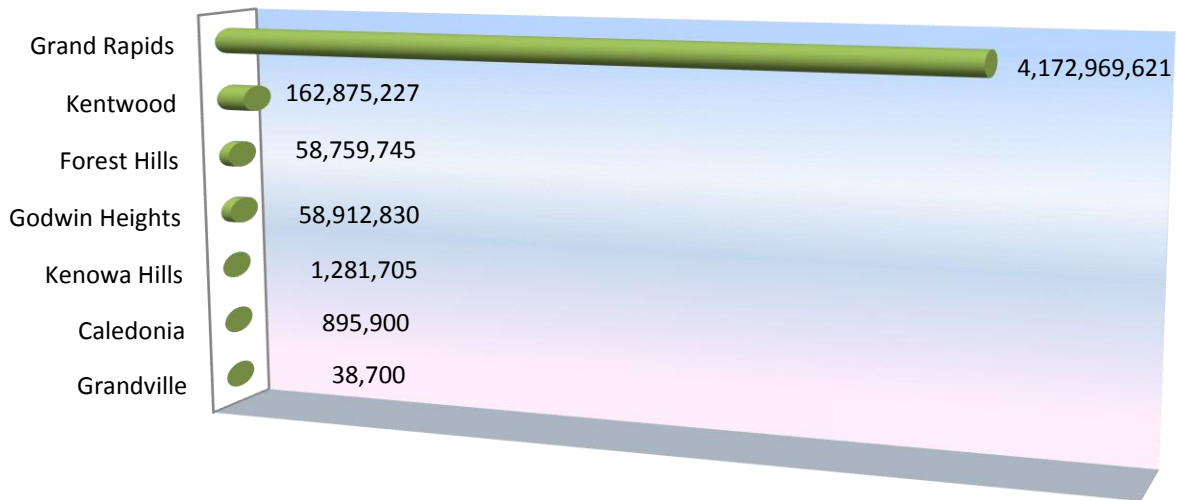
School Districts

Ad Valorem Roll

The City boundaries encompass property located in seven different school districts. The school districts and their respective 2015 taxable values and state equalized values are listed below.

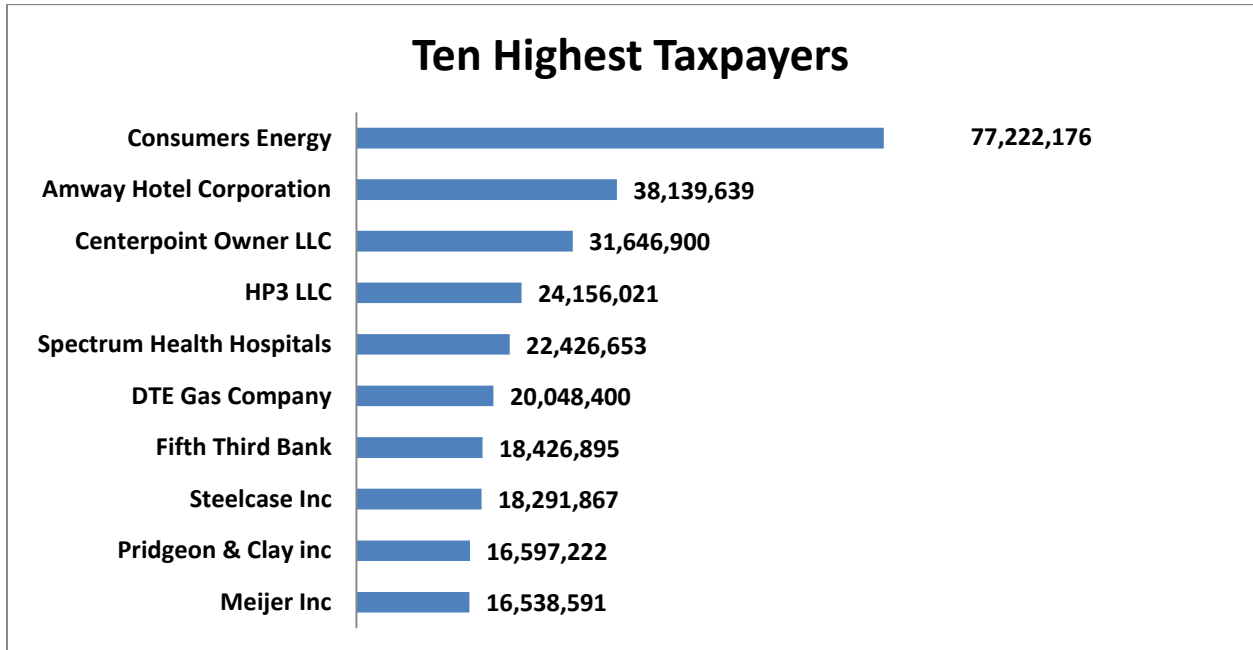
School District	Parcels	Ad Valorem TV	Ad Valorem SEV
Grandville	8	38,700	38,700
Caledonia	20	895,900	895,900
Kenowa Hills	13	1,281,705	1,456,200
Godwin Heights	61	58,912,830	63,125,300
Forest Hills	138	58,759,745	63,570,700
Kentwood	1,398	162,875,227	169,197,900
Grand Rapids	64,817	4,172,969,621	4,561,633,900
Total	66,455	\$4,455,733,728	\$4,859,918,600

2015 Ad Valorem Taxable Value by School District



All Rolls

The 2015 taxable values of the City’s ten highest taxpayers are listed in the following chart. The total taxable value includes both real and personal property from all rolls.⁵



⁵ IFT taxable value converted to equivalent taxable value.

Assessment Districts and Zones

Renaissance Zones

The Michigan Renaissance Zone Act, Act 376 of 1996, was created to foster economic opportunities and stimulate industrial, commercial, and residential growth in distressed areas displaying evidence of adverse economic and socioeconomic conditions. Through this enabling legislation, the City created six renaissance zones in 1997, which are now expired, and an additional five zones in 2003.

The benefits for property owners in a renaissance zone are reduced real and personal property taxes for a period of 15 years in the form of a reduced millage rate. The state equalized value and taxable value is calculated in the same manner as all other parcels and is included in the totals of each respective assessment roll. During the first 12 years, property owners are subject only to local school debt millage. During the remaining 3 years, all other millages are phased in at 25% increments. The majority of the renaissance zones are in the first year of the phase out process. The benefit level is reduced from 100% to 75% for the 2015 tax year.

Beginning in 2008, the State allowed for the extension of renaissance zone benefits on certain eligible properties whose owners planned to make significant investment during the originally planned phase out period. The State has approved extensions for six businesses located in the City. These benefits will expire in 2023.

Tool & Die Renaissance Zones

Beginning in 2005, the State allowed for the creation of Tool & Die Renaissance Zones. The City approved six new renaissance zone benefits in 2013 for a total of twelve companies receiving benefits for the 2014 tax year. All current Tool and Die Renaissance Zones will expire by 2020.

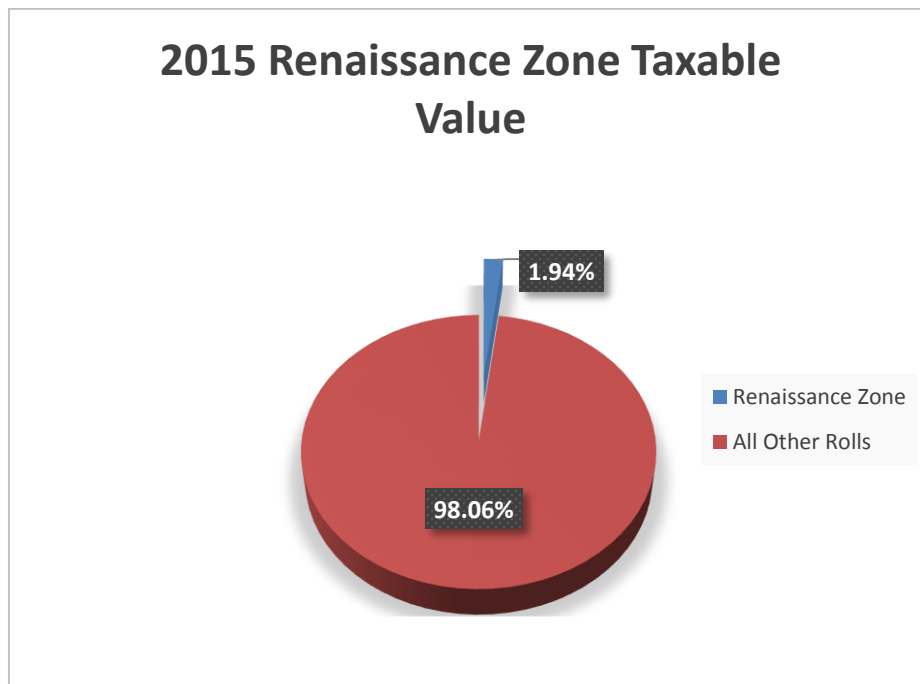
2015 Renaissance Zone Taxable Value – All Rolls

The following chart summarizes the amount of 2015 taxable value located in the City's various renaissance zones.

Renaissance Zones 2015 Taxable Value - All Rolls	
Benefit Level	Taxable Value
100%	\$7,874,609
75%	<u>\$79,916,723</u>
Total	\$87,791,332

2015 Renaissance Zone Taxable Value – All Rolls cont.

The total 2015 taxable value subject to renaissance zone benefits on all rolls is equivalent to 1.94% of the City’s total taxable value.



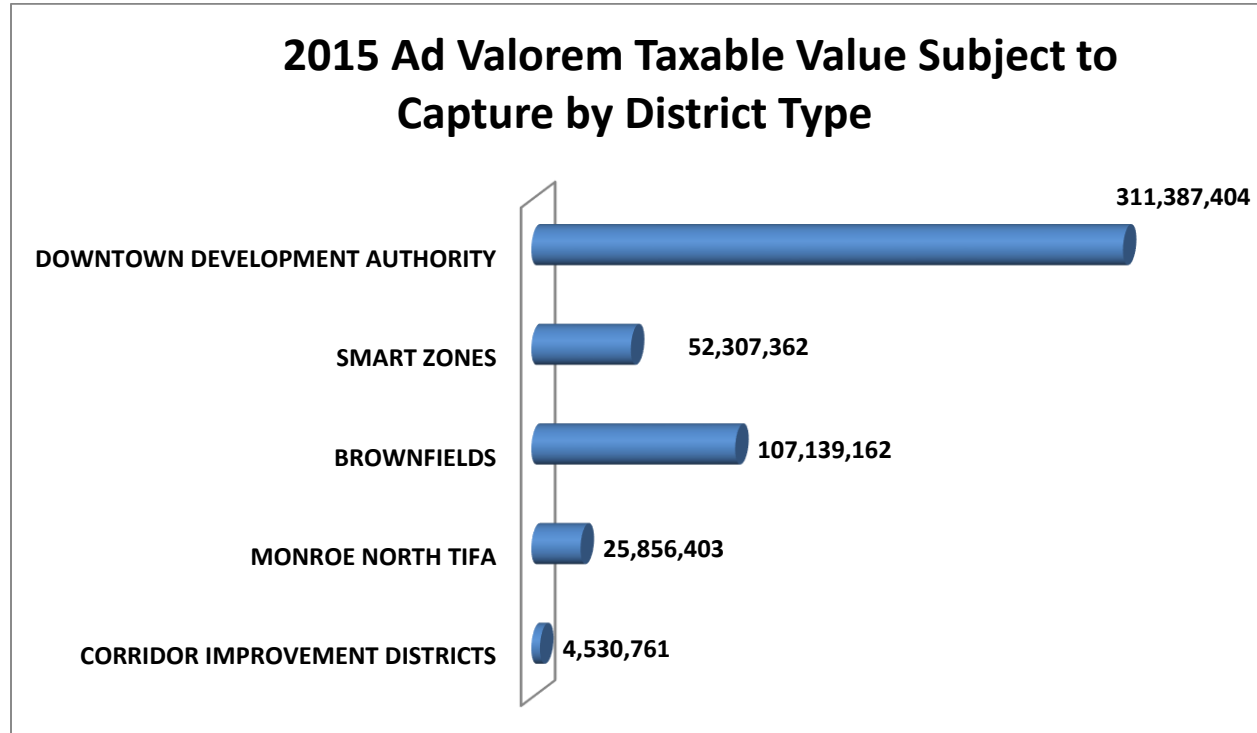
Types of Tax Capture Districts.

Enabling legislation passed by the State of Michigan has allowed for the creation of five types of tax capture districts in the City: Downtown Development Districts, Smart Zone Districts, Brownfield Districts, Tax Increment Finance Districts, and Corridor Improvement Districts.

Property taxes within a tax capture district are based on the same millage rates as those outside of a district. While the tax calculation is the same, the distribution of the taxes varies in that an authority or developer receives a portion of the taxes as opposed to the agency levying the tax. The amount of tax subject to capture is dependent upon the type of district, and developers only receive reimbursement of documented eligible expenses as pre-defined in a development agreement.

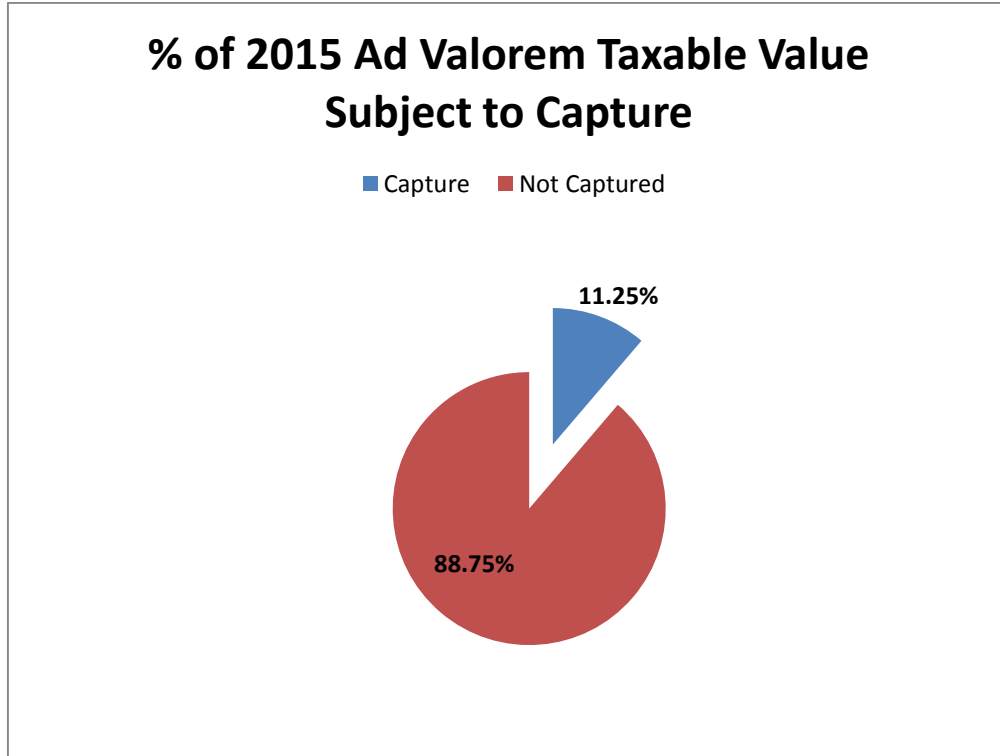
2015 Taxable Value Subject to Tax Capture Agreements

The amount of 2015 ad valorem taxable value subject to tax capture agreements is displayed in the following chart by district type.



2015 Taxable Value Subject to Tax Capture Agreements cont.

The amount of 2015 ad valorem taxable value subject to capture agreements is 11.25% of the Ad Valorem tax base.



Significant Legislative Changes Affecting Property Tax Administration

Personal Property

A package of bills passed in 2012 by the state legislature, and the subsequent passage by voters of Proposal 1 of 2014, created two personal property exemptions. The first exemption, which began in 2014, is the “Eligible Personal Property” exemption. The second exemption, which begins in 2016, is the “Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property” exemption.

The “Eligible Personal Property” exemption, also known as the “Small Taxpayer Exemption” exempts business personal property owned, leased, or in the possession of a business, if the total true cash value is less than \$80,000 within the local unit of government.

The “Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property” exemption eliminates personal property taxes on personal property which is used either for industrial processing, or direct integrated support of industrial processing. The exemption is phased in over several years beginning in 2016. By 2023, all eligible manufacturing personal property will be exempt in the State of Michigan.

Other features of the bills include a proportion of Use Tax revenues to be directed to local units of government to offset revenue losses caused by the exemptions; establishment of a “State Essential Services Assessment” which will be levied against exempt personal property in 2016 with the revenue going to the State’s general fund; and creation of the “Local Community Stabilization Authority” which will receive and disburse the local communities share of the State Use Tax.

An analysis by the House Fiscal Agency indicates that beginning in State Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the City will receive 100% reimbursement of the following losses: revenue loss related to essential services such as ambulance, fire, and police; revenue loss experienced by tax increment financing authorities; and revenue loss from the “Small Taxpayer Exemption.”

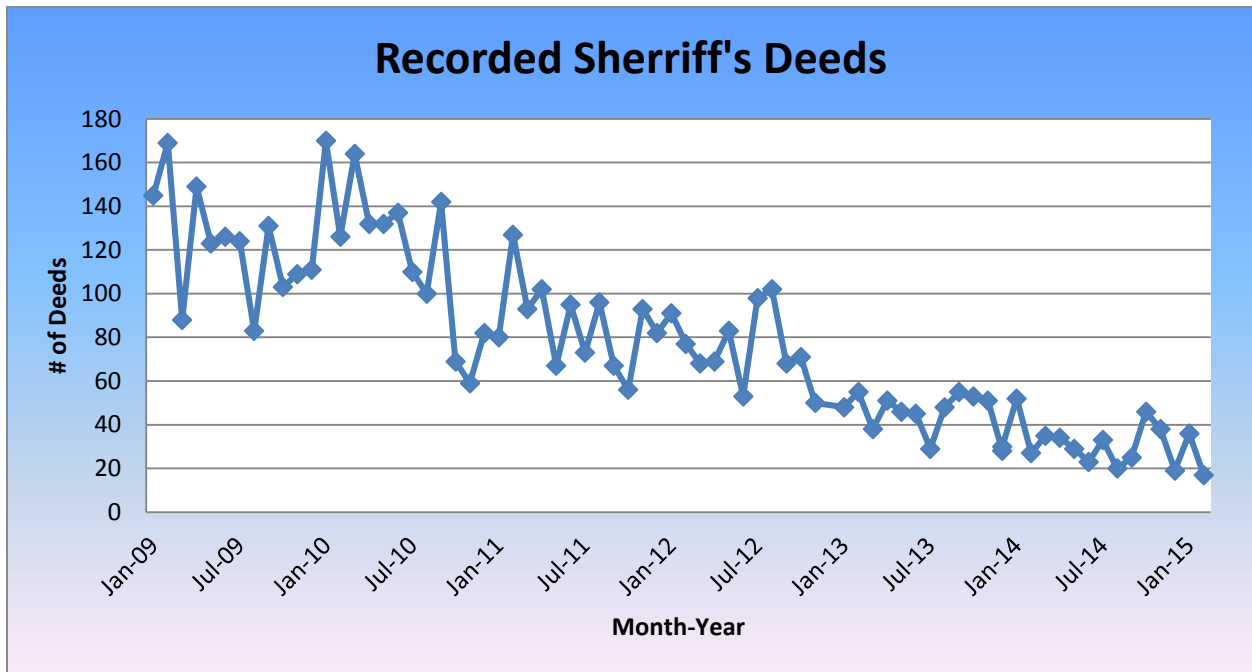
Disabled Veteran’s Exemption

In 2013, the state legislature passed Public Act 161, which exempts honorably discharged veterans of the United States Military who are 100% disabled, from property tax on their homestead.

In 2014, there were 88 home owners in the City of Grand Rapids who qualified for this exemption resulting in a loss of 3,983,364 in taxable value to the ad valorem assessment roll. The State Tax Commission requires the disabled veteran to annually file for this exemption with the March, July or December Board of Review. As of this date, 76 exemptions have been granted for a total loss of 3,781,061 in taxable value for the 2015 tax year.

Mortgage Foreclosures

The City of Grand Rapids tracks the number of foreclosures due to nonpayment of mortgages for the purpose of anticipating the growth or decline in the real estate market. This is based on the concept that real estate values will rebound when the inventory of foreclosed properties is significantly reduced. As displayed in the following chart, the number of sheriff’s deeds recorded has continually trended downward from the volatile 2009 - 2010 real estate market. This reduction corresponds with national trends of declining rates of foreclosure activity. The diminishing inventory of foreclosed property on the market is indicative of a stabilizing and recovering residential real estate market in the City of Grand Rapids.



Preliminary Residential Sales Study Indications

A preliminary 2015 sales study performed by the City Assessor’s Office indicates an increase of 7.5% on 2016 state equalized values (which equates to 50% of true cash value) in the residential class. This two year sales study, as required by the State Tax Commission, will include sales through the end of September, 2015. The Kent County Bureau of Equalization will finalize this study to determine the residential level of assessment in December, 2015. Also, Grand Rapids was rated a “Best Buy City” for homes in 2015 by Forbes Magazine; thus indicating a stable residential real estate market and expectations of real estate growth.

Preliminary Commercial and Industrial Study Indications

Due to the limited number of sales in the commercial and industrial classes, the Kent County Bureau of Equalization performs appraisal studies to determine the assessment ratio for these classes. Results of the appraisal studies will not be available until December of 2015.