

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

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Resolution **Property Tax Calculations**

Delta Council recognizes that the current formula used by the Mississippi Department of Revenue and Mississippi State University to determine the value of Delta land for ad valorem tax calculation purposes results in Delta land in Mississippi being valued for tax purposes at a significantly higher amount than Delta land in our contiguous states. The resulting property tax calculation adding county and school millage to the annual land use determination by Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Department of Revenue decreases the market competitiveness of our Delta land. Delta Council supports a property tax calculation that allows Delta land to be market competitive with similar Delta soils in adjoining Delta states.

The land use value, as developed by the State of Mississippi in 1982 and annually determined by the Mississippi Department of Revenue and Mississippi State University, is a complex and complicated formula. Several items were identified by a Delta Council Working Group that hold the potential to achieve the following two objectives:

1. Maintain equitable, accurate, and representative use-values for crop land and forestry land.
2. Reduce the elasticity of land use values due to fluctuating commodity prices and input costs so that public bodies can better plan and manage taxpayer contributions.

We want to thank the Mississippi Department of Revenue, under former Director Herb Frierson, and Mississippi State University, for administratively correcting three items that this Working Group, along with Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, identified as helping level the playing field for Mississippi Delta ad valorem taxes on agriculture:

1. The exclusion of crop insurance proceeds to revenue calculations.
2. The exclusion of government payments to revenue calculations.
3. Changing the charge to management from 15 to 25 percent.

These changes will positively impact the land use valuation calculation and we appreciate our friends at the Mississippi Department of Revenue and Mississippi State University. Delta Council and Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation will continue to work together to impact other opportunities to equalize Mississippi property taxes with our surrounding states.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
June 2, 2023

