

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Stokes planning board recommends 6-month moratorium on data center project.

NEWS, A3



Wake's basketball coach suffered a health scare this spring that landed him in a hospital.

SPORTS, D1

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WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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HOMEOWNERS' TAX BURDEN



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL

New home construction at Garmen Homes' Havenbrooke subdivision off Pumpkin Ridge and Bethel Church roads in Kernersville.

What you owe in property taxes depends on where you live

JOHN DEEM
Staff Writer

For the second straight year, property owners across Forsyth County are being hit with local tax increases.

The impact isn't nearly as severe as in 2025, when a county-wide reassessment contributed to spikes of between 35% and 50% in combined municipal and county property taxes for owners of a median-valued Forsyth home.

Because overall residential assessments increased at a higher rate than commercial properties last year, homeowners were hit especially hard, even though the Winston-Salem City Council and the Forsyth County Commissioners significantly reduced their respective tax rates.

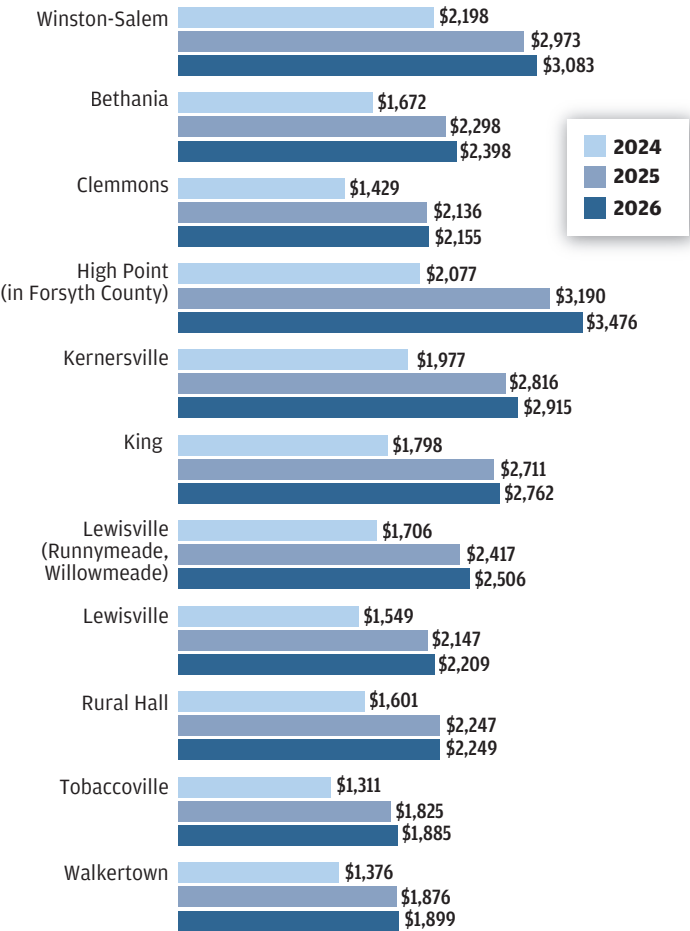
For 2026, combined property tax increases range from a fraction of 1% in Rural Hall to 4.35% in Bethania (which has a budget of less than half a million dollars), according to calculations based on data from the Forsyth County Tax Office.

The median value of a Forsyth home is \$269,700, the tax office said.

Property owners in Winston-Salem, Bethania, Clemmons, Kernersville, King, Lewisville, Rural Hall, Tobaccoville and Walkertown pay both municipal and county taxes. They are assessed at the same rate by the county: 67.76 cents per \$100 in value.

Municipal tax rates – which reflect the services cities and towns provide – vary widely, however. They range from 5 cents per \$100 in value in Tobaccoville

Combined Forsyth and city taxes on median-valued homes



Lee Enterprises graphic

to 72.5 cents per \$100 in Winston-Salem.

That means the owner of a median-priced Forsyth house in Winston-Salem will pay 10 times more in city taxes than a comparable homeowner in Tobaccoville, who will have an annual bill of

about \$134.

However, both homeowners will pay about \$1,500 in county property taxes.

Excluding High Point, a small section of which is in Forsyth,

Please see TAXES, Page A4

Report shows shift in enrollment

Homeschool and private school enrollment grew in Forsyth while WS/FCS continues to lose students

LISA O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

Student enrollment in homeschools and private schools inched upward in Forsyth County in the most recent school year, according to new data.

According to a report from the state's Division of Non-Public Schools, an estimated 5,989 students were enrolled in homeschools in Forsyth County, a 3.8% jump from 2024-25. Statewide, homeschool enrollment dropped from an estimated 165,243 in 2024-25 to 152,897 students last year, making the county an outlier.

As for private school enrollment, 6,249 students were enrolled in the county's private schools in 2025-26, up 2.7% from 2024-25.

Fueled by the explosive growth of taxpayer-funded vouchers, statewide private school enrollment grew 6% to 143,998 students.

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There's plenty of water, so why conserve?

Expert explains Winston-Salem's water system, drought

The headline was, at least for me, jarring.

"Winston-Salem asks residents to voluntarily conserve water amid drought."

Not because I haven't noticed that it's been galactically hot or that we are, in fact, in the throes of a drought.

Rather, it's because I'm aware of something that everyone who's ever

stroked a check to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utilities should know, too.

We've got plenty of water, more than we could want (or need) even at the depths of an arid summer.

And if, God forbid, a prolonged drought

threatened Forsyth County's water supply even a little, local officials could ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release tens of millions of gallons from Kerr Scott Reservoir into the mighty Yadkin.

Because the city owns the top 30 feet of the 1,475-acre reservoir.

So why then are local officials asking residents to conserve voluntarily?

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State Health Plan brings back Blue Cross NC, approves Novant and UNC Health deals.

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Weather

Thunderstorms

High: 83 Low: 71

Forecast: B6

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