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Where do our tax dollars go?

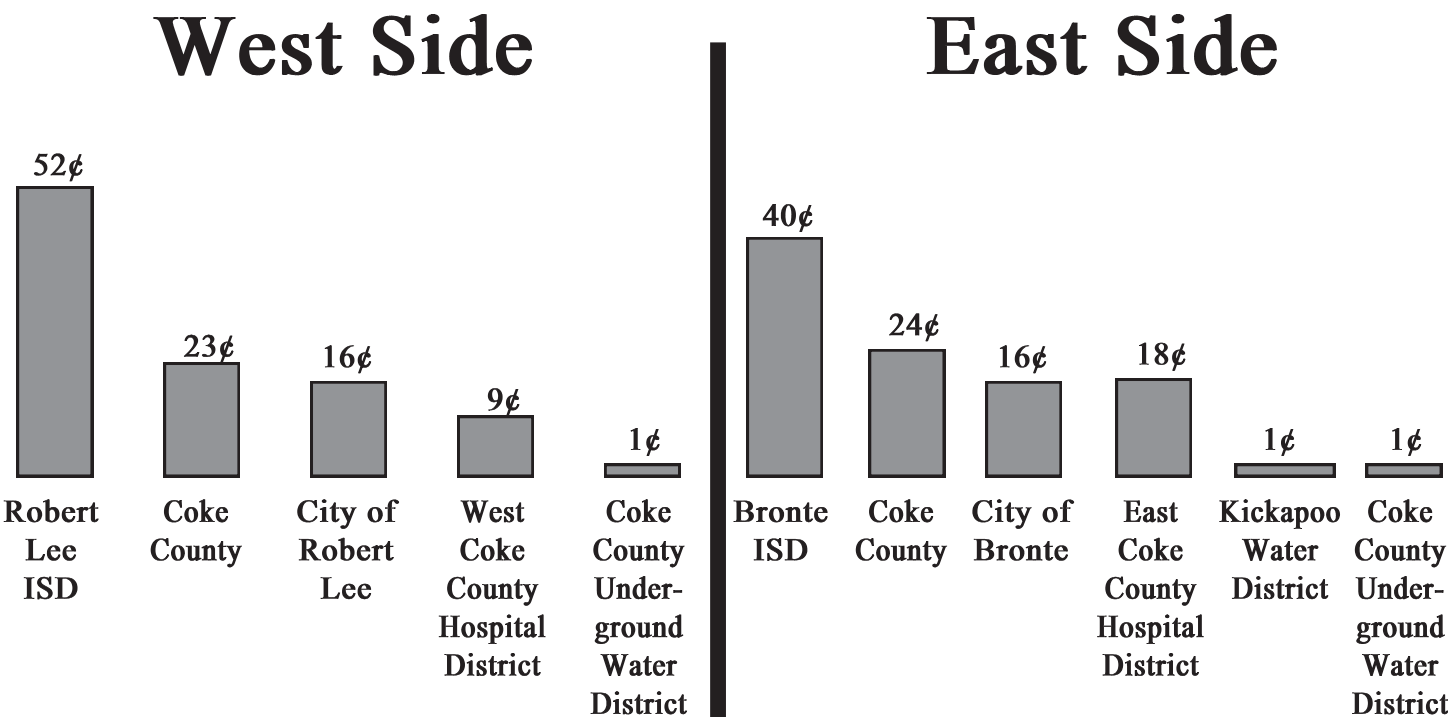
Every fall, property owners receive a statement in the mail notifying them of the amount due for their property taxes for that year. To avoid penalties, they must make a check out for the total amount due to Josie Dean, Coke County Tax Assessor/Collector by January 31 of the following year. What is often not considered is that, although the check is made out to Coke County, Coke County is not the recipient of the entire amount. In fact, less than a quarter of the taxes paid in Coke County actually go into the county's budget. In fact, of the \$6,602,066 levied for tax year 2016, only \$1,260,656 went to Coke County's General Fund, with another \$380,650 earmarked for Road & Bridge. The remaining \$4,960,760 was distributed to the other taxing entities in the county.

The county's school districts claim the largest percentage of each side's tax dollar-Robert Lee ISD at .52 or Bronte ISD at .40 of every property tax dollar paid in Coke County.

The cities of Bronte and Robert Lee each claim 16 cents of every property tax dollar paid by those owners of property within their city limits.

The Hospital Districts on each side vary in their tax rates. West Coke County Hospital District receives approximately 9 cents of every property tax dollar paid by a west side owner. East Coke County Hospital District receives approximately .18 of every dollar paid by an east owner. The table on page 3 of this issue containing the valuations within each taxing district will help explain the disparity in these rates. This chart looks at the total taxable values of each entity for the last four years. It shows the percentage increase or decrease each entity has experienced in the last four years.. On this chart, Coke County is broken down by Coke County General and Coke County FMFC (Farm to Market, Flood Control-explained as commissioner's funds). Also Robert Lee ISD is broken down as RLISD Maintenance and Operations and RLISD Interest and Sinking Fund. The Interest and Sinking fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax

Breakdown of Property Tax Dollar



The West Side table is based upon a combined tax rate of 2.822555.

The East Side table is based upon a combined rate of 2.627804.

All figures were rounded to nearest decimal and based upon last year's tax rates.

Not every Coke County resident lives within a city and pays city taxes. Some residents who live in Coke County pay school taxes to Water Valley ISD or Blackwell Cisd instead of Bronte ISD or Robert Lee ISD. Also, a few Coke County taxpayers live within the Blackwell city limits and pay taxes to the City of Blackwell.

Only property owners pay the taxes which support our schools, cities, county, nursing homes, and water districts. People who live in a rental property and do not own real property within the county do not directly contribute to the support of these local entities. In addition to property taxes, the cities receive a rebate from the state on sales tax collected within their borders and the schools receive additional state and federal funding.

rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of Robert Lee ISD.

Every property taxpayer in Coke County gives a portion of a penny to the Coke County Underground Water District. East side taxpayers also give a larger portion of a penny to the Kickapoo Water District.

Every August, each entity has to review the valuations (value of the property to be taxed) and set a tax rate. This will determine how much money they will have for their budget year. They have the option to lower the rate, leave it the same, take the effective rate (the rate that would give them the same total taxes as the year before), or increase the rate. However if they set a rate too high, the taxpayers can start rollback procedures and force a lower

rate.

This year, like the last few years, most taxing entities are having to deal with substantial losses in their taxable evaluations. A portion of these losses can be attributed to the fluctuation of the oil industry.

Beginning now is a description of the responsibilities and/or the purpose for each entity. Below each description is the amount of the 2016 taxes levied.

Coke County Underground Water District and Kickapoo Water District

All groundwater conservation districts try to maintain a balance between rights of private landowners and the responsibility to protect the water resource. Most districts direct their efforts toward preventing waste, collecting

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WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Friday, March 3 Eagle Relays High School Track Meet, Sterling City
- Sunday, March 5 Robert Lee VFD Fish Fry, noon - 6 pm (or until they run out!), Robert Lee Rec Hall
- Monday, March 6 Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, 6 pm, First Baptist Church, Bronte ***** Bronte Evening Lions Club Meeting, 7 pm, First United Methodist Church, Bronte
- Tuesday, March 7 Red Hat Society Meeting, 11 am - 1 pm, First Baptist Church, Ballinger ***** Robert Lee-Silver Lions Club Meeting, 6:30 am, Victory Assembly of God
- Thursday, March 9 Rasco Memorial Ribbon Relays Junior High Track Meet, Robert Lee ***** Bronte City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Bronte City Hall
- Friday, March 10 Kenneth Rasco Memorial High School Track Meet, Robert Lee

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