



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

2025 Budget Adoption

May 28, 2025

Municipal Increase / Home Value

TAX RATE/TAX INCREASE IMPACT

MUNICIPAL TAX RATE		PROPERTY VALUES	
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>Avg Assessed Household</u>	<u>Local Tax</u>
2024	.464	\$437,472	\$2,033
2025	.483	\$439,233	\$2,123
INCREASE			\$90

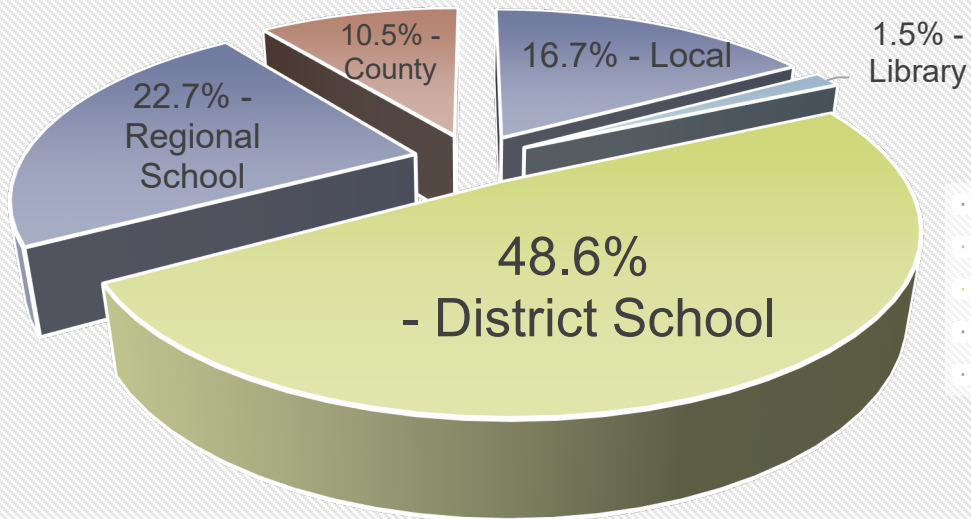
BUDGET ANALYSIS

- 2025 Avg Assessed Household local tax increase:
\$7.50 per month (\$90/year)

Major increase factors (compared to 2024):

- Capital Improvement Fund – Roads, DPW Salt Dome Roof, DPW Truck, Court Computer Upgrade - Increase of \$390,000 (75% increase)
- Union Contracts (Police, DPW) - Increase of \$179,500 for S&W (3.3% increase)
- Public Library – State Determined - Increase of \$108,000 (8.7% increase)

Your Tax \$\$s Distributed



Local Tax	16.7%
Library Tax	1.5%
District School Tax	48.6%
Regional School Tax	22.7%
County Tax	10.5%

***Estimated 2% Tax Increase for Schools and County**

2025 – Next Steps

Capital Planning and Debt Strategy

- Capital Planning for municipal infrastructure, including roads, parks, buildings, etc
- Capital Planning for OEM – fire companies and first aid squad, including vehicles, equipment, gear, etc.
- Developing a long-term debt strategy for capital projects
 - Responsibility of administrator and committee
 - Analyze current debt, bond maturity, and converting short-term debt to long-term debt
- Planning time frame – June and July, 2025

2026 and Beyond

Employee Health Insurance

- Current township plan – State Health Benefits Program

According to NJ Government Finance Officer's Association:

The Plan's very high actuarial values, a depleted and now insolvent Claims Stabilization Reserve, and a static governance structure have created a self-reinforcing loop of premium increases and employer exits - what actuaries commonly refer to as a death spiral."

- Possible 2026 premium increase – 25% to 35%

2026 and Beyond

Employee Health Insurance (cont.)

- Township's response: Leave SHBP and join the Central Jersey Health Insurance Fund, effective 7/1/25
- Switching from Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield to Aetna
 - Same as or better than coverage for same offered health care plans.

2026 and Beyond

Employee Health Insurance (cont.)

- Township's response: Leave SHBP and join the Central Jersey Health Insurance Fund, effective 7/1/25
- Switching from Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield to Aetna
 - Same as or better than coverage for same offered health care plans
- Estimated savings for township and employees:
 - 7/1/25 to 12/31/25 - \$44,000
 - 1/1/26 to 12/31/26 - \$374,000