

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Where your local taxes go

President Trump last week proposed a \$4.8 trillion budget that includes a deficit of nearly \$1 trillion. The Congressional Budget Office projected last month that deficits will top \$1 trillion annually for the next 10 years, reaching \$1.7 trillion in 2030.

As a result of past deficits, the federal debt is almost \$22 trillion already.

It's nice to be Congress, where you

don't have to balance the budget.

Just borrow money, and keep borrowing annually. Paying it all back years from now will be someone else's problem.

State and local governments don't have that luxury.



Commentary by  
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Pottstown government spending		
2020		
Pottstown School District	\$64,284,813,67	62%
Pottstown Borough:		
Sewer fund	\$9,407,992	9%
Police	\$8,221,053	8%
Water fund	\$7,247,916	7%
Trash fund	\$3,160,929	3%
Pensions	\$1,985,581	2%
Fire fund	\$1,717,294	1.7%
Administration & misc.	\$1,460,743	1.4%
Street repairs fund	\$1,163,000	1.1%
Parks	\$1,003,476	1%
Licensing, inspections	\$815,155	.8%
Sewer lines fund	\$751,847	.7%
Water capital fund	\$537,000	.5%
Public works	\$529,879	.5%
Sewer capital fund	\$515,000	.5%
Street lighting fund	\$259,870	.25%
Debt service fund	\$260,000	.25%
Airport	\$182,098	.2%
Library	\$177,062	.2%
Parking Lots	\$84,368	.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$103,765,076</b>	<b>100%</b>

The constitution requires them to pass a balanced budget every year, although a lot of creative accounting is often used to reach that goal.

As the pie chart shows, most of our tax dollars — about 85 percent — go for state and federal spending.

Most of it covers Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and defense.

We can express our views to our representatives in Congress and the state legislature, but we in Pottstown don't have any significant influence over that spending.

But we do have a voice locally.

The chart at left shows what services Pottstown taxpayers receive for their money. These services — borough and school district — have a significant impact on everyone's quality of life.

The traditional media and social media focus most of their attention on federal issues, but many vitally important decisions are made right here in our back yard.

