

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Taxes: state and local

On Tuesday, we pointed out that Americans pay less of their total economic output to the government than any industrialized country.

The federal government collects 61 percent of all tax revenues. The lion's share of these funds go for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, interest on the national debt, and the military.

State governments collect, on average, about 28 percent of all tax revenues.

As the chart at bottom shows, the lion's share of state funds go for education, Medicaid, and pensions for



Commentary by
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Pottstown government spending		
2018		
Pottstown School District	\$62,677,927	61%
Pottstown Borough:		
Sewer fund	\$11,622,875	11%
Water fund	\$6,883,896	6.7%
Police	\$5,975,959	5.8%
Trash fund	\$2,957,135	2.9%
Administration & misc.	\$2,306,909	2.2%
Employee health benefits	\$2,544,488	2.5%
Fire fund	\$1,742,638	1.7%
Pensions	\$1,409,160	1.4%
Parks	\$907,882	1%
Street repairs fund	\$628,500	.6%
Public works	\$727,157	.7%
Licensing, inspections	\$527,744	.5%
Sewer lines fund	\$622,234	.6%
Street lighting fund	\$258,966	.25%
Debt service fund	\$307,137	.3%
Airport	\$165,053	.2%
Library	\$183,675	.2%
Parking Lots	\$86,201	.01%
TOTAL	\$102,535,536	100%

gov - ernment employees.

Local governments collect about 11 percent of all tax revenues.

As the education community frequently points out, Pennsylvania pays a smaller share of K-12 education than most states, forcing local school districts to carry 60 percent of the total cost, on average.

The chart at left shows what services Pottstown taxpayers receive for their money.

Unless you are poor or elderly (or both) these local services affect you far more than state and federal government programs.

Pottstown government — borough and school district — has an enormous 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.

