

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Where your local taxes go

Last month, Pottstown Council voted to advertise a 2021 budget which requires a 3.5 percent tax increase.

The Pottstown School Board also voted last month for a possible 2021-2022 tax increase, not to exceed 4.4 percent, to be decided next June.

Pottstown local government services cost a lot of money: About \$109 million will be spent next year, not including federally funded bus service and grants received.

According to data collected by the state Department of Education, Pottstown has the seventh highest local tax effort of 500 school districts in Pennsylvania.

While there is no comparable statewide data for Pottstown Borough, we do know Pottstown has the second highest real estate taxes of Montgomery County's 62 municipalities (only Norristown is higher).

The lion's share of Pottstown spending — 60 per cent — goes to educate about 3,400 children and youth aged 4 to 18 (up to 21 for special education students).

A student only needs a legal Pottstown address to receive a free education.

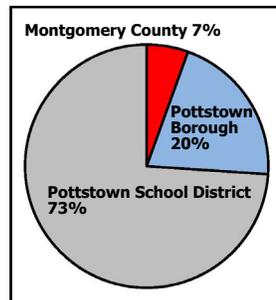


Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

Pottstown government spending		
2021		
Pottstown School District	\$65,413,614	60%
Pottstown Borough:		
Sewer fund	\$9,993,519	9%
Police	\$8,252,797	7.6%
Water fund	\$7,302,732	6.7%
Trash fund	\$3,388,502	3%
Pensions	\$3,126,832	2.9%
Water capital fund	\$2,415,263	2%
Fire fund	\$1,632,071	1.5%
Administration & misc.	\$1,496,859	1.4%
Sewer capital fund	\$1,085,855	1%
Street repairs fund	\$1,081,576	1%
Parks	\$1,021,340	1%
Licensing, inspections	\$782,296	.7%
Sewer lines fund	\$582,132	.5%
Public works	\$588,176	.5%
Street lighting fund	\$254,264	.2%
Airport	\$207,273	.2%
Library	\$172,939	.16%
Parking Lots	\$102,455	.1%
Debt service fund	\$41,471	.04%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$108,941,966</b>	<b>100%</b>
Pottstown area transit (federally funded)	\$2,404,497	
Grants received but not yet spent	\$2,908,447	

Of course, once students graduate or otherwise leave school, we have no idea how many are going to stay in Pottstown and contribute to the community.

Other government services benefit all residents.



**The Pottstown School district collects 73 percent of the real estate taxes in Pottstown.**

**Pottstown property owners also pay annual fees for trash collection, water and sewer service**

Trash	\$2,771,592
Water Sewer	\$12,289,750

**Pottstown workers also pay a 1 percent earned income tax split between the borough and school district, and a \$52 local services tax which goes to the borough.**