

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Where your local taxes go

Pottstown Council has voted to advertise a 2022 budget that calls for a 4 percent tax increase. The actual increase may be lower in the final vote to be taken next week.

The Pottstown School Board voted last month for a possible 2022-2023 tax increase not to exceed 5 percent, to be decided next June.

Pottstown local government services cost a lot of money: About \$111 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 sixth 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 — 59 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.

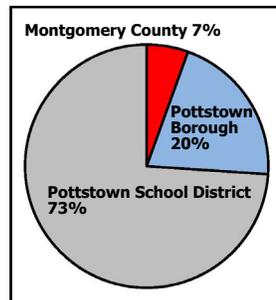
Of course, once students graduate or otherwise leave school, we have no idea how many are going to stay in Pottstown and contribute to the community.

Other government services benefit all residents.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

Pottstown government spending 2021-2022		
Pottstown School District	\$66,009,312	59%
Pottstown Borough:		
Sewer fund	\$9,267,382	8.3%
Police	\$8,441,467	7.6%
Water fund	\$8,156,750	7.3%
Trash fund	\$3,485,218	3%
Water capital fund	\$2,497,500	2.2%
Administration & misc.	\$2,253,297	2%
Fire fund	\$2,043,692	1.8%
Pensions	\$2,012,232	1.8%
Sewer capital fund	\$1,778,500	1.6%
Debt service fund	\$241,690	1%
Street repairs fund	\$1,010,000	.9%
Parks	\$979,747	.8%
Licensing, inspections	\$822,301	.7%
Sewer lines fund	\$605,378	.5%
Public works	\$641,446	.5%
Street lighting fund	\$368,121	.3%
Airport	\$234,245	.2%
Library	\$172,669	.1%
Parking Lots	\$58,853	.05%
TOTAL	\$111,079,000	100%
Pottstown area transit (federally funded)	\$3,506,120	
Grants received but not yet spent	\$12,182,662	



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

Annual fees for trash collection and water/sewer service are billed separately from real estate taxes

Trash	\$3,485,218
Water Sewer	\$12,215,615

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.