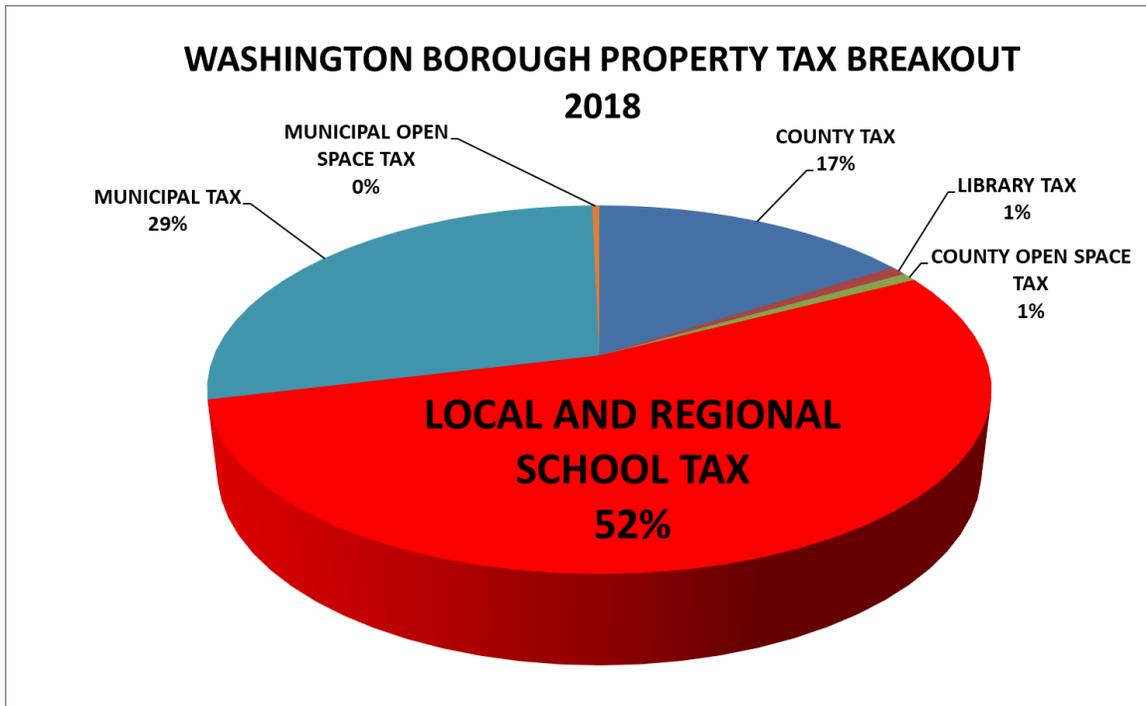


## YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR 2018

The Mayor and Council were pleased to be able to hold the local portion of the property tax to **under 1.5%** for 2018. This represents the first increase after **five years of no growth** in the municipal portion of the property tax. **It is also worth noting that the municipal portion of the property tax bill only represents 29% of the overall total. This means that out of every dollar of the local property tax bill, only \$0.29 cents goes to the Borough of Washington while the remaining \$0.71 cents are divided among the local and regional school districts, public library, open space, and the County of Warren.** However, the Borough does have control over the sanitary sewer rate which was able to be held at \$148.50 per month per equivalent dwelling unit during 2018. This rate actually saw a slight reduction in 2016. While the Borough was able to hold the line from 2013 to 2018 on a local property tax increase, the cost of everything from fuel, paper, salt, and blacktop to labor, healthcare, and insurance continued to rise, infrastructure continued to age and deteriorate and burdensome regulations and mandates continued to be handed down from Trenton and Washington. Though every effort is made by the Borough to mitigate these rising costs through cooperative purchasing and shared service agreements, eventually increases are necessitated in lieu of cutting services.



With regard to services, as many residents may be aware, Washington Borough is one of only a handful of municipalities in Warren County that provides weekly trash and recycling pickup, seasonal vegetative waste pickup, and biannual bulk pickup to residents. Many Warren County municipalities have never offered trash pickup while others have phased it out in recent years, shifting the cost directly to residents. Solid waste hauling and disposal services represent nearly 10% of the overall discretionary municipal other expenses budget on average and are a major cost driver of the municipal portion of local property taxes, but residents have been clear on this issue and the Borough remains committed to not only continuing the level of service at a reasonable cost, but also finding ways to increase the level of service. Specifically, the most recent solid waste contract expanded vegetative waste collection from the first Tuesday in April to the third Tuesday in December as well as bulk pickup from one pickup per year to two.

With regard to capital expenditures, the Borough continues to find innovative solutions and methods to solving potentially costly problems, including replacing an aging and antiquated analog phone system with a cloud-based voice-over-IP phone system that provides much greater capability, and taking advantage of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) offered through FEMA/NJOEM. This grant paid for a 150 kilowatt emergency generator for Borough Hall and the Washington Fire Department.

Road paving and reconstruction is of course an ongoing project in the Borough, and after many years Grand Avenue will be completely reconstructed including curbs and sidewalk. This \$1 million capital project has been badly needed and could not be put off any longer. In addition, North Prospect Street from Washington Avenue to Carlton Avenue will be repaved utilizing a New Jersey Department of Transportation grant which will cover 75% of the cost of the total project. In addition to roads, sewer infrastructure was upgraded as well with a new pump station installed at South Prospect Street which will improve flow from the area of South Prospect Street, West Marble Street, and Gardners Court.

There is much work ahead in 2018 and beyond, but a variety of dedicated volunteers, professionals, and full and part-time employees are working hard on behalf of the residents of the Borough of Washington and we remain dedicated to providing the highest level of service at the lowest cost possible.

# **Borough of Washington Bulk Pickup-Commonly Asked Questions:**

**When is Bulk Pick up?** – Friday, Sept 21, 2018

**When can I put items at the curb?** – After 6:00 a.m. Thursday, September 20, 2018. Items placed curbside prior to that time may receive a warning or a summons.

**Do I need a sticker?** – Yes. One sticker per 500 lbs of waste.

**How much does a sticker cost?** – The first sticker is free. Additional stickers may be purchased for \$25 each.

**How do I get a sticker?** – Stickers can be picked up at Washington Borough Hall, 100 Belvidere Avenue. You must show proof of residency using a Driver’s license, utility bill, etc.

Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 12 noon and 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm until Tues, Sept 18.

Council Meeting Nights – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – See schedule at:

[http://www.washingtonboro-nj.gov/council\\_agen\\_min.html](http://www.washingtonboro-nj.gov/council_agen_min.html)

**When is the last day I can pick up a sticker?** – Tuesday, September 18, 2018 from 8:30 am to 8:00 p.m.

**I bought an extra sticker but didn’t use it. Can I get my money back?** – Yes. Bring the sticker to Washington Borough Hall to be redeemed on or before Wednesday, November 21, 2018.

**Where does the sticker go?** - Put the sticker on an item you do not expect to be “scavenged” such as broken furniture, rolled carpeting or a mattress. Make sure it can be seen easily by the waste haulers.

**Should I put small items in a bag or a box?** – NO – NO bags or boxes will be picked up. Put small items in with your regular garbage pickup.

**They didn’t pick my stuff up. What do I do?** – First check to see if your item(s) are in the “Yes, we can pick up” list or the “NO-We cannot pick up” list. If they are on the **NO** list you will need to dispose of them yourself. If they are on the **YES** list did you put your sticker where it could be seen easily? Was the item with the sticker on it taken? Contact Washington Borough Hall to confirm your address was recorded properly and arrangements will be made with the garbage vendor to pick up the items.

## **YES - We Can Pick Up:**

Stoves	Washing Machines	Dryers	Water Heaters
Sofas	Chairs	Furniture	Lamps
Vacuum Cleaners	Mattresses	Box Springs	Plastic Outdoor Toys
Carpeting – cut into 4 ft sections, rolled up and tied.	Outdoor furniture		
Exercise Equipment	Gas Grill – Propane Tank MUST BE REMOVED		Charcoal Grill- all coals and ash removed

**\*This is not a complete list of acceptable items. Please contact Washington Borough Hall with questions.**

## **NO – We Cannot Pick Up:**

Refrigerators	Air Conditioners	Freezers	Tires	Batteries
Windows	Toilets	Sinks	Televisions	Computers
Swimming Pools	Fluorescent lights	Tree Stumps	Branches	Auto Parts
Bagged items	Cardboard	Packing material		Wood Fencing
Wooden Playsets	Propane Tanks			
Building/Construction Waste (sheetrock, plywood, lumber)				
Hazardous Material – Oil, Antifreeze, Driveway sealer, Paint, Insecticide or other chemicals				

**\*This is not a complete list of excluded items. Please contact Washington Borough Hall with questions.**

The Warren County P.C.F.A. will accept some of these items for a fee. Others may be dropped off at special collection events during the year. Contact P.C.F.A. for more information. 500 Mount Pisgah Avenue, Oxford · (908) 475-8918

- Some Auto Parts stores and Auto Repair shops will accept tires, used oil, antifreeze and/or batteries for a fee.
- Branches up to 4” in diameter can be put out for chipping twice a year. Please check the garbage and recycling calendar.

**MORE QUESTIONS? CALL (908) 689-3600 x119**