



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

445 LAFAYETTE AVENUE, HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY 07506-2551
(TEL) 973-427-1168 (FAX) 973-427-2320

Mayor

Richard S. Goldberg

July 12, 2019

Dear Resident,

Once again, my administration has worked closely with the Borough Council to produce a fiscally-responsible budget with a modest tax increase. I am pleased to announce that the 2019 tax increase of 1.9% for municipal services, including the library, is the fourth consecutive year that the increase has been below 2%. For the average homeowner, it amounts to \$43 more as compared to last year.

The municipal portion of the tax bill, including the amount for the library, represents the smallest share of the total, just 21.4%. Passaic County accounts for 24.9% of the total, and the local schools, 53.7%.

A grant of \$50,000 from the Columbia Bank Foundation plus another \$50,000 Open Space Grant from the Passaic County Freeholders provided most of the funding needed to install a new surface on the municipal tennis courts which were made ready for use this spring. At the adjacent municipal pool, improvements, including bathroom upgrades, a larger slide, and canopies by the kiddie pool, were completed for the 2019 season with input from an advisory committee composed of pool patrons. Unfortunately this year our open space application was denied. Only Hawthorne and Totowa were denied open space money. By the way, we pay approximately \$230,000 a year to the open space fund. So, in the last two years our payment of almost a half million dollars yielded \$50,000 last year and nothing this year.

Phase II of the downtown streetscape project was also completed this summer with the installation of stamped concrete sidewalks on Lafayette Avenue where new decorative streetlights were installed during Phase I, as we continue to improve the appearance of our central business district. This was done without a grant from the DOT, and yes, they turned down our request for Phase III.

This year's budget provides funds to purchase a new tower truck for Fire Company #2. The Borough's responsible financial practices resulted in a bond rating of Aa2 from Moody's and an interest rate of just 2.063% when we sold bonds to finance this purchase and other capital projects.

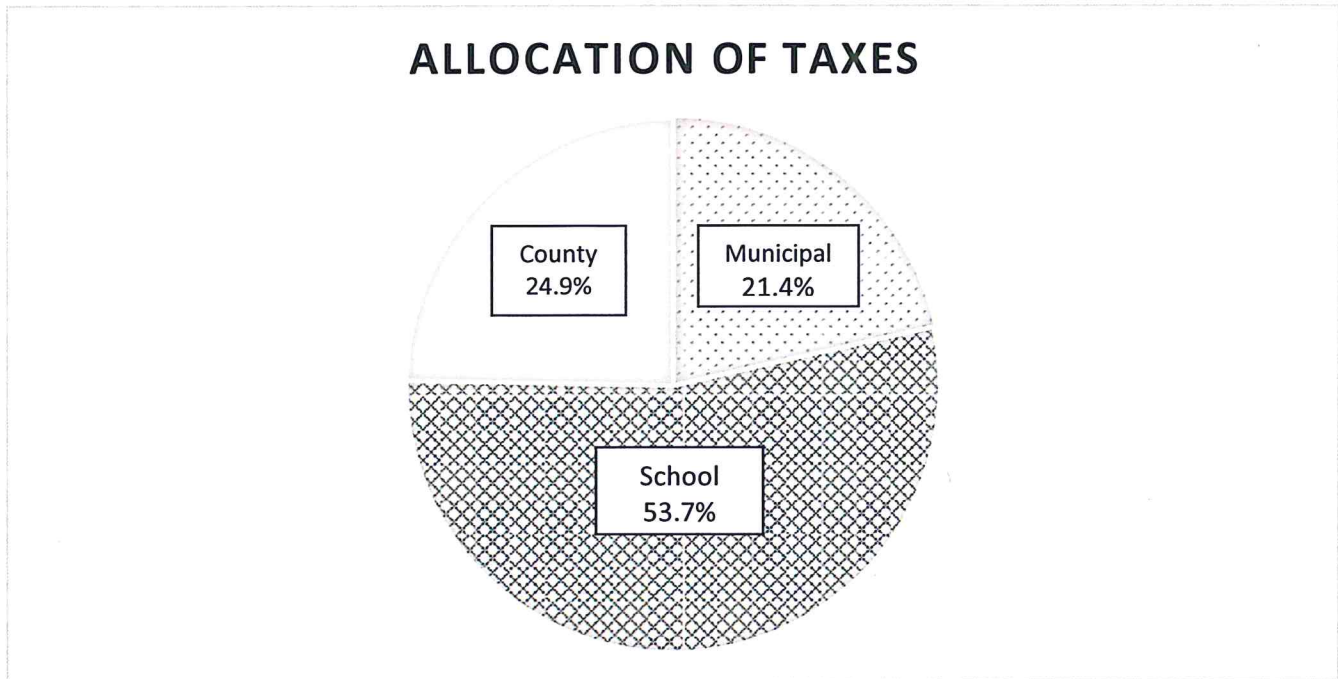
Appraisal Systems, Inc. has been hired by the Borough to conduct a property tax revaluation as mandated by the Passaic County Board of Taxation that will go into effect in 2020. Your cooperation allowing the company's field personnel to make inspections will help ensure that your property is valued properly. A revaluation does not increase taxes, but could alter the share paid by individual taxpayers.

My staff and I are committed to improved service and communication and look forward to serving our residents. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Goldberg
Mayor

YOUR 2019 TAXES AND HOW THEY'RE SPENT



WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MUNICIPAL TAX DOLLARS:

- Police
- Library
- Garbage, Recycling, Yard Waste & Leaf Pick-up
- Sewer Service
- Roads: Cleaning, Snow Plowing, Traffic Lights, Street Lights & Shade Trees
- Budget Supports Volunteer Fire & Ambulance Services
- Recreation: Pool, Summer Recreation, Youth Sports & Adult Senior Bus Trips
- Zoning & Code Enforcement