

WHAT IS COUNTY GOVERNMENT?

New York State, like other states around the nation, established its county system of government as a way to deliver services more efficiently on a grassroots basis. There are 3,069 counties in the United States. Only Connecticut and Rhode Island have no functioning county governments. All county governments are led by an elected body. Westchester, one of New York State's original ten counties, was first led by the Board of Justices which convened for the first time on November 1, 1683. The legislature then became the Board of Supervisors and is now called the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

The 17-member County Board is the lawmaking branch of county government. It sets policies that protect and serve Westchester's nearly one million residents, and allocates the money needed to operate county programs and services. It has oversight responsibility of the executive branch, which was created in 1939 to carry out its policies. Each County Legislator, elected to a two-year term, represents a district of about 50,000 residents.

Westchester County's Budget

Two-thirds of Westchester County's financial obligations go toward funding federal and state mandated services and programs, some of which are entirely funded by New York State, but Medicaid and significant portions of other programs are shifted from the State to Westchester County for funding though-delete. The Westchester County Board of Legislators approves the remaining one-third of the discretionary spending in the County Budget. (See the back page for a breakdown of mandated and discretionary spending for services and programs.)

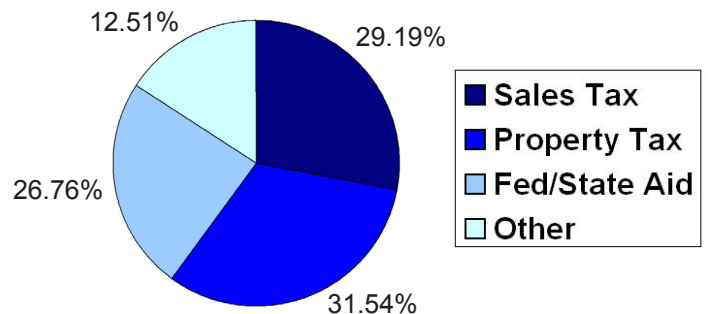
WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?

Contrary to popular perception, county services do not account for a large piece of the property tax dollar.

17.5¢ County
17.5¢ Local Gov't/
Special Districts
65¢ Schools



SOURCES OF COUNTY REVENUE



County/Town Revenue Sharing

Counties, unlike the State and some cities around NY, collect no income taxes. Westchester shares over \$109 million of its sales tax revenues with towns and school districts.

Citizen involvement is critical to the success of county government.

County government belongs to the people of Westchester. The legislative process is open, transparent and accessible to all Westchester residents. County Board and Committee meeting calendars and agendas are posted on the Board's Web site at www.westchesterlegislators.com. Your County Legislators have been the voice of the people of Westchester for 330 years. To best represent your interests and ensure your voice is heard, the legislators need to hear from you.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY DO?

About two-thirds of the County's operating budget goes toward paying for services mandated by the State. County government provides a regional, cost-effective solution for delivering services that local municipalities would have to otherwise provide and fund through property taxes. **The bottom-line: county government offers efficiencies that save taxpayer dollars.**

Social Services (\$560.0 M)

- Medicaid
- Child Protective Services
- Child Support Enforcement
- Family Emergency Assistance
- Housing Placement
- Homeless Services

Public Health (\$153.1 M)

- Communicable Disease Control
- Environmental & Community Health
- Early Intervention
- Inspections: restaurants, hotels, day camps, water, solid waste systems
- Public Health Laboratories

Correction (\$128.5 M)

- County Jail
- Penitentiary

County Sales Tax Distribution (\$109.6 M)

- Municipalities (\$76.7 M)
- School Districts (\$32.9 M)

Probation (\$26.3 M)

- Family and Criminal Court

District Attorney (\$28.3 M)

- Prosecutions
- Special Bureaus: Narcotics; Gang & Gun; Stop DWI
- High Tech Crime
- Environmental Crimes
- Domestic Violence Bias Crimes;
- Child Abuse
- Economic Crimes

Indigent Defense (\$13.0 M)

- Felony
- Misdemeanor

MTA Surcharge (\$27.5 M)

MTA Mobility Tax (\$1.3 M)

County Clerk (\$7.5 M)

- Land Records
- Legal Documents
- Passports
- UCC filings

NYS Court Facilities (\$19.6 M)

Board of Elections (\$15.1 M)

- Voter Registration
- ALL county, village, water, fire, library & school district elections

Westchester Community College (\$28.8 M)

Pension (\$58.6 M)

FED/STATE MANDATED

\$1.177 BILLION

NON-MANDATED

\$562 MILLION

About one-third of the County's operating budget goes toward funding non-mandated or discretionary services.

Public Works / Transportation (\$131.4 M)

- Bee Line Bus System
- Infrastructure

Parks, Recreation & Conservation (\$48.0 M)

- 17 parks; 6 golf courses; 5 conservation areas
- 18,000 acres of open space
- Rye Playland
- Westchester County Center
- New ballfields
- Historic Sites
- Bronx River Conservancy

Public Safety (\$41.2 M)

- Highway patrols
- DWI program
- Units: Environmental Security, Bomb Squad, Special Ops., Canine, Aviation, Narcotics; Parkway Patrols
- Training facilities for local depts.

Labs & Research (\$2.7 M)

- Forensics
- Crime Labs

Enrichment (\$4.9 M)

- Cornell Cooperative
- Westchester Library
- Arts
- Tourism
- Westchester Historical Society

Youth Programs (\$2.2 M)

Home & Community Services (\$4.6 M)

- Senior Program
- Consumer Protection

Mental Health (\$7.6 M)

- Case Management
- Depression Help Line
- Substance Abuse; Mental Health Court; Alternatives to Incarceration

Emergency Services (\$7.4 M)

- Special Operations
- HAZMAT Team
- Fire Training Facility
- Bomb Squad
- Arson Unit
- WMD Response
- Emergency Evacuation
- 24/7 county-wide fire & EMS

Planning (\$4.4 M)

- Open Space
- Water Quality
- Land Use-Westchester 2025
- Affordable Housing
- Farm Protection
- Community / Economic Development

Employee Fringe (\$154.4 M)

Administrative, Supportive & Miscellaneous (\$75.1 M)

Debt Service (\$78.4 M)

Environmental Facilities Department

A Consolidated Services Model

- 7 wastewater treatment plants
- 194 miles of sewers
- 4,000 manholes
- 42 pump stations
- Water Filtration Systems
- 4 water districts
- Kensico Dam
- Charles Point Trash Disposal
- Materials Recycling Facility

Please note: Sewer and refuse services are not included in the County's operating budget.

Capital Projects Allowed (\$122,425,088)

Public Works	\$7,810,000
County Clerk	\$175,000
District Attorney	\$453,000
Emergency Services	\$1,880,000
Information Technology	\$10,225,000
Property Acquisition	0
Labs & Research	\$4,423,000
Parking Facilities	\$1,000,000
Planning	\$17,484,000
Public Safety	\$1,246,000
Social Services	\$900,000
Correction	\$5,350,000
Parkways	0
Roads & Bridges	\$36,575,000
Recreational Facilities	\$28,905,000
Transportation	\$5,999,088

NOTE: These numbers are reflective of the 2014 County Budget adopted on Dec. 9, 2013.