

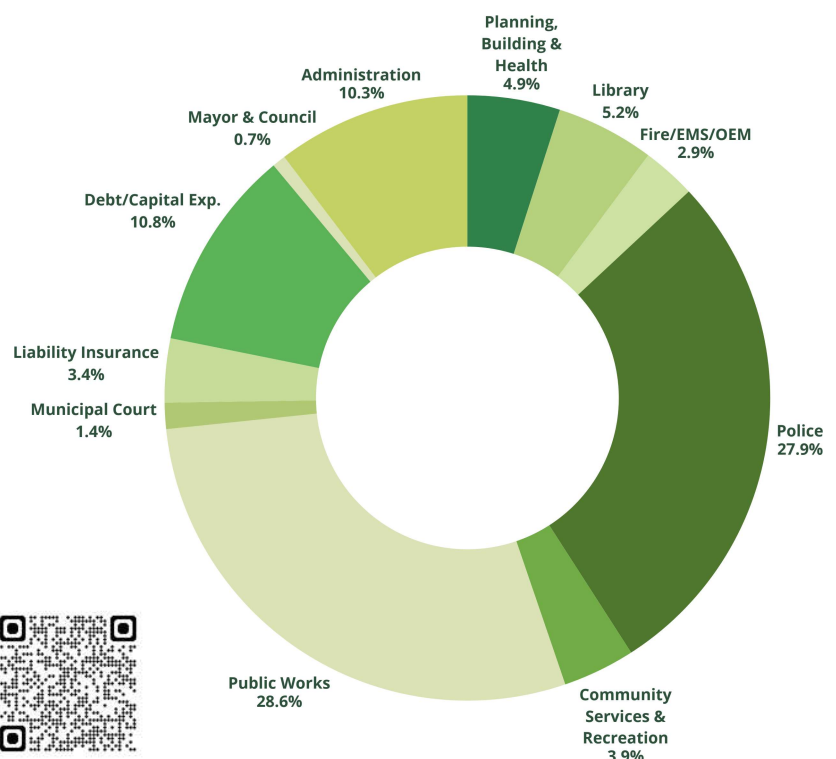
2026 BUDGET

QUARTERLY TAX BILLS

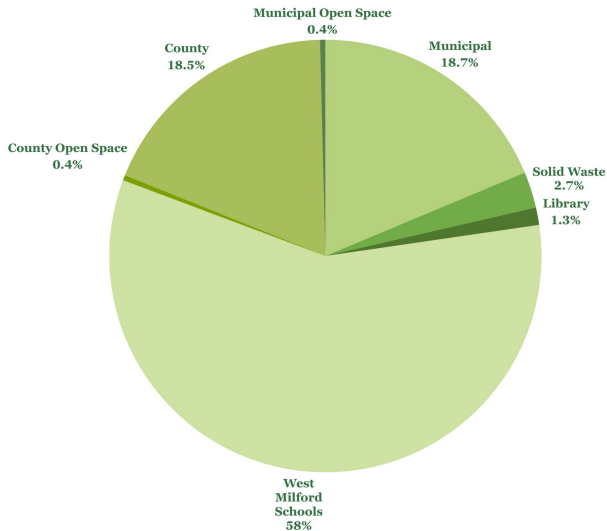
We are pleased to share an overview of the services offered by the Township of West Milford in return for the property taxes and fees collected. Quarterly tax bills are made up of several components. The portions administered by the Mayor and Council include the Municipal, Library, and Solid Waste sections. The two other major components reflect taxes collected by the Township on behalf of West Milford Schools and Passaic County. The chart below illustrates how the Municipal portion of your tax bill will be spent this year. Each expenditure category in the chart is carefully reviewed during the budgeting process to ensure that all planned expenses are essential. A summary of the Solid Waste portion of your tax bill is also included in this flyer and reflects the actual cost of the contracted service.

This year's budget was especially challenging given rising costs, especially with respect to health insurance coverage for Township personnel. An increase in this year's budget was necessary to maintain the quality of existing services. The Mayor and Council remain committed to enhancing services while reducing expenditures to help minimize tax increases. This goal becomes more challenging each year due to the continued streamlining of municipal operations. Nevertheless, the dedication of Township personnel to sound financial management is evident in the fact that the Township's Annual Audit has included no findings requiring corrective action for the past four years. The Township is burdened with many of the same financial challenges faced by each of you, such as the cost of fuel, automobile parts and construction materials. The Township works to minimize these expenses, while continuing to provide the level of services demanded and deserved by its residents.

The 2026 Municipal Budget totals \$41,170,719 with more than 60% allocated to Public Safety and Public Works not including the proportional allocation of capital expenditure debt to those departments. Implemented cost saving measures are offset by the rise in cost of necessary expenses. As shown on the reverse side of this flyer, the Municipal Budget still accounts for less than 19% of your total tax bill, a share that has steadily declined over the past nine years. You can view the full 2026 Municipal Budget by scanning the QR code on the right.



TAX BILL BREAKDOWN



The pie chart to the left and the table below show the breakdown of each component of the property tax bill. The table also illustrates that the percentage of your payment that goes towards the Municipal Budget has steadily decreased through the years.

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Municipal	18.7	18.8	19.3	19.9	20.5	21.0	21.3	21.8	22.0	23.5
Municipal Open Space	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Library	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Solid Waste	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
West Milford Schools	58.0	57.8	57.4	56.2	55.1	55.3	54.7	54.7	53.9	52.3
County	18.5	18.5	18.3	18.9	19.5	19.6	19.8	20.3	21.0	21.1
County Open Space	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTIES

The below chart reflects a steady increase in the percentage of properties that are tax-exempt. The Township has worked to counter this trend by selling vacant land. However, in just the past two years, over \$10 million in assessed value has been removed from the tax roles as there has been a significant increase in the number of homeowners that are veterans and classified as 100% disabled.

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Public Schools	25	25	25	25	25	24	24
Public Property	431	455	467	472	471	454	424
Church & Charities	32	32	32	31	31	31	31
Cemeteries and Graveyards	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Other Exempt	187	171	151	150	150	139	130
TOTAL	683	691	683	686	685	656	617
Percentage of Tax Base	11.39	11.24	11.07	10.90	10.89	10.83	10.16

Tax Levy Increase Impact

The below chart shows the impact of a municipal tax levy increase on the average residential property. For instance, a 1% increase in the municipal tax levy would have cost the average taxpayer \$20.95.

1%	\$235,656	\$20.95
2%	\$471,272	\$41.91
3%	\$706,908	\$62.86
4%	\$942,543	\$83.82
5%	\$1,178,179	\$104.77

SOLID WASTE BUDGET

Budgeted Revenue	2026	2025
Recycling Tonnage Grant	\$70,000	\$100,000
Surplus	\$120,000	\$90,000
Property Taxes	\$3,348,418	\$3,145,496
TOTAL	\$3,538,418	\$3,335,496

The cost of solid waste collection increased in accordance with the 5-year contract awarded last year.

CAPITAL SPENDING PLAN

This year's Capital Budget totals \$4,529,104 with \$2,000,000 dedicated to roadway improvements. The Fire and Police Departments were allocated \$975,000 and \$431,150, respectfully. Road paving and public safety account for over 75% of this year's capital expenditures.

Average Municipal Residential Taxes

\$2,095

Average Residential Property

Assessed Value

\$244,584

2025 Tax Levy

\$23,563,586