

Frequently Asked Questions about Tax Bills

There have been many questions about the recently issued tax bills. Specifically, why did they go up? Was it because of the town wide re-valuation process? No, the re-valuation did not make taxes go up. The table below highlights the tax rate and the amount of taxes raised by component of the tax rate; municipal, county, local education, and state education. The total tax effort for 2019 is \$5,583,652. The municipal portion of that total amount represents 29.71% while local education represents 59% of the total tax effort. In 2020 the municipal portion represents 27.52% and the local education portion represents 61.89%.

2019	Tax Effort	Valuation	Tax Rate	% Total
Municipal	1,658,885	183,338,610	9.05	29.71%
County	229,780	183,338,610	1.25	4.12%
Local Education	3,297,197	183,338,610	17.98	59.05%
State Education	397,790	170,387,410	2.33	7.12%
Total	5,583,652		30.62	100.00%

2020	Tax Effort	Valuation	Tax Rate	% Total
Municipal	1,625,630	239,002,940	6.80	27.52%
County	229,539	239,002,940	0.96	3.89%
Local Education	3,656,300	239,002,940	15.30	61.89%
State Education	396,229	226,451,640	1.75	6.71%
Total	5,907,698		24.81	100.00%

The above table illustrates the tax effort for the most recent tax bill (2020). The total amount raised is \$5,907,698 which is \$359,103 more than 2019. Note that the municipal portion of the total amount represents 27.52% of the total amount of taxes raised, which is a decrease of \$33,255 from 2019.

The table below is a comparison of taxes raised by the components of the tax rate; municipal, county, local education, and state education. As the table illustrates, only the school portion increased while there are slight decreases in the amounts raised for municipal, county, and state education. When expressing the dollar increases in the different tax components as a percentage of the total dollar increase of \$324,046 the only driver of the increase (110.8%) is the local education component. It is the amount of the budget that determines the tax bill and not the tax rate.

	2019	2020	\$ Difference	% Total Increase
Municipal	1,658,885	1,625,630	(33,255)	-10.3%
County	229,780	229,539	(241)	-0.1%
Local Education	3,297,197	3,656,300	359,103	110.8%
State Education	397,790	396,229	(1,561)	-0.5%
	5,583,652	5,907,698	324,046	100.0%