



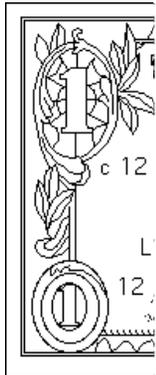
From the Desk of Mayor Andy Skibitsky

September 11, 2016

Dear Neighbor:

Enclosed is your certified property tax statement. Your 4th quarter taxes are due on November 1, 2016 with a ten calendar day grace period.

As a taxpayer myself, I understand how important it is to know how your property tax dollar is distributed. While the Westfield Town government is charged with the responsibility of collecting property taxes, the Town does not keep, nor does it have control over, all that it collects. In fact, to pay for municipal operations, the Town of Westfield only keeps 16.27% of the property taxes it collects. Put another way, less than 17¢ of each dollar collected stays with the Town to provide funding for the numerous statutory functions and municipal services it delivers to its residents and just over 83¢ of every dollar is distributed to and determined by other government entities.



The Town of Westfield keeps just 16.27% of each dollar of the property taxes you pay to provide funding for the numerous statutory functions and municipal services it delivers to its residents.

What municipal services and statutory functions are provided with the municipal portion (16.27%) of your property taxes?

Municipal services, including:

- ✓ police protection
- ✓ firefighting and fire prevention
- ✓ pressurized fire hydrants
- ✓ senior transportation
- ✓ school crossing guards
- ✓ public health services
- ✓ maintenance of 380 roads
- ✓ leaf collection and disposal
- ✓ 10 municipal parks
- ✓ electricity for street lighting
- ✓ snow plowing
- ✓ recreational programs and facilities
- ✓ curbside recycling

- ✓ RVSA (sewage & wastewater)
- ✓ storm water management
- ✓ conservation center
- ✓ town tree maintenance, and

Statutory functions such as:

- ✓ tax collection
- ✓ tax assessment
- ✓ engineering
- ✓ debt service obligations
- ✓ building inspection
- ✓ planning & zoning
- ✓ voting
- ✓ vital statistics
- ✓ municipal court

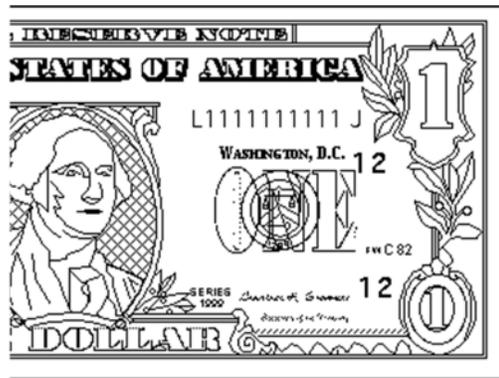
What are the other governmental entities that receive the remaining 83.73% of your property taxes? Please see the reverse side.

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1.49% of the property taxes collected are dedicated to the Westfield Memorial Library. Effective March 21, 2011, the State of New Jersey enacted P.L. 2011, c.38 (S-2068), which transferred the mandatory public library appropriation from being reported as part of the municipal budget to a new and separate line on the certified property tax statement. By state law, the financial management of the Westfield Memorial Library is under the control of the Library Board of Trustees.



24.26% of the property taxes collected are sent to the County of Union. This part of your tax bill is determined and managed by your elected representatives on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The County of Union budget is posted on its website at: <http://ucnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2016-Adopted-Budget.pdf>



57.98% of the property taxes collected are sent to the Westfield School District. This part of your tax bill is determined and managed by your elected representatives on the Westfield Board of Education. The District's budget is posted on its website at: www.westfieldnj12.org

For your review, the 2016 Town of Westfield municipal budget in its entirety (and in the format required by the State of New Jersey) is available for viewing on the Town's website, www.westfieldnj.gov, as is a PowerPoint budget summary presentation which aims to simplify the myriad of government accounting rules and the complexities of the municipal budget process into a more concentrated, understandable format. When reviewing the budget, it is important to keep in mind that it is not just a document dotted with raw numbers – it's about what it takes to fund the municipal services and governmental functions necessary to keep Westfield the great place to live, work and visit that it is! Just today, as I write this, The New York Times published an article about Westfield, highlighting its many highpoints – robust and rising property values, “a vibrant cultural scene”, “attractive homes, well-regarded schools and a sense of community”, the “huge Westfield Memorial Library”, and “a community theater, a movie house, an orchestra, and many other musical and arts events”. Please check out the entire article at <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/11/realestate/westfield-nj-where-small-town-meets-urban.html>.

I realize that it is not possible to address the complexities of municipal budget matters in this space, so I remain available to meet with you during my Saturday morning or evening office hours. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call my office (908-789-4041) and we will be happy to help you.

Thank you, and I hope to see you around town.