

City of Bangor Budget Information Sheet

The City Council budget vote will occur on June 24, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 262 Harlow St.

WHY ARE MY TAXES GOING UP?

The relationship between the tax rate, assessed value and budgets and how all of that impacts a tax bill is often difficult to understand, and we want to help with that!

The tax rate, or mill rate, is the dollar amount of tax payable per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

Assessed value is the estimated current worth of a property. With the continued growth in the real estate market, the value of residential property increased approximately 11% over the past year.

The City, School and Penobscot County budgets, like those of homeowners and business owners, has been impacted by inflation and other factors. This budget will allow our residents to continue to receive the valuable services that they expect, such as plowing and maintenance of roads; curbside trash pickup; police response; fire and emergency medical service response; park maintenance; recreational programming; education; and more. While this budget will likely still result in an increased tax bill for the average homeowner, the Council has worked since April to reduce expenses and identify non-property tax revenues to minimize the overall impact to the taxpayer by nearly 33% over initial estimates.

Property taxes are based on the taxable assessed value of a property. Taxable assessed value of a property is different than the assessed value, as homeowners may be eligible for certain exemptions such as homestead, veterans, blind persons, etc. that may reduce the value that is subject to property taxation. For additional information on the eligibility requirements for exemptions please contact the Assessing Department at 207-992-4215.

Estimated Average Homeowner Tax Bill

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>Change</u>
Municipal services	\$ 1,815	\$1,931	\$116
Public Education	\$ 1,702	\$1,849	\$147
Penobscot County	\$ 286	\$ 311	\$ 25
Total	<u>\$ 3,803</u>	<u>\$ 4,091</u>	<u>\$ 288</u>

Available Property Tax Assistance Programs

The State of Maine offers two tax-relief programs: The Property Tax Fairness Credit, a potential partial refund of paid taxes obtained when filing your annual Maine Income Tax return, and the State Property Tax Deferral Program for taxpayers 65 years old or older and those unable to work due to a disability. For additional information on either program please contact the Assessing Department at 207-992-4215.

Hardship abatement applications are available for qualifying taxpayers who are struggling financially. Please contact the Treasury Department at 207-992-4200.

