

# Chambersburg Borough 2019 Budget

On Monday, November 5, 2018, the Borough Manager presented the proposed budget at a special public meeting.  
 On Monday, November 19, 2018, Town Council held a public hearing on the proposed budget and received comments.  
 On Monday, December 10, 2018, the budget and local tax ordinance was adopted by Town Council.  
 ALL FUNDS BUDGET: \$123,111,370, which represents a 1.7% smaller budget than 2018 (\$125,274,598)  
 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: \$15,157,375 (1.4% increase) (General Fund is the account with Police, Fire, Recreation, & Highway)

A Budget is not an accounting, which that is called the audit A Budget is a strategic plan for the following year A Budget is a spending plan for expenditures A Budget is authorization for revenues & expenditures A budget must be balanced and approved by Dec-31 each year	Chambersburg has the most complex budget in Pennsylvania because of the utility departments. In 2016, Chambersburg had the 13 <sup>th</sup> largest budget in Pennsylvania (\$) and was the largest borough budget. Chambersburg's budget is nothing like any other Borough.
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**Chambersburg is the only town in Pennsylvania to have an electric, gas, water, sewer, and storm sewer utility**

**The new Chambersburg Aquatic Center, which opened in 2018, is also in a separate utility account (run like a business)**

<b>Utility Rates 2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change to the electric rate since 2014 (when it decreased) (Avg. Residential \$100.90 per month)</li> <li>No change to the natural gas rate since 2013 (Avg. Residential \$804 per year)</li> <li>No change to the sanitary sewer rate since 2012 (Avg. Residential \$29.50 per month)</li> <li>No change to the sanitation rate since 2016 (Residential \$18.75 per month)</li> <li>No change to the Storm Sewer Fee since 2017 (Avg. Residential \$4 per month)</li> </ul> Chambersburg has lowest composite utility bill in Pennsylvania.	<b>Second of Three Water Rate Increases (2018, 2019 &amp; 2020)</b> Just as in 2018, the Borough's water rate will go up by 1 cent per billing unit in 2019. The average single family home in the Borough uses approximately 185 gallons of water per day. 2018 rate: 13¢ per unit – 2019 rate: 14¢ per unit Average single family residential water bill 2018: \$15.75 per month – 2019: \$16.50 per month On average, a 75¢ per month per household increase
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The 2016 Recreation Bond, which paid for the Aquatic Center, playgrounds, and other park improvements, necessitated a new tax, which began in 2018, and will be collected for the second time in 2019.

<b>Recreation Bond Tax 2019 – No change</b> Earmarked to pay off bond, it was approved in 2016. This tax does not pay for any of the operations of the Recreation Department.					
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
-	-	-	3	3	mil
Avg. Single Family House in the Borough			Per Year	Per Day	
Recreation Bond Tax			\$52.49	14¢	
Commercial and industrial property owners may pay more tax Government, educational, nonprofit and township property owners pay none					

**The Borough's real estate tax pays only for Police, Fire, & Ambulance; no other department, operation or employee**

<b>Fire/Ambulance Tax 2019 – No change</b> There is no proposed change in the Fire Tax In 2019, the rate will continue to be 3 mil In 2019, the ambulance tax will continue to be ½ mil The total Fire/Ambulance Tax will be 3.5 mil in 2019 100% of this tax goes to support the Fire Department and EMS	<b>Police Tax 2019 – No change</b> There is no proposed change in the Police Tax In 2019, the rate will continue to be 24 mil 100% of this tax goes to support the Police Department																																			
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**The Borough receives no sales taxes, liquor taxes, business taxes, or other local taxes and they are not an option under State law. Township residents pay no taxes to the Borough other than the Local Services Tax if they work inside the Borough.**

Types of Taxes Allowed for Boroughs under State Law	
Real estate taxes – there are various limits based upon type <i>Chambersburg has no recreation tax, no street tax, no utility tax</i>	Local Services Tax \$52 per worker per year (Set at maximum since 2007)
Deed Transfer Tax – ½ of 1% (Set at maximum since 1987)	Amusement Tax or Vending Machine Tax (Not Used in Chambersburg)
Earned Income Tax – ½ of 1% (Set at maximum since 1965)	
<b>There are no other types of taxes allowed under State Law</b>	

**Summary of Real Estate Taxes in 2019 (the average single family home)**

	2018	2019	2018	2019
Recreation Bond Tax	3 mil	3 mil	\$51.15	\$52.49
Fire/Ambulance Tax	3.5 mil	3.5 mil	\$59.68	\$61.24
Police Tax	24 mil	24 mil	\$409.23	\$419.88

**The average house changes every year, but your assessed value generally stays the same. The assessed value of your home is set by Franklin County and the Borough uses that value to determine your property tax bill.**

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These are the only taxes you pay to the Borough of Chambersburg.

The average single family homeowner pays \$534 per year in Borough taxes; half of all homes pay less.

The Council has no say on school taxes, county taxes, or the library tax. Yet, low utility rates help everybody in Chambersburg.

An electric and gas customer inside the Borough system may save as much as \$1,000 per year per household for having Borough utilities. That is much more saved, than paid on taxes.

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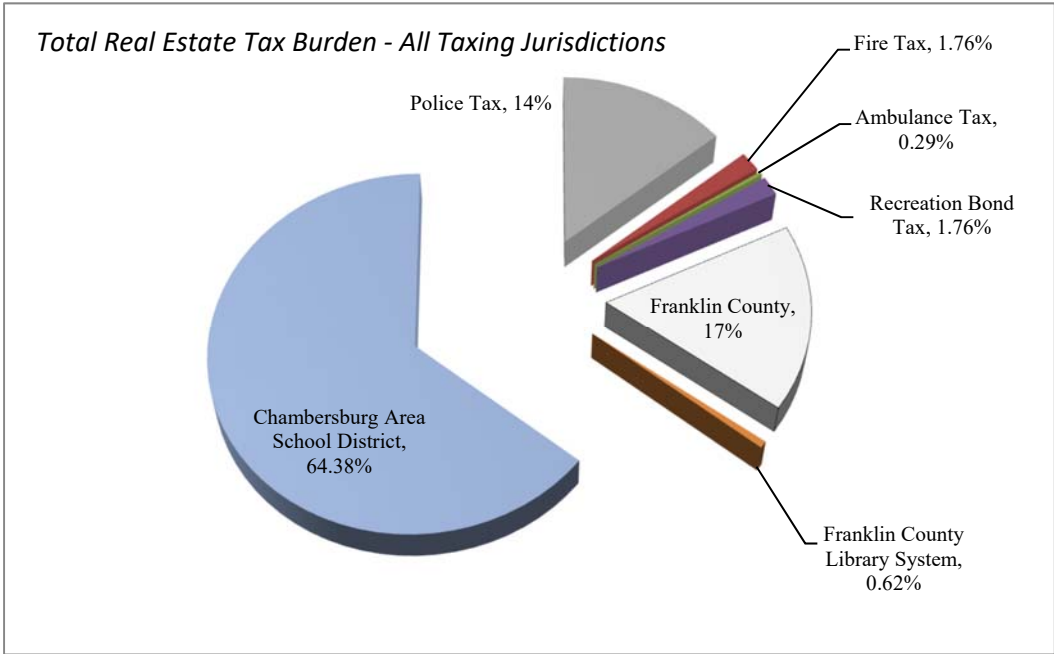
The proposed 2019 Budget includes capital projects, street paving, and a bond to finance Electric System Improvements.

No resources are included in the 2019 Budget towards the future goal of renovating the Police Station in 2020-2021.

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**The proposed 2019 Budget initiatives include:**  
 Planning, Preservation, and Citizen Engagement  
 A Safe, Clean, Green and Healthy Community  
 Reshaping our Community One Project at a Time

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**Only 18¢ of every \$1 paid in real estate taxes will go to the Borough of Chambersburg. The balance, 82¢ will go to support the school district, the county, and the library.**

**In fact 64¢ of every dollar goes to the Chambersburg Area School District. They send their own tax bill.**