



# Approved 2024 Borough Budget Info

- On Monday, November 6, 2023, the Borough Manager presented the proposed budget at a special public meeting.
  - On Monday, November 13, 2023, Town Council received public comments on the proposed budget.
  - On Monday, December 11, 2023, Town Council approved the 2024 budget and local tax ordinance.
  - State law requires Council to approve a fully balanced budget and tax ordinance by December 31 of each year.
- The entire proposed 2024 Budget is available at [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov), click on Transparency.

### All Funds Budget

\$134,254,757 which represents 0.3% decrease in budget size compared to 2023 (\$443,792), due to end of the American Rescue Plan Act grant funding.

### General Fund Budget

\$19,790,495, a 1.4% increase due to approved wages, health insurance, pension costs for Police Officers and Firefighters keeping pace with inflation.

### Available Taxes

The Borough receives no sales tax, liquor taxes, business taxes, or any other local tax; they are not options under State law. Township residents pay no taxes to the Borough other than the Local Services Tax, \$1 per week, if they work inside the Borough.

### Public Works Campus

The budget includes resources so that over the next 36-months Council can pay to complete the design of a new public works campus off Wayne Avenue, fees for architecture and engineering, as well as buying available neighboring properties that wish to sell.

### Southgate Shopping Center

In 2022, using a Federal grant, the Chambersburg Area Municipal Authority (CAMA) purchased the shopping center. Currently, they are the owners and store rents cover the cost of maintenance. Keystone Health has plans to break ground on a new neighborhood health care facility in 2024. Most of the land will be resold to private third-party developers over time. Town Council and the CAMA Board are applying for grants to make neighborhood improvements, and some have already been awarded. Some land will be retained for parks and utilities. Project has no impact on local taxes.

Chambersburg is the only town in Pennsylvania to have an electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, sanitation, and storm sewer utility. These utilities are never funded by local tax money.

### This budget includes no tax increase. No change in property taxes for 2024.

There are four (4) types of real estate taxes collected by Borough from Borough property owners. Each budget sets the mil rate and Franklin County sets the assessed value of your property.

### Police Tax 2024 – No tax increase to fund the operation of the Chambersburg Police Department.

Same rate as 2024. Maximum rate is 30 mil. 100% of this tax goes to support the Police Department.

| 2015                                    | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |          |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| 21                                      | 23   | 23   | 24   | 24   | 24   | 24   | 24   | 25   | 25   | mil      |
| Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Per Year |
| Police Tax                              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | \$437.30 |

### Fire/Ambulance Tax 2024 – No tax increase to fund the Chambersburg Fire Department & EMS.

There is no change in the Fire Tax, and none is permitted under State law. Further, State law requires a split of the Fire Tax with 2.5 mil for apparatus & ½ mil for firefighting. The Fire Department collects other fees including inspection fees, Ambulance patient fees, and the Ambulance Fee surcharge on water service invoices.

|   | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024     |     |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|-----|
| Fire                                    | 2.5  | 2.5  | 2.5  | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3        | mil |
| EMS                                     | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0        | mil |
| Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Per Year |     |
| Fire Tax                                |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | \$52.48  |     |

### Recreation Bond Tax 2024 – No tax increase to pay off the 2016 Recreation Bond.

Started in 2018, this tax pays down this specific bond only and does not pay for any of the operations of the Recreation Department. This is the bond that helped build various Recreation Department facilities including the Aquatic Center, new tennis courts, new playgrounds, and a new roof on the Recreation Center.

| 2015                                    | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |          |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| 0                                       | 0    | 0    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 2.5  | 2.5  | mil      |
| Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Per Year |
| Recreation Bond Tax                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | \$43.73  |

### Police Station Bond Tax 2024 – No tax increase to pay off the 2022 Police Station Bond.

Started in 2022, this tax pays down this specific bond only and does not pay for any of the operations of the Police Department. This is the bond that helped build the newly reopened Police Station on South Second Street, the newly restored Clock Tower, and expenses related to the former temporary Police Station.

| 2015                                    | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |          |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| 0                                       | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 2    | mil      |
| Avg. Single-Family House in the Borough |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Per Year |
| Police Station Bond Tax                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | \$34.98  |

**The average single-family home in the Borough will pay \$568.49 per year (\$3.88 more than 2023)** in real estate taxes to the Borough. Half will pay less. This is what the average single-family home inside the Borough actually pays per year before discount. Commercial properties may pay more. Assessed value is not *fair market value*. Township properties pay no taxes to the Borough. Visit the Franklin County Tax Assessment Office to learn your property's *assessed value* at 272 N. Second Street, Chambersburg, 17201 or click <https://gis.franklincountypa.gov/taxparcelviewer/> to check your home's assessed value.

If your property is inside the Borough, click on your lot on the map. Divide the number by 1,000 and then multiply that by 32.5, for 32.5 total mils of Borough Tax.



**Chambersburg Borough Utility Customers Have The Lowest Composite Utility Rates in Pennsylvania And That Will Not Change in 2024**

**SOME RATES WILL GO UP**  
The average Borough utility customer pays less for utilities than most customers outside the Borough.

In fact, those residential customers with Borough gas and electric will save over \$1,000 per year in utility expenses, when compared to average natural gas and electric customers throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Borough natural gas, water, wastewater, electric, and sanitation rates are much lower than other municipal and private sector utilities.

The Electric and Natural Gas utilities make an annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes to support the Police and Fire departments.

**Chambersburg Electric Rates to increase:**

For the first time in a decade, the retail electric rates will rise overall by 11.3%; some customers will see higher increases based upon their rate class, heating type, and insulation.

**Unique Public Utilities**

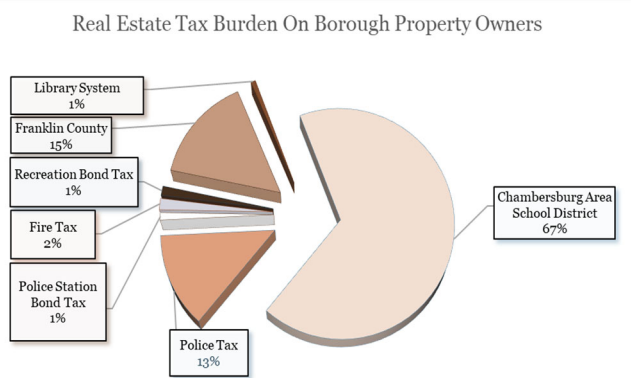
Chambersburg is the largest public power system and the only Borough with a natural gas system in Pennsylvania.

**Borough Budget Has No Impact on Townships**

Township residents pay no taxes to the Borough unless they work inside the Borough limits and then only \$1 per week. School taxes and County taxes are not decided by the Borough.

## Property Tax Burden

Only 17¢ of every \$1 paid in real estate taxes will go to the Borough of Chambersburg. The balance, 83¢, will go to support the school district, the county, and the library system. In fact, 67¢ of every dollar goes to the Chambersburg Area School District. They send their own tax bill.



| Taxing Authority                         | Mil Rate            | Annual Avg. Home  | Percentage  |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Franklin County (2023)                   | 29.10 mil           | \$509.02          | 15.29%      |
| Library System (2023)                    | 1.30 mil            | \$22.74           | 0.68%       |
| Chambersburg Area School District (2023) | 127.3972            | \$2,228.45        | 66.95%      |
| Borough Taxes (Borough Properties)       |                     |                   |             |
| Police Tax (2024)                        | 25.0 mil            | \$437.30          | 13.14%      |
| Fire Tax (2024)                          | 3.0 mil             | \$52.48           | 1.58%       |
| Recreation Bond Tax (2024)               | 2.5 mil             | \$43.73           | 1.31%       |
| Police Station Bond Tax (2024)           | 2.0 mil             | \$34.98           | 1.05%       |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>190.2972 mil</b> | <b>\$3,328.70</b> | <b>100%</b> |

Average burden on a single-family type home inside the Borough of Chambersburg based on assessed value as decided by County

## Utility Rates 2024

- No change to the Borough natural gas delivery rate since 2013. (Average Home Pays \$804 per year)
- The Borough electric rate will go up around 11.3% beginning in January 2024. (Average Home Pays \$116.50 per month)
- No change to the Borough sanitary sewer rate, same since 2012. (Average Home Pays \$29.50 per month)
- Small increase to Sanitation rates, but all the same services, including comingled recycling, plus one of the lowest rates in the region. (Average Home Pays \$28.00 per month)
- Small change to the Borough water rate. Increase of 3¢ per unit. (In 2023, average family bill based upon consumption: \$21.35 per month) (In 2024, average family bill based upon consumption: \$23.45 per month)

Chambersburg has the lowest monthly utility bill in the State of Pennsylvania.

**No changes to the Storm Sewer Pollution Control Fee HOWEVER, ACROSS-THE-BOARD AUTOMATIC DISCOUNT FOR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, CHURCH, & INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY OWNERS TO END January 2024**

Beginning in 2022, all non-single-family-residential properties in the Borough (business, multifamily, industrial, commercial, church, or institutional properties) began paying the fee based upon their actual impervious area of their lot. Called an ERU, each non-single-family tax lot has been measured against the "equivalent residential unit", and then is invoiced a multiple of ERUs at the per ERU rate. Town Council agreed that every non-single-family home customer would **receive a 30% discount** for 2022 and 2023. **Automatic discounts are ending. Future discounts will require qualifications. Overall, the Pollution Control Fee will not change in 2024.** It will remain **\$5 per month per ERU**. One ERU per single-family home. Call the Storm Sewer System Manager, Andy Stottlemeyer, at 717-251-2434 to learn about your property's ERU value and what you can do to control storm water.

**Ambulance Fee**

In 2020, Town Council introduced an Ambulance Fee on all water customer invoices, which will be increased in 2024. This Ambulance Fee helps defray the costs of the ambulance service being ready-to-serve. Each year, Federal rules require ambulance companies to write-off invoices for Medicaid & Medicare patients. In 2022, the Borough wrote-off almost \$1.9 million in billing.

Ambulance companies are in crisis as a result of low revenue and no volunteers. This is not a tax, as under State law taxes can only be assessed on the value of real estate. Approximately 40% of property owners are exempt from property taxes. Also, it is not the Ambulance Club. *The Ambulance Club is a voluntary donation program mailed separately.*

**In 2024, the fee will increase from \$9.50 per month to \$11 per month per water service account.**