

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Spending and taxation

From time to time, I publish a chart showing how much local government — the borough and school district — spends in Pottstown each year and where the money goes.

Where the money comes from is complicated, but at the suggestion of Council member Sheryl Miller, I'll try to hit the highlights.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

### School District

The school district budget in the coming fiscal year is \$59.5 million. About 42 percent

of that total comes from the state and federal governments, and the rest is paid by local taxpayers.

### Borough

The borough budget is much more complicated. It contains 21 separate funds. The major ones follow:

#### General fund

The general fund pays for police, firefighting, and most administrative costs. It covers some of code enforcement and public works. It is mostly funded by local real estate and income taxes.

#### Water and Sewer

The various water and sewer funds come from revenues generated by invoicing ratepayers quarterly based on how much water they use.

Because Pottstown supplies water and sewer services to the three Pottsgrove townships as well as Pottstown, their ratepayers help support the funds.

About 55 percent of the revenue comes from Pottstown ratepayers, and 45 percent comes from township ratepayers.

#### Trash fund

The trash fund comes from a quarterly fee included in Pottstown residents' utility bills.

#### Grant fund

The grant fund does not come from local taxpayers. As its name implies, the money comes from state,

county and federal government grants and from foundations.

#### Street repairs

Pottstown receives money from the state gasoline tax to help pay for street repairs.

#### Inspections

The cost of inspecting rental units comes from an annual fee charged to landlords. The borough also charges fees for various permits

#### Other revenue

And there are numerous other subsidies the borough receives from the state and federal governments.

#### Borough budget

For details, the borough publishes an excellent budget on its website, [www.pottstown.org](http://www.pottstown.org).

Pottstown government spending		
2016		
Pottstown School District	\$59,553,150	50%
Pottstown Borough:		
Sewer capital fund	\$9,553,375	8.0%
Sewer fund	\$9,081,439	7.6%
Water fund	\$6,260,400	5.3%
Police	\$5,902,138	5.0%
Water capital fund	\$4,985,235	4.2%
Grant fund	\$6,045,001	5.1%
Trash fund	\$3,003,080	2.5%
Administration	\$2,697,622	2.4%
Employee health benefits	\$2,334,274	2.0%
Capital savings fund	\$1,798,801	1.5%
Pensions	\$1,449,004	1.2%
Fire fund	\$1,470,004	1.2%
Parks	\$1,130,885	.9%
Public works	\$1,097,543	.9%
Licensing, inspections	\$689,383	.6%
Sewer lines fund	\$569,312	.5%
Street repairs fund	\$565,925	.5%
Debt service fund	\$346,342	.3%
Street lighting fund	\$255,876	.2%
Library	\$180,359	.2%
Airport	\$159,685	.1%
Parking Lots	\$79,212	.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,207,435</b>	<b>100%</b>