

Christopher Botta
Mayor

Deirdre Dillon
Councilwoman
Public Safety

Vanessa Jachzel
Councilwoman
Finance & Administration

William Jones
Councilman
Public & Governmental Relations



Ken Tyburczy
Council President
Building, Planning & Zoning

Joseph Verdone
Councilman
Health, Education & Social Services

Harry Weber
Councilman
Utilities, Building & Grounds

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Dear Resident:

Your 2013 tax bill is comprised of four separate parts: Ramsey Schools, Ramsey Public Library, Ramsey Municipal Services and Bergen County government. While we the elected officials of the Borough, receive the majority of comments about taxes, it should be noted that **only the municipal services portion is administered by your Mayor and Council.**

YOUR PROPOSED 2013 TAX BILL IS DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

2% RAMSEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

67% SCHOOL SYSTEM

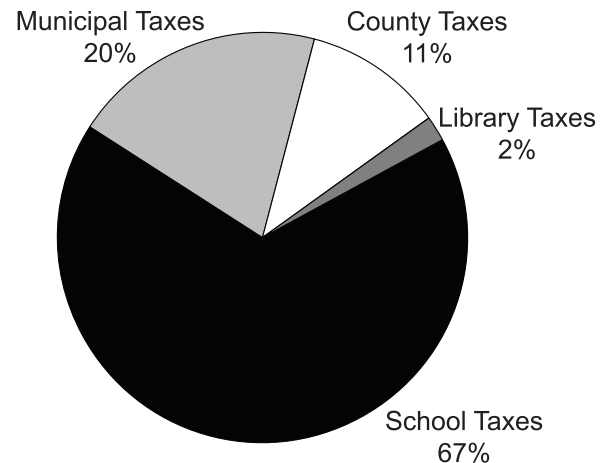
RAMSEY BOARD OF EDUCATION

20% MUNICIPAL SERVICES

RAMSEY POLICE, LOCAL ROADS, SANITATION, RECYCLING, RECREATION, TOWN ADMINISTRATION, VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES, HEALTH SERVICES, ETC.

11% BERGEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY HIGHWAYS, HOSPITALS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION, PARKS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



The Mayor and Council continue to work to hold down municipal expenses. This year, there will be a modest tax increase over 2012 of less than 2%. The municipal tax rate, including the library portion, would go from .569 to .578 (1.58% change). On a home assessed at \$431,467 (the average Ramsey assessment), the 2013 annual increase would amount to \$40.21 for the municipal services portion of your tax bill. This does not include school taxes or county taxes. The Ramsey Board of Education and the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, respectively, control those budgets.

As your elected representatives, we face the ongoing challenge of making difficult choices in the provision of municipal services to ensure the cost of municipal government remains under control, while still maintaining the high level and quality of municipal services in our community. This 2013 budget has kept spending at a flat level overall, even as costs for certain non-discretionary mandated items continue to rise. In total, the 2013 budget is \$875,863 lower than 2012 budget and, adjusted for the elimination of non-recurring direct revenue and expense offsets in 2012, the 2013 budget is \$28,363 lower than the 2012 budget.

With state aid remaining flat for the last few years, we have concentrated our efforts in reducing discretionary spending and finding efficiencies wherever possible to help offset mandated cost increases and contractual obligations. That is illustrated in the lower overall budget for 2013 noted earlier. While the Borough is spending less in 2013, two primary factors required a tax rate increase to balance the budget. First, in 2012 there was a non-recurring excess library fund revenue item of \$195,950 returned back to the Borough, which is not anticipated in 2013. The second factor impacting the tax rate was a significant decrease in the Borough's overall assessed valuation (over \$9 million), due in large part to a state and county wide reclassification of Verizon equipment and lines. An upcoming tax assessment revaluation, which was recently ordered by the county, in part because more than 10 years have passed since the last revaluation, will help stabilize the tax base and reflect current market values. The effective implementation date of the revaluation will be fiscal year 2014. As this order was just recently enacted by the County, timelines for the process have not been set, but will be communicated to you as we obtain further information.

We continue to structure our capital and infrastructure projects funding so as to minimize the impact upon taxpayers, while providing necessary replacement and upgrades of equipment and facilities. We have kept our debt-position low, and far below what the State allows for a community our size, by utilizing a dual approach of aggressively paying older (more expensive) debt and taking advantage of historically low interest rates for new projects and equipment purchases. This use of debt for long-lived assets is coupled with paying cash, as noted in line items in the current budget, for equipment and capital purchases, to ensure that debt levels are managed prudently. Some examples of major capital items for 2013 are the acquisition of two fire pumper trucks (replacing units which are 25+ years old) and plans to upgrade our municipal pool, after the 2013 season concludes, as it is nearly 50 years old and at the end of its useful life.

As your elected officials, we are highly cognizant of our obligation to prudently manage residents' tax dollars, and we maintain our focus upon managing these expenditures as conservatively as possible without sacrificing long-term value. Through this conservative long-term planning, Ramsey is in significantly better financial shape than some of our neighboring communities. Your Mayor and Council have worked diligently to produce a leaner, more efficient municipal government, which will still be able to deliver the essential municipal services, which our residents have come to expect. Much of this credit belongs to our dedicated and hard working municipal employees, who have worked with the governing body to reduce operational costs and improve efficiencies, while maintaining high standards of performance.

The full budget is available for your inspection in several places. You may view the budget in its entirety on our borough web site (www.ramseynj.com). In addition, five copies of the budget are on reserve at the Ramsey Free Public Library. Residents are invited to comment on any aspect of the budget at Mayor and Council meetings, or by letter or e-mail.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support,

Mayor and Council

PROPOSED TAX DATA COMPARISON

	2012 Actual Total Tax Amount	2012 Actual Tax Rate	2013 Total Tax Amount	2013 Proposed Tax Rate
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$1,170,895	\$0.040	\$1,128,247	\$0.040
MUNICIPAL SERVICES	\$15,064,271	\$0.528	\$15,281,295	\$0.538
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$49,779,650	\$1.749	\$49,707,902	\$1.751
COUNTY GOVERNMENT	\$7,736,262	\$0.272	\$8,010,000	\$0.282
TOTAL	\$73,751,078	\$2.589	\$74,127,444	\$2.611

The following information is a more detailed overview of the municipal budget:

MUNICIPAL REVENUE COMPARISON

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Alcoholic Beverage Licenses.....	\$34,000.00	\$33,000.00
Other Administrative Licenses.....	\$33,000.00	\$22,000.00
Construction Code Official Permits.....	\$490,000.00	\$450,000.00
Other Permits & Fees.....	\$42,000.00	\$62,000.00
Municipal Court Fines.....	\$130,000.00	\$145,000.00
Interest and Cost on Taxes.....	\$150,000.00	\$125,000.00
Energy Receipts Tax.....	\$1,474,471.00	\$1,474,471.00
Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act.....	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest on Investments and Deposits.....	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Cable Franchise Fee.....	\$200,000.00	\$195,000.00
Municipal Occupancy Tax.....	\$141,000.00	\$140,000.00
Life Hazard Use Fees.....	\$60,000.00	\$58,000.00
Clean Communities Grant Program.....	\$7,800.41	\$23,180.00
Various Grants.....	\$9,231.55	\$20,330.00
Recycling Tonnage Grant.....	\$44,937.42	\$45,289.00
Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Grant.....	\$9,876.00	\$10,356.00
Alcohol Education & Rehabilitation Fund.....	\$3,020.34	\$0.00
Recycling Revenue (1).....	\$20,000.00	\$100,000.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes.....	\$500,000.00	\$475,000.00
Utilization of Contingency Reserve (2).....	\$2,950,000.00	\$3,050,000.00
Excess Library Funding.....	\$0.00	\$195,950.00
Reserve for Property Purchase Paydown.....	\$0.00	\$807,000.00
Reimbursement of COAH.....	\$0.00	\$40,500.00
Reserve to Pay Bonds & Notes.....	\$112,500.00	\$0.00
Amount of be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget.....	\$15,281,295.18	\$15,064,270.83
Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Free Public Library.....	\$1,128,247.17	\$1,170,894.94
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	\$22,831,379.07	\$23,707,241.77

1. RECYCLING REVENUE- Due to change in recycling contract structure the majority of recycling revenue will now appear as a credit against Recycling expense rather than a revenue item.
2. CONTINGENCY RESERVE - We anticipate utilizing \$2,950,000.00 of anticipated revenue on the 2013 Municipal Budget. Contingency Reserve is generated by unused appropriations and unanticipated revenues through last year's Municipal Budget. This reserve is utilized to offset municipal taxes on a year-to-year basis.

MUNICIPAL EXPENSE COMPARISON

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2013	2012
Administrative & Executive	\$400,000.00	\$410,000.00
Mayor & Council	\$52,000.00	\$52,000.00
Borough Clerk	\$253,000.00	\$243,000.00
Finance & Administration	\$240,000.00	\$240,000.00
Audit Services	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00
Computer Maintenance & Data Services	\$105,000.00	\$65,000.00
Collection & Assessment of Taxes	\$335,100.00	\$458,100.00
Legal Services	\$190,000.00	\$190,000.00
Engineering	\$222,000.00	\$222,000.00
LAND USE ADMINISTRATION		
Planning Board	\$70,000.00	\$67,000.00
Zoning Board	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
INSURANCE	\$2,440,000.00	\$2,601,000.00
PUBLIC SAFETY		
Police, Prosecutor and Courts, and 911	\$5,095,500.00	\$4,983,916.00
Emergency Management	\$133,500.00	\$133,500.00
Fire and Fire Protection	\$387,500.00	\$352,500.00
First Aid Contribution	\$97,000.00	\$97,000.00
Construction Official	\$385,000.00	\$351,000.00
PUBLIC WORKS		
Road Maintenance, Resurfacing and Sidewalks	\$1,316,000.00	\$1,301,000.00
Shade Tree Commission	\$165,000.00	\$115,000.00
Recycling	\$305,000.00	\$365,000.00
Garbage & Trash Removal	\$600,000.00	\$675,000.00
Building & Grounds	\$769,000.00	\$750,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$494,500.00	\$485,000.00
HEALTH SERVICES		
Board of Health	\$157,500.00	\$154,500.00
Visiting Nurses	\$17,000.00	\$16,000.00
Environmental Commission	\$8,000.00	\$7,700.00
Dog & Cat Regulation	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Drug Abuse Program and Other Human Services	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00
PARKS & RECREATION		
Board of Recreation Commission	\$126,500.00	\$123,500.00
Other Programs	\$162,900.00	\$185,300.00
PURCHASE VARIOUS DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT	\$274,576.35	\$250,000.00
UTILITIES AND LANDFILL FEES	\$1,510,000.00	\$1,585,000.00
CONTINGENCY	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
DEFERRED CHARGES AND STATUTORY	\$2,044,640.00	\$2,019,367.77
LIBRARY	\$1,128,247.00	\$1,170,895.00
GRANTS OFFSET BY REVENUES	\$74,865.72	\$102,155.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$465,000.00	\$390,500.00
DEBT SERVICE AND DEFERRED CHARGES	\$1,186,050.00	\$1,924,308.00
RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$22,831,379.07	\$23,707,241.77

Borough of Ramsey

33 N. Central Avenue
Ramsey, NJ 07446

PRSR STD
US POST AGE
PAID
RAMSEY, NJ
PERMIT NO. 239

CAR-RT-SORT
Postal Customer Local