

Christopher Botta
Mayor

Deirdre Dillon
Councilwoman
Public Safety

Vanessa Jachzel
Council President
Public & Governmental Relations

William Jones
Councilman
Health, Education & Social Services



Ken Tyburczy
Councilman
Building, Planning & Zoning

Bruce Vozeh
Councilman
Finance & Administration

Harry Weber
Councilman
Utilities, Building & Grounds

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Dear Resident:

Your 2012 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 2012 TAX BILL IS DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

2% RAMSEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

67% SCHOOL SYSTEM

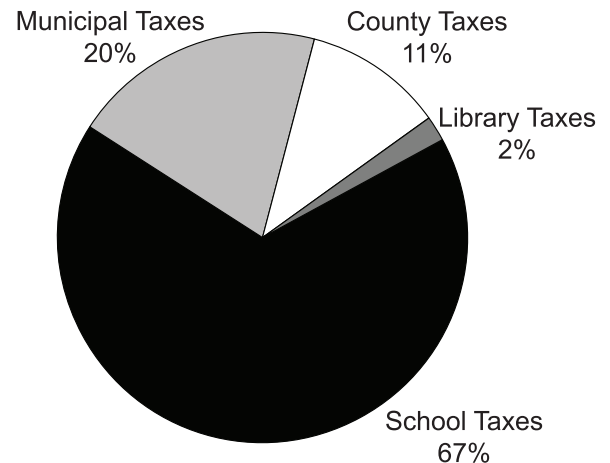
RAMSEY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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 expenses. This year there will be a modest tax increase over 2011 of less than 2%. The municipal tax rate, including the library portion, would go from .562 to .570 (1.42% change). On a home assessed at \$431,302 (the average Ramsey assessment), the 2012 annual increase would amount to \$34.68 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.

This 2012 budget reduces spending in a number of discretionary areas to help offset some of the mandated increases and contractual obligations. For example, we have consolidated management positions and eliminated other positions over the last year and a half to reduce costs while maintaining the services our residents deserve. These efforts, along with prudent fiscal management, have resulted in flat to modest inflationary cost increases.

As our costs go up, the tax base is not expanding at a similar pace. The total value of real property in Ramsey is approximately \$2.8 billion. Because Ramsey is almost fully developed, our tax base this year

expanded by less than one quarter of one percent (.24%) mostly as a result of residents replacing older homes with newer more expensive ones, or building additions to their homes. The burden, then, falls on us as your elected representatives to make difficult choices in an attempt to keep the cost of municipal government under control, while still maintaining the high level and quality of municipal services the community enjoys.

To that end, we have also set aside \$805,000 this year for capital and infrastructure projects. These projects include continuation of our road-resurfacing program, building renovations and upgrades, more curb and sidewalk improvements, equipment purchases and various drainage projects throughout the Borough. These expenditures are part of an ongoing plan, as is the entire budget, to spread the cost of maintaining or replacing capital items over time through prudent fiscal management. We are working towards making more scheduled and budgeted long-term improvements instead of waiting for infrastructure to deteriorate or equipment to fail, and then having to make costly repairs or purchase replacements on an emergency basis in an effort to continue to stabilize taxes. Additionally, in 2012 we have added approximately \$570,000 more for debt and deferred charge repayment for large capital items that have been financed over a longer life cycle. This approach, coupled with paying cash for a portion of our capital expenditures, will help us keep our debt level low and far below what the State allows for a community our size.

Through 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, that 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

	2011 Actual Total Tax Amount	2011 Actual Tax Rate	2012 Total Tax Amount	2012 Proposed Tax Rate
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$1,223,600	\$0.043	\$1,170,895	\$0.041
MUNICIPAL SERVICES	\$14,769,638	\$0.519	\$15,064,271	\$0.529
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$49,109,082	\$1.729	\$50,000,000	\$1.752
COUNTY GOVERNMENT	\$7,694,884	\$0.271	\$7,850,000	\$0.276
TOTAL	\$72,797,204	\$2.562	\$74,085,166	\$2.598

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

MUNICIPAL REVENUE COMPARISON

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Alcoholic Beverage Licenses.....	\$33,000.00	\$28,000.00
Other Administrative Licenses.....	\$22,000.00	\$36,000.00
Construction Code Official Permits.....	\$450,000.00	\$380,000.00
Other Permits & Fees.....	\$62,000.00	\$55,000.00
Municipal Court Fines.....	\$145,000.00	\$155,000.00
Interest and Cost on Taxes.....	\$125,000.00	\$100,000.00
Energy Receipts Tax.....	\$1,474,471.00	\$1,463,658.00
Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act.....	\$0.00	\$10,813.00
Interest on Investments and Deposits.....	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Cable Franchise Fee.....	\$195,000.00	\$155,000.00
Municipal Occupancy Tax.....	\$140,000.00	\$130,000.00
Life Hazard Use Fees.....	\$58,000.00	\$58,000.00
Clean Communities Grant Program.....	\$23,180.00	\$0.00
Various Grants.....	\$20,330.00	\$20,166.75
Recycling Tonnage Grant.....	\$45,289.00	\$62,660.74
Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Grant.....	\$10,356.00	\$10,356.00
Alcohol Education & Rehabilitation Fund.....	\$0.00	\$4,524.57
Recycling Revenue.....	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes.....	\$475,000.00	\$400,000.00
Utilization of Contingency Reserve.....	\$3,050,000.00	\$3,200,000.00
Excess Library Funding.....	\$195,950.00	\$317,000.00
Reserve for Property Purchase Paydown.....	\$807,000.00	\$0.00
Reimbursement of COAH.....	\$40,500.00	\$0.00
Reserve to Pay Bonds & Notes.....	\$0.00	\$600,000.00
Amount of be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget.....	\$15,064,270.83	\$14,769,638.00
Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Free Public Library.....	\$1,170,894.94	\$1,223,600.00
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	\$23,707,241.77	\$23,209,417.06

1. ENERGY RECEIPTS TAX - A State tax on utility companies of which a portion of monies is distributed by the State to local governments. The Borough of Ramsey expects to utilize \$1,474,471.00 in the 2012 Municipal Budget.
2. RECEIPTS FROM DELINQUENT TAXES - The Borough of Ramsey should receive 97.5% of all taxes billed. It is very important and beneficial that all taxes be paid on a timely basis.
3. CONTINGENCY RESERVE - We anticipate utilizing \$3,050,000.00 of anticipated revenue on the 2012 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	2012	2011
Administrative & Executive	\$410,000.00	\$449,000.00
Mayor & Council	\$52,000.00	\$54,000.00
Borough Clerk	\$243,000.00	\$238,500.00
Finance & Administration	\$240,000.00	\$265,000.00
Audit Services	\$47,000.00	\$47,000.00
Computer Maintenance & Data Services	\$65,000.00	\$40,000.00
Collection & Assessment of Taxes	\$458,100.00	\$249,000.00
Legal Services	\$190,000.00	\$190,000.00
Engineering	\$222,000.00	\$222,000.00
LAND USE ADMINISTRATION		
Planning Board	\$67,000.00	\$65,850.00
Zoning Board	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
INSURANCE	\$2,601,000.00	\$2,526,000.00
PUBLIC SAFETY		
Police, Prosecutor and Courts, and 911	\$4,983,916.00	\$4,873,000.00
Emergency Management	\$133,500.00	\$132,150.00
Fire and Fire Protection	\$352,500.00	\$346,000.00
First Aid Contribution	\$97,000.00	\$97,000.00
Construction Official	\$351,000.00	\$339,500.00
PUBLIC WORKS		
Road Maintenance, Resurfacing and Sidewalks	\$1,301,000.00	\$1,341,000.00
Shade Tree Commission	\$115,000.00	\$105,000.00
Recycling	\$365,000.00	\$400,000.00
Garbage & Trash Removal	\$675,000.00	\$665,000.00
Building & Grounds	\$750,000.00	\$700,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$485,000.00	\$458,000.00
HEALTH SERVICES		
Board of Health	\$154,500.00	\$152,500.00
Visiting Nurses	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Environmental Commission	\$7,700.00	\$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	\$123,500.00	\$123,500.00
Other Programs	\$185,300.00	\$173,000.00
PURCHASE VARIOUS DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
UTILITIES AND LANDFILL FEES	\$1,585,000.00	\$1,633,000.00
CONTINGENCY	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
DEFERRED CHARGES AND STATUTORY	\$2,019,367.77	\$2,081,900.00
LIBRARY	\$1,170,895.00	\$1,223,600.00
GRANTS OFFSET BY REVENUES	\$102,155.00	\$97,708.06
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$390,500.00	\$400,000.00
DEBT SERVICE AND DEFERRED CHARGES	\$1,924,308.00	\$1,353,633.30
RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,799,846.00
TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$23,707,241.77	\$23,209,417.36

BOROUGH OF RAMSEY
Ramsey, NJ 07446



*****ECRWSS****

Postal Customer
Ramsey, NJ 07446