

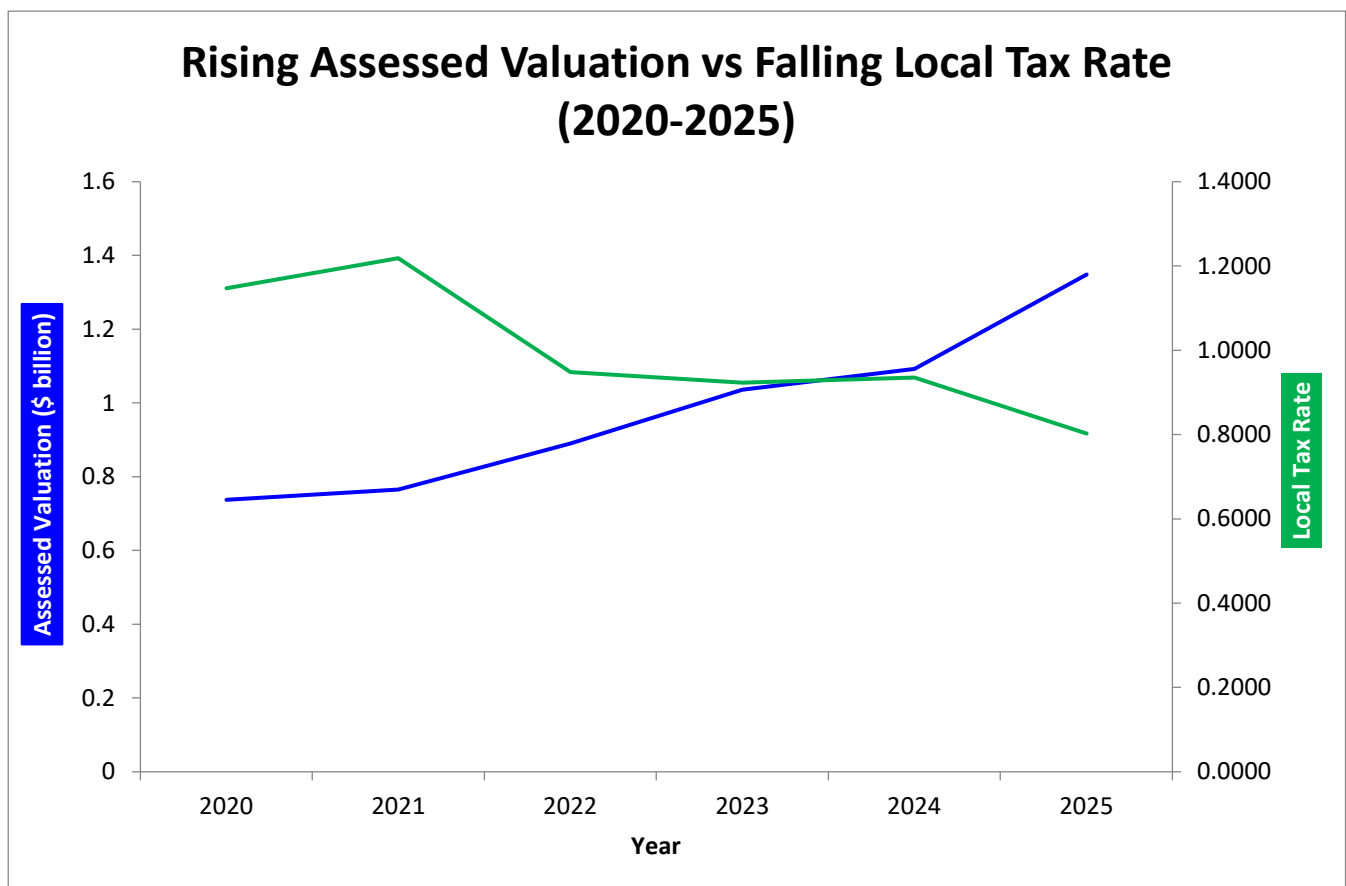


How your taxes are collected and the projects they fund.

How taxes are calculated can sometimes be confusing to understand. In November of 2024, we held a special meeting where the tax assessor explained the process. You can watch that video bit.ly/42HTt2t and read the handout bit.ly/4iAywwd. I've put together some highlights below to briefly outline what goes into your taxes.

The County, Municipal, and School budget costs determine the amount of property tax to be collected. Property value is how the rate is applied to each property. Over the past 6 years the value of property in Highlands has increased, yet our Municipal tax rate has trended down or remained steady. The following chart reflects these trends: 2025 Property Valuation of \$1,340,380,200 for a rate of .804.

Valuation vs. Municipal Tax Rate



* Municipal Tax Rate is expressed as percentage of tax per \$100 of property valuation

Grants & Awards play a very important role in keeping our Municipal Tax Levy low. The more we win, the less the Borough needs to raise in taxes.

So far this year, Grants & Awards won to date \$114,255:

- Alcohol Education \$5,271
- Body Armor \$1,574
- Clean Communities \$15,743
- Local Recreation \$75,000
- Recycling Tonnage \$2,006
- Drunk Driving Enforcement \$770
- Municipal Alliance \$13,890

So far this year, our tax dollars and awards have funded the following projects:

- Portland Road drainage improvements [Grant \$261,900].
- Asset Activation Plan for upgrades to the JT White Clam Depuration Plant [Grant \$50,000].
- Partial dredging of Jones Creek [Borough funded \$8,995].
- Paving on Washington Ave. [Borough funded \$147,980].
- Installing sidewalks for Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements [Grant \$284,000].

This Summer, you will notice our continuing commitment to improve our Open Space inventory:

- Marine Place East Walkway Improvements [Grant \$167,000].
- Creation of Overlook Park on Navesink Ave. [Grant \$222,000].
- Frank Hall Park Improvements [Grant \$86,000].

Looking to the future, we are seeking more grants and permit approvals to complete the following efforts to support our town's infrastructure, resiliency and municipal services:

- I-Bank Phase 2 includes replacing mains, laterals and paving for Snug Harbor Ave., Bedle Pl., Marine Pl., Washington Ave., Huddy Ave., Recreation Pl., Cheerful Pl., Barberie Ave., and Sea Drift Ave.
- Implementation of Living Shoreline & Veterans Park Improvements.
- New DPW pole barn for vehicles.
- New office and vehicle bays for the First Aid Squad.
- Improvements to Linden, Waterwitch, Bay & Snug Harbor Drainage [Grant \$1,300,000].
- Improvements to Grand Tour Drainage [Grant \$217,456].

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me 732-291-4009 or cbroullon@highlandsnj.gov.

All the best to you and yours,

Mayor Carolyn Broullon