

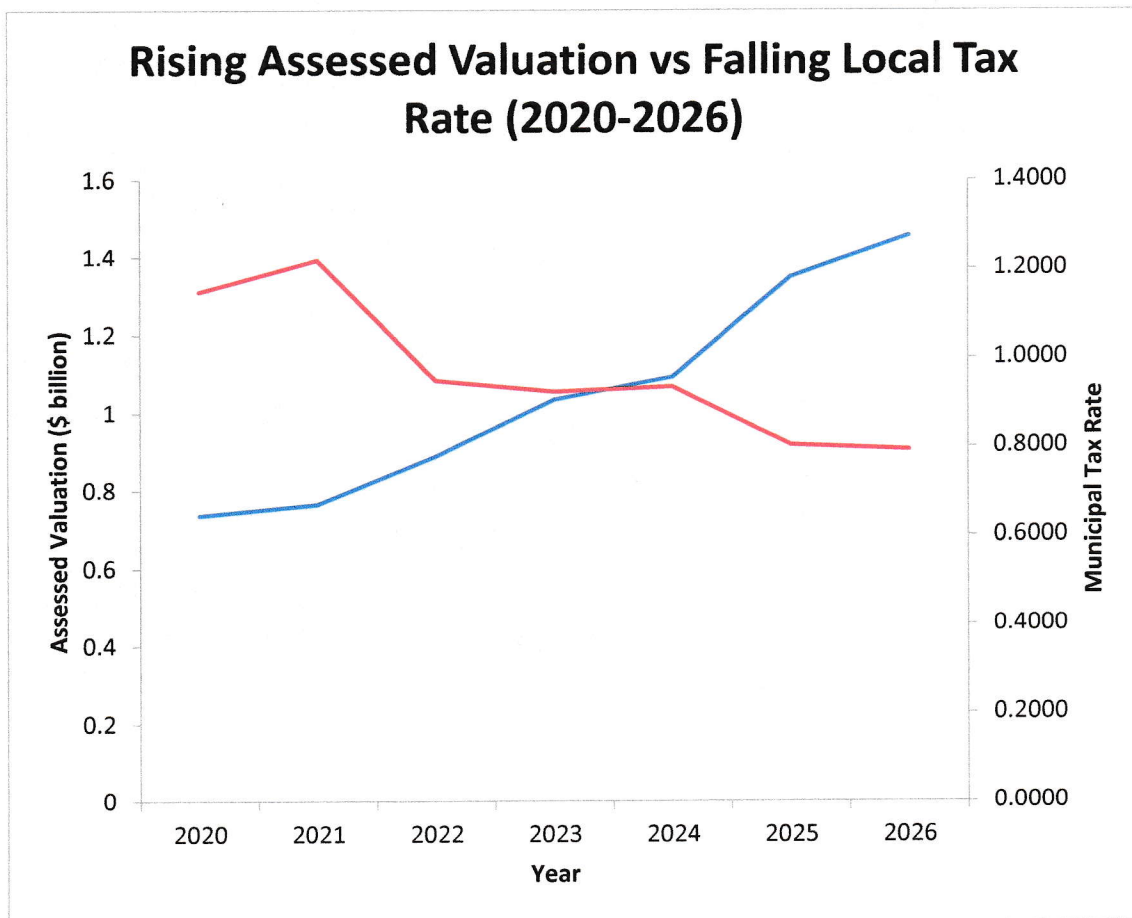


## How your taxes are collected and the projects they fund.

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](https://bit.ly/42HTt2t) and read the handout [bit.ly/4iAywwd](https://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 7 years the value of property in Highlands has increased, yet our Municipal tax rate has gone down or remained steady. The following chart reflects these trends: 2026 Property Valuation of \$1,456,996,100 for a rate of 0.793.

### Valuation vs. Municipal Tax Rate



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

Red line = Municipal Tax Rate

Blue line = Assessed Value in Billions

**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 \$42,179:

- Alcohol Education \$4,539
- Clean Communities \$15,614
- Recycling Tonnage \$1,585
- Drunk Driving Enforcement \$840
- Highway Safety \$19,600

So far this year, Grants & Awards submitted through July:

- **REPI Living Shoreline & Bulkhead** - DEP & Army Corp permits approved. Implementation expected 12/2026.
- **Bronze Huddy Statute** –The proposed installation will be located at Huddy Park, submitted to T-Mobile 4/1/26.
- **Hudson River Foundation** - Building Community Capacity for Resiliency Program – Upgrade/replace all outfalls.
- **New Pumper Truck for FD** – Seed money in 2025 & 26 budget + American Firefighter Grant submitted 6/22/26.
- **Bike/Walkway Overpass over R36** – Bikeways/Safe Streets To Transit submitted 6/22/26 & NJDOT Municipal Aid 7/1
- **North St & Shore Drive Drainage** – Storm sewer upgrades NJDOT Municipal Aid due 7/1/26.
- **Waterwitch Ave** – Sidewalks and curbs replacement CDBG due 7/9/26.
- **Kavookjian Upgrades** – New bleachers, retaining walls drainage & fencing. MC Open Space Grant due 7/29/26.
- **New First Aid & DPW HQ** – Looking for funding and location appraisal.

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

- Replace Tide Valves at Coves and Jackson Street [Borough Funded \$48,425].
- Twin Lights Terrace Drainage & South Peak Wall Replacement [Borough Funded \$117,500].
- Creation of Overlook Park on Navesink Ave. [Grant \$222,000].
- Frank Hall Park Improvements [Grant \$86,000].

This Summer, you will notice our continuing commitment to improve our Open Space & stormwater infrastructure:

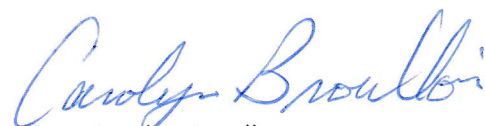
- Playground Improvements at Huddy, Snug & Vets and repave/new striping at Snug Courts [Grant \$225,050].
- South Peak Drainage Improvements [Grant \$217,456].

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].
- 2022 FEMA BRIC – Combines flood mitigation and green infrastructure. After the archaeological survey is completed [end of June], the final DEP review will begin. Project = \$16,205,280; Grant = \$12,193,960.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me 732-291-4009 or [cbroullon@highlandsnj.gov](mailto:cbroullon@highlandsnj.gov).

All the best to you and yours,



Mayor Carolyn Broullon