

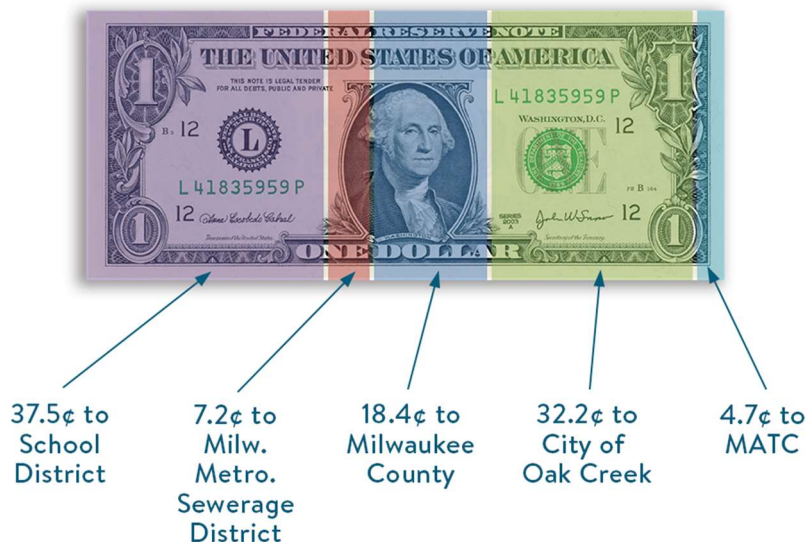
## WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO?

It's that time of year again – property tax season. We get it; paying taxes isn't anyone's favorite thing. But it's important to understand that those taxes are the backbone of safe, attractive neighborhoods, well-maintained roads, the beautiful parks and recreational amenities we all enjoy, and many other services in our community. The City's goal with this communication is to give you more insight into where your property tax dollars go, ensuring you understand how these funds are used to make a positive impact on our community.

This year, the City of Oak Creek (City portion only) tax rate increased by \$0.12 for every \$1,000 of your property value. This nominal increase funds the 2024 Public Safety Staffing Plan, which will add six police officers, one detective, a dispatch supervisor, and four firefighter/paramedics to directly serve the community. It also provides funds to the Police Aide and Fire Cadet/Intern programs, which will serve to introduce public safety career paths and develop experienced candidates for our police and fire departments. To learn more about the staffing plan, please visit [ocwi.org/comms](http://ocwi.org/comms).

It's important to note the City of Oak Creek is only one of several taxing jurisdictions that share your annual property tax payment. Although the City collects your entire tax payment, the City only retains 32.2% (put another way, 32.2 cents of every tax dollar paid) for City of Oak Creek operations. Other entities, such as Oak Creek-Franklin School District (OCSFD), Milwaukee County, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), and Milwaukee Metro Sewerage District (MMSD), also retain a portion of your annual tax payment. Below, residents can view a breakdown of how the City distributes its property tax dollars among the multiple taxing jurisdictions.

### 2023 Tax Dollar Breakdown



To restate, the dollar bill graphic above shows that only 32.2% of your total property tax dollars – or 32.2 cents of every tax dollar – is used to operate the City of Oak Creek. The remaining 67.8% of your annual property tax payment goes to other taxing jurisdictions that make their own financial and policy decisions.

For example, the current median assessed home value in the City is \$323,700. An Oak Creek taxpayer with a property valued at \$323,700 would pay a total tax bill (real estate only) of \$5,836.31 based on the combined tax rate from all taxing jurisdictions of \$18.03/\$1,000 of property value. **NOTE: This year, the “combined” tax rate for all taxing jurisdictions decreased \$1.46/\$1,000 of property value.** The City of Oak Creek’s tax share for City operations on the \$323,700 example property is \$1,876.12. The other \$3,960.19 goes to fund the operations of all the other taxing jurisdictions shown in the dollar bill above.

## MONTHLY COSTS FOR CITY SERVICES

When doing our household budgets, many of us look at our expenses on a monthly basis. To give our residents an idea of the monthly costs for the suite of City services received, we have further itemized “where your tax dollars go.” Keep in mind, the monthly example includes only the \$1,876.12 a property valued at \$323,700 pays to operate the City of Oak Creek. This monthly contribution amounts to \$156.35 (\$1,876.12 divided by 12 months equals \$156.35 per month). Breaking down this monthly amount, the \$156.35 is distributed to City of Oak Creek services in the following manner:

### Monthly Tax Bill Breakdown

*on a property valued at \$323,700*

Police and Municipal Court	\$33.10
Dispatch	\$9.17
<b>TOTAL POLICE</b>	<b>\$42.27</b>
EMS	\$20.90
Fire and Emergency Operations	\$7.04
<b>TOTAL FIRE</b>	<b>\$27.94</b>
General Government	\$18.91
Land Use Planning and Development	\$28.15
Public Works	\$13.80
Refuse and Recycling Collection	\$6.73
Health, Recreation, and Library	\$5.49
Engineering and Inspection	\$3.60
Debt Service	\$9.46
<b>TOTAL ALL OTHERS</b>	<b>\$86.14</b>
<b>TOTAL MONTHLY RATE</b>	<b>\$156.35</b>

Now, put the above monthly costs side-by-side with your household’s other monthly expenses. What do you pay for your cell phone? What about your bill for television and internet services? A typical family cell phone plan or television and internet service is probably more expensive on a monthly basis than what you pay monthly for the full range of City services and amenities.

The City of Oak Creek staff and your Elected Officials always operate in a manner that gives our taxpayers the best “bang for your buck.” Your interests drive our decisions; we are here to serve those interests. We feel the City of Oak Creek provides a good value in City services and amenities for your tax dollars, and hope you feel the same way.