



Town of Ossipee, New Hampshire  
Office of the Selectmen  
P.O. Box 67, 55 Main Street  
Center Ossipee, NH 03814  
Phone: (603) 539-4181  
Fax: (603) 539-4183  
[www.Ossipee.org](http://www.Ossipee.org)

December 2023

## Understanding Your Tax Bill

Dear Ossipee Taxpayer,

We often experience taxpayers with the misconception that the town is responsible for all or most of the tax bill, when in fact the opposite is true: **THE TOWN PORTION IS LESS THAN A THIRD OF YOUR BILL!** This letter is to help you understand the different portions of your tax bill and who has control of that budget. Here are the five components that make up the total tax bill:

**Local Education:** This is the largest component of your tax bill, by far. This budget is controlled by the School District including the School Board, with no involvement or authority by the Town of Ossipee officials. *If you are a registered voter*, your input and ability to influence this budget comes in the form of the annual deliberative session, which is normally scheduled to take place at Kingswood Arts Center in February and then by voting at the local election in March, at Town Hall.

**State Education:** While it is a smaller portion of your tax bill, this tax rate is also not controlled by the town. This is set at the state level.

**County:** The County Commissioners create the budget request and then the County Delegation (of State Reps) vote on it. There is no involvement or authority for the Selectmen of the towns within.

**Fire Precincts/Village Districts:** Within the Town of Ossipee, three village districts exist: The Center Ossipee Precinct, Ossipee Corner Precinct, and West Ossipee Precinct which each have a fire department. These village districts operate as their own municipalities, with their own budgets and annual meeting. The Selectmen have no authority or control over these budgets. However, *registered voters* of a fire precinct/village district can provide input and vote on this budget at the appropriate precinct's annual meeting to be held typically in March.

**Municipal:** This is the portion of the tax bill that funds town operations. The budget is recommended by an elected Budget Committee and then voted on by all *registered voters* of the town that attend the annual Town Meeting in March. Contrary to popular belief, this town portion is less than a third of your total tax bill.

Also noteworthy, in 2020 the Selectmen adopted an Unassigned Funds Policy to ensure fiscal solvency and prevent cash shortages. After three and half years of practicing financial frugality and fiscal discipline, we have consistently exceeded that goal. As a result, we have in fact been able to use part of this fund balance to reduce the municipal portion of your taxes.

(please see reverse)



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### **Assessment Revaluation Explanation**

This year, we experienced a court-ordered/mandated revaluation of all real estate in the Town of Ossipee. As a result, you will see a decreased, flat or increased tax bill due to this revaluation. Values are affected by market forces and actual sales data that has occurred within the Town. The new assessed values are determined by a certified contract assessor, and not the Board of Selectmen. The entire process is monitored and supervised by the Department of Revenue Administration at the State.

Respectfully,

**Matt Sawyer Jr.**

Matt Sawyer Jr.  
Town Administrator