



# 2025 MORRIS TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET



**MAYOR**  
Donna Guariglia

**DEPUTY MAYOR**  
Jeff Grayzel

**COMMITTEE**  
Mark Gyorfy  
Bud Ravitz  
Siva Jonnada

# 2025 BUDGET CHALLENGES

- **EMPLOYEE COSTS**
  - SALARY AND WAGES
  - HEALTH INSURANCE
- **RECYCLING AND TIPPING FEES COSTS**
- **SWIM POOL**
  - MINIMUM WAGE
  - LIFEGUARD INCENTIVE
- **DEBT SERVICE INTEREST**
- **STATE AID**
- **YEAR-END FUND BALANCE**
- **APPROPRIATIONS CAP**



# THE BUDGET PROCESS

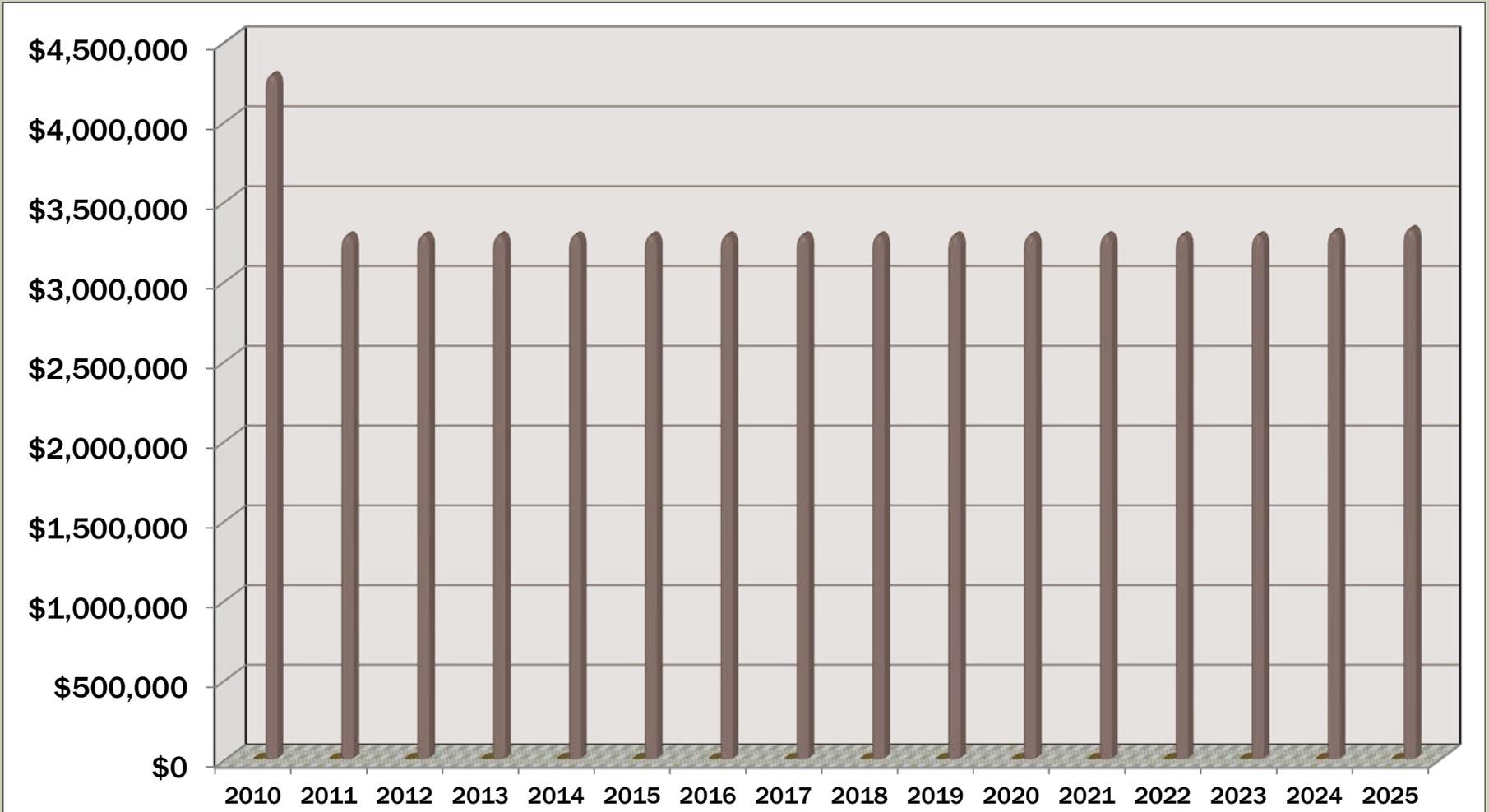


- ❑ **October/November:** Department Heads prepare and submit their Operating Expense Budget and Capital Budget Proposals
- ❑ **December/January:** The Standing Committees, Department Heads, and Administrator review each Departments' Proposals and Requests
- ❑ **January/February:** The Finance Committee, Administrator, and CFO assemble all the department budgets into a comprehensive draft budget for consideration by the Township Committee
- ❑ **March:** Introduction of Budget
- ❑ **April:** Adoption of Budget

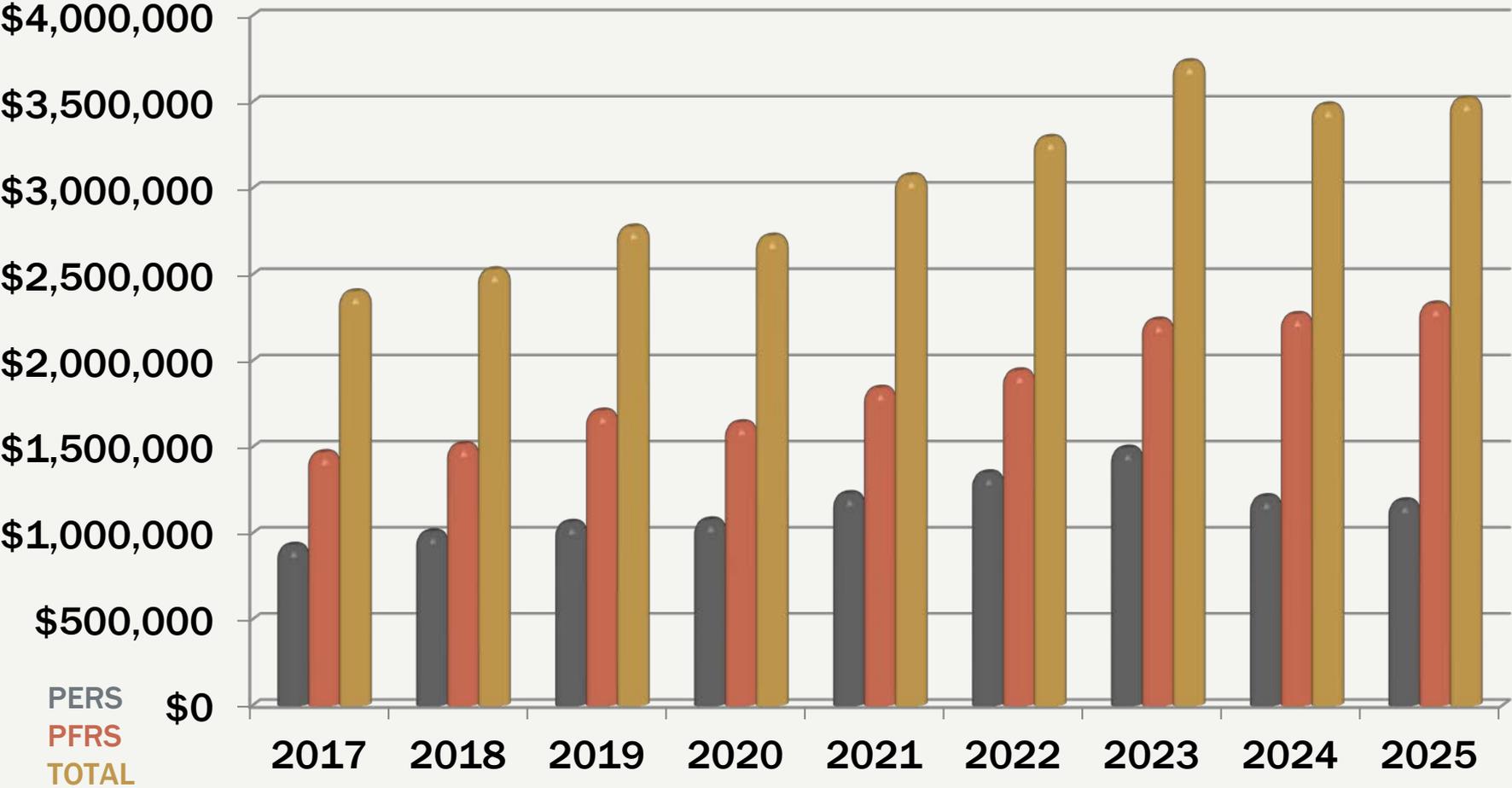
*Throughout the year the budget is monitored to assure anticipated revenues are on track to avoid any over expenditures, and to ensure compliance with NJ State Statutes.*



# STATE AID



# PENSION COSTS UP 1.19%



# COST OF RECYCLING & TIPPING FEES

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
\$1,370,000	\$1,309,000	\$1,220,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
INCREASE \$276,250	DECREASE \$61,000	DECREASE \$89,000	INCREASE \$80,000	INCREASE \$50,000	NO INCREASE

# COST OF STATE MANDATES

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024-2025 DOLLAR INCREASE/ DECREASE
<b>PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND</b>	\$832,753	\$948,849	\$1,041,362	\$1,151,251	\$1,205,962	\$1,189,972	(\$15,990)
<b>POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT FUND</b>	\$1,642,631	\$1,842,430	\$1,943,199	\$2,237,203	\$2,232,555	\$2,330,913	\$98,358
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	\$1,040,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,145,000	\$1,190,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,328,723	\$53,723
<b>GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	\$2,682,500	\$2,706,500	\$2,741,500	\$3,017,020	\$3,263,000	\$3,636,822	\$373,822
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$6,242,884	\$6,597,779	\$6,871,061	\$7,595,474	\$7,976,517	\$8,486,430	\$509,913

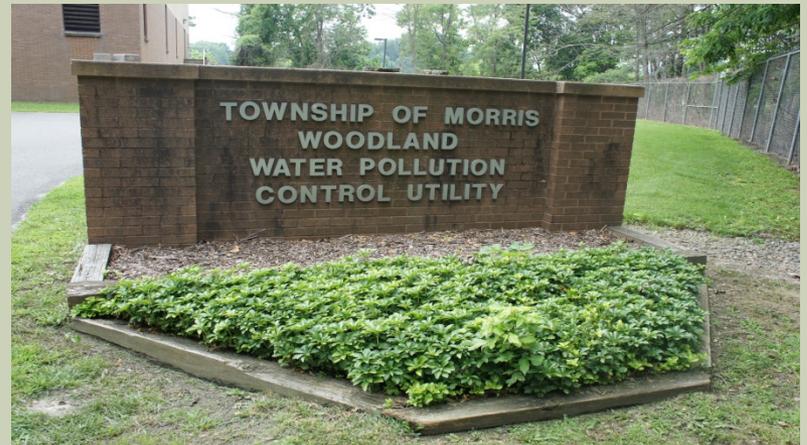
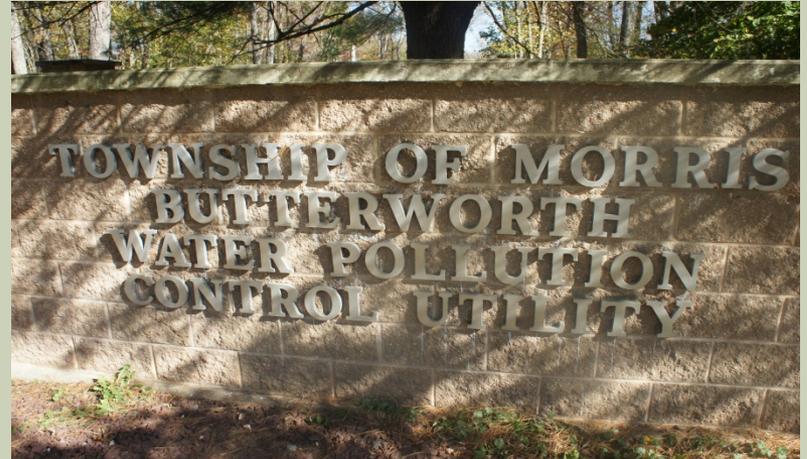
# MUNICIPAL DEBT AT YEAR END

(INCLUDING AUTHORIZED BUT NOT ISSUED DEBT)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GENERAL	\$23,274,706	\$22,323,456	\$21,322,956	\$20,020,381	\$21,311,353	\$21,746,297
SEWER UTILITY	\$11,380,788	\$10,359,050	\$9,326,312	\$8,496,574	\$7,656,836	\$6,719,904
SWIMMING UTILITY	\$2,696,300	\$2,466,675	\$2,334,150	\$2,149,450	\$2,324,700	\$2,469,703
PARKING UTILITY	\$213,000	\$159,000	\$105,000	\$70,000	\$35,000	\$0
TOTAL DEBT	\$37,564,794	\$35,308,181	\$33,088,418	\$30,736,405	\$31,327,889	\$30,935,904

# OTHER VARIABLES

- UNION LABOR CONTRACTS
- INCREASE IN SHARE OF LIBRARY COSTS
- STATE AID – ENERGY TAX RECEIPTS
- 21 MILLION INCREASE IN RATABLE BASE



# 2025 GRANTS

GRANT	AMOUNT	COST SHARE
National Opioid Settlement	\$85,560.00	
Municipal Alliance	\$16,640.00	\$4,160.00
Local Health Infrastructure	\$4,500.00	
Bulletproof Vest – State	\$3,587.60	
Bulletproof Vest – Federal	\$2,599.21	
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	\$19,448.30	
Highlands Assessment	\$15,000.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$147,335.11</b>	<b>\$4,160.00</b>

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**POLICE, FIRE, EMS, OEM**

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**HEALTH SERVICES**

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**WASTE DISPOSAL, RECYCLING,  
ROAD MAINT.**

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**RECREATION –  
ENHANCED PROGRAMS**

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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**HIGH LEVEL  
SERVICES**



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**JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT WITH  
MADISON, CHATHAM TOWNSHIP,  
AND CHATHAM BOROUGH**

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**SEWER CONTRACTS WITH  
NEIGHBORING TOWNS**

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**JOINT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY-  
COMMUNICATIONS, MUTUAL AID,  
AND SHARED RESOURCES**

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**SHARED  
SERVICES**



# KEY OFFSETS



- INCREASE IN REVENUE FROM PILOTS
- INCREASE IN FEES
- DECREASE IN FUND BALANCE USED
- INCREASE IN INVESTMENT INCOME
- DECREASE IN DEBT SERVICE



# 2025 ANTICIPATED REVENUES

<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$6.500 MILLION</b>
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<b>MISC. REVENUE</b>	<b>\$8.318 MILLION</b>
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<b>DELINQUENT TAX</b>	<b>\$0.580 MILLION</b>
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<b>LOCAL TAX</b>	<b>\$25.205 MILLION</b>
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<b>LIBRARY TAX</b>	<b>\$2.295 MILLION</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42.898 MILLION</b>
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# 2025 APPROPRIATIONS

<b>Salary and Wages</b>	<b>\$17.121 million</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$11.698 million</b>
<b>Statutory Expenses</b>	<b>\$5.541 million</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$.795 million</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>2.248 million</b>
<b>Res. Uncollected Taxes</b>	<b>\$3.200 million</b>
<b>Joint Public Library</b>	<b>\$2.295 million</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42.898 million</b>

# 2025 CAPITAL PROGRAM

## Debt Policy

### Capital Bond Program (Debt)

- \$2.8 million
- Major Projects – Road Reconstruction, Road Overlay, Infrastructure, DPW large trucks

### Capital Improvement Fund Program (No Debt)

- \$460,600
- Smaller infrastructure improvements for facilities. General Services for drainage, curbing, and sidewalk projects.

### Capital Outlay Program (No Debt)

- \$188,500
- Small projects, office renovations, DPW and Parks equipment, tree removal, and replacement trees

### Open Space Trust Fund (No Debt)

- \$314,500
- Dangerous tree removal
- Tree shrub and meadow planting
- Open space improvement projects

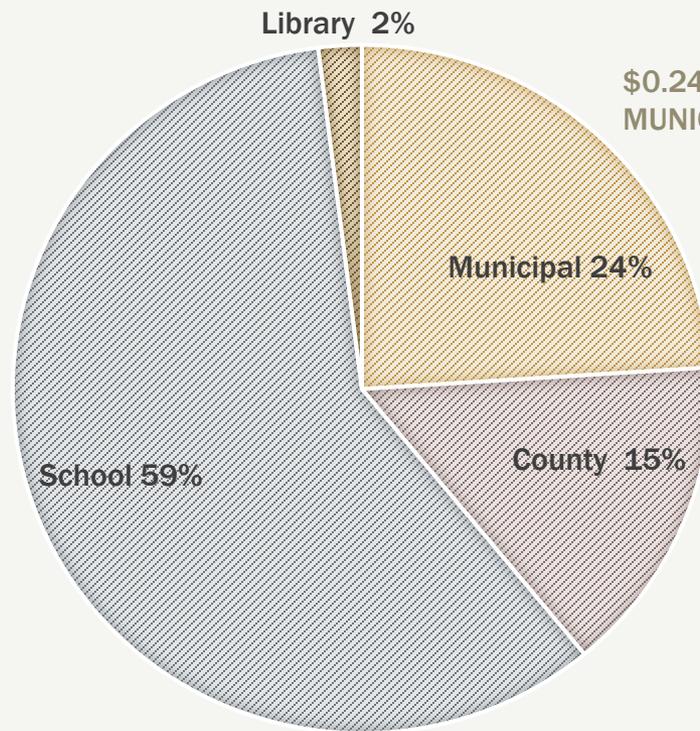
# PROPERTY VALUES

	<b>ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE</b>	<b>EQUALIZED RATIO</b>	<b>EQUALIZED VALUE</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$5,452,857,800</b>	<b>78.90%</b>	<b>\$6,911,099,873</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$5,431,337,038</b>	<b>83.70%</b>	<b>\$6,489,052,614</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$5,424,267,438</b>	<b>89.69%</b>	<b>\$6,047,795,114</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$5,426,750,138</b>	<b>93.02%</b>	<b>\$5,833,960,587</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$5,402,534,838</b>	<b>93.92%</b>	<b>\$5,752,273,039</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$5,395,254,038</b>	<b>94.40%</b>	<b>\$5,715,311,481</b>

# TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

2022 TAX RATE PER \$100 \$600,000 NAV (AVERAGE)		2023 TAX RATE PER \$100 \$600,000 NAV (AVERAGE)		2024 TAX RATE PER \$100 \$600,000 NAV (AVERAGE)		2025 TAX RATE PER \$100 \$600,000 NAV (AVERAGE)	
DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
MUNICIPAL .440	\$2,640	MUNICIPAL .449	\$2,698	MUNICIPAL .459	\$2,748	MUNICIPAL .462	\$2,774
COUNTY .278	\$1,668	COUNTY .284	\$1,704	COUNTY .284	\$1,776	* COUNTY .296	\$1,776
SCHOOL 1.189	\$7,134	SCHOOL 1.224	\$7,344	SCHOOL 1.197	\$7,182	* SCHOOL 1.147	\$6,882
OPEN SPACE .011	\$66	OPEN SPACE .011	\$66	OPEN SPACE .011	\$66	OPEN SPACE .013	\$78
LIBRARY .035	\$210	LIBRARY .037	\$223	LIBRARY .039	\$234	LIBRARY .042	\$253
TOTAL	\$11,718	TOTAL	\$12,035	TOTAL	\$12,012	* TOTAL	\$11,763
2022 TAX RATE	\$1.953	2023 TAX RATE	\$2.005	2024 PROJECTED TAX RATE	\$2.002	* 2025 PROJECTED TAX RATE	\$1.96

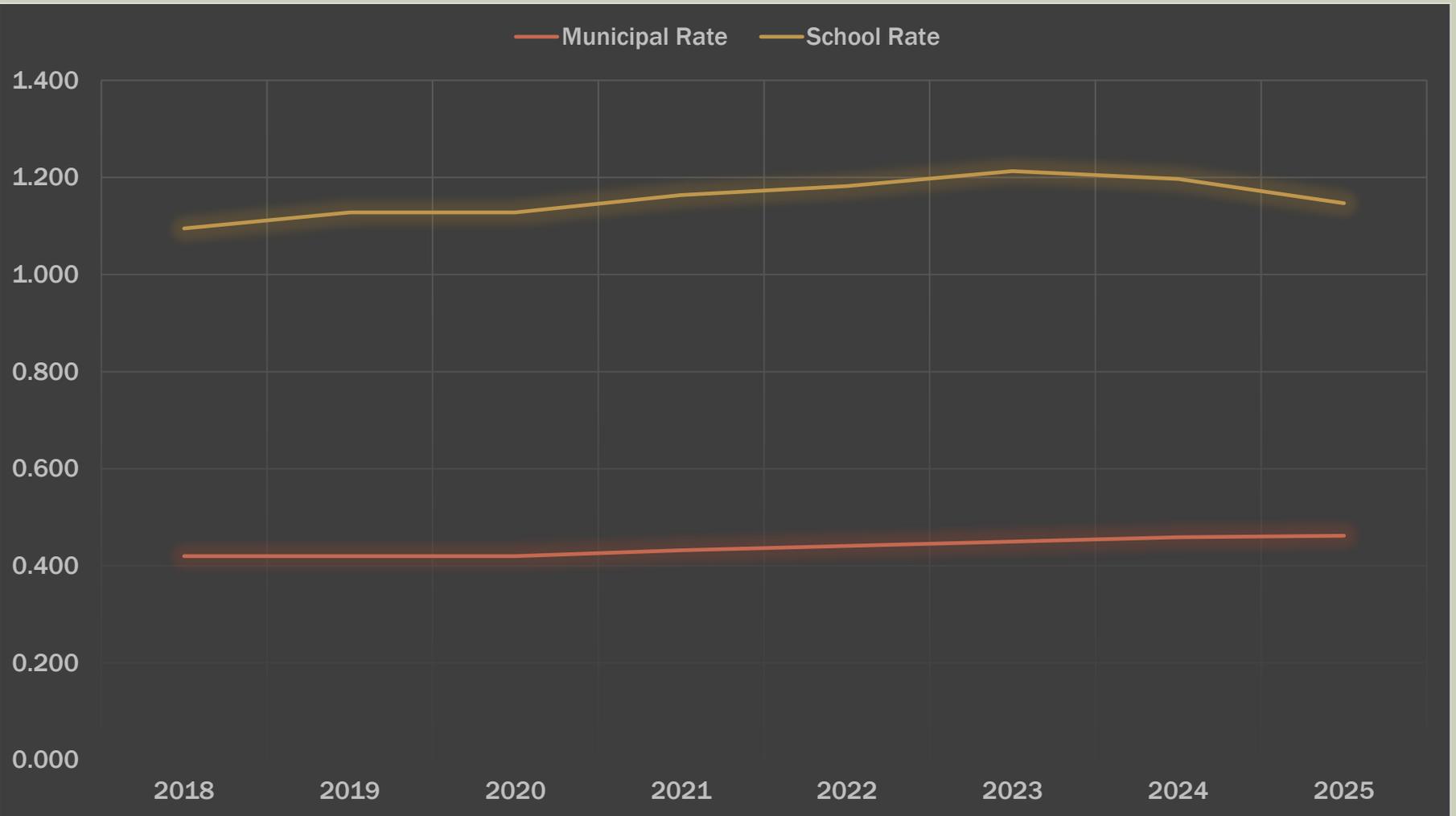
# PROPERTY TAX DISTRIBUTION



\$0.24 OF EVERY TAX DOLLAR FUNDS  
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

■ Municipal ■ County ■ School ■ Library

# INCREASE IN MUNICIPAL RATE VS INCREASE IN SCHOOL RATE



# TAX COLLECTION RATE VS RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES RATE

## Tax Collection Rate

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**2019**                      **99.35%**

**2020**                      **99.30%**

**2021**                      **99.36%**

**2022**                      **99.07%**

**2023**                      **99.40%**

**2024**                      **99.41%**

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## Uncollected Taxes Rate

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**2020**                      **96.78%**

**2021**                      **96.89%**

**2022**                      **96.89%**

**2023**                      **97.04%**

**2024**                      **97.06%**

**2025**                      **97.12%**

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# FUND BALANCE

ROLL FUND BALANCE TO AVOID TAX SPIKE

MAINTAIN TAX LEVY CAP OF 2%

FUND BALANCE IS ALSO INSURANCE AGAINST LOSS OF REVENUE

AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS SUCH AS NATURAL DISASTER AND REVALUATION

TAX APPEALS

FUND BALANCE POLICY



# POLICY

The long-time position of the Township of Morris is to be fiscally conservative, to preserve our Triple A credit rating, and have funds available for cash flow, emergencies and unanticipated expenditures. Maintaining an adequate Fund Balance from year to year enables the Township to have a stable tax rate without significant fluctuations. This position is supported by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services and Credit Rating Agencies.

Being fiscally responsible requires the Township to maintain an unreserved Fund Balance of 15% to 20% of the general operating budget appropriations for Salaries, Operating Expenses, Statutory Expenses, Debt Service, and Capital Improvement. Excluded in the calculation are Reserve for Uncollected Taxes and the Municipal Library Appropriation.

Fund Balance provides cash flow liquidity for the Township's operations. Lack of adequate Fund Balance may put the Township at risk of fiscal stress resulting in excessive tax increases. Fund Balance is used as a tool to mitigate and stabilize the Amount to be Raised by Taxation. Fund Balance is considered one-time revenue in the budget in the sense that it will not be available in the future unless it is regenerated.

It is therefore the policy of the Township of Morris Governing Body to maintain a Fund Balance of 15% to 20% of annual appropriations to insure our fiscal responsibility, maintain services for our residents, be prepared for emergencies and major weather events, tax appeals, and ensure we are able to stay within the 2% property tax levy cap.

# FUND BALANCE HISTORY

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>YEAR END FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT USED FOR FOLLOWING YEAR BUDGET</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$12,564,655</b>	<b>\$6,500,000</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$12,616,654</b>	<b>\$6,591,225</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$11,366,064</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$11,182,975</b>	<b>\$5,800,000</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$11,421,774</b>	<b>\$6,400,000</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$12,989,704</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>\$11,325,287</b>	<b>\$6,250,000</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>\$10,196,834</b>	<b>\$5,300,000</b>



# UTILITIES



**SEWER UTILITY**  
**\$9,592,422**



**PARKING LOT UTILITY**  
**\$321,657**



**SWIM POOL UTILITY**  
**\$1,688,109**

# 2025 BUDGET

- MAINTAIN ALL SERVICES
- CAPITAL PROGRAM
  - MAINTAIN ANNUAL ROAD OVERLAY AND CRACK SEALING PROGRAM
  - GENERAL SERVICES FOR DRAINAGE, CURBING AND SIDEWALKS
  - INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS / EQUIPMENT AND TRUCKS
- 0.93% MUNICIPAL TAX RATE INCREASE
- INCREASE FOR 2025 WILL BE \$2.12 PER MONTH FOR MEDIAN ASSESSED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OF \$600,000 (\$25.47 PER YEAR)
- FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE



**2026**

**BUDGET  
PLANNING**

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## **SALARY AND WAGE INCREASES**

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**INSTABILITY OF RECYCLING MARKET  
COSTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES (CPI)  
INSURANCE PREMIUMS**

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**REVENUE PROJECTIONS**

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**APPROPRIATIONS CAP**

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**PROJECTED IMPACT  
OF:**

**STATE AID**

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**HEALTH BENEFIT COSTS**

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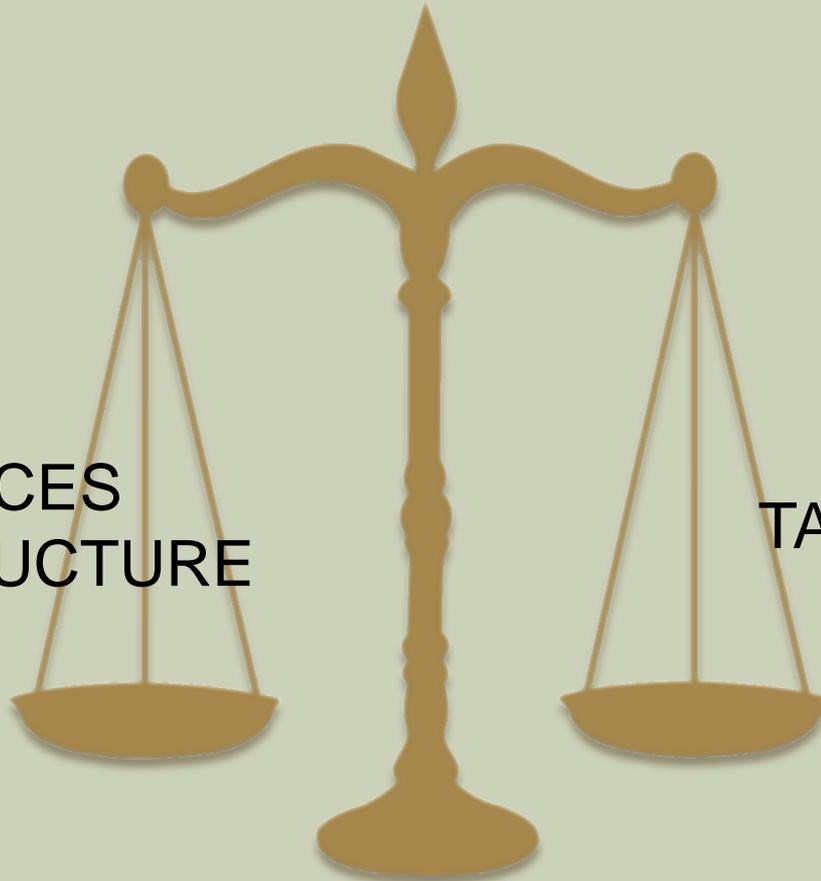
**PENSION COSTS**

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# BALANCE

SERVICES  
INFRASTRUCTURE



TAXES