

FISCAL CENTS\$
By Paul Muller
Finance Committee Chairman

Our committee has tried to match the needs of the town with the ability of the taxpayers to pay for these services. Nobody wants to pay taxes, including me. However, it is a necessity in order to provide education for our children, to operate fire and police departments and municipal services such as water, sewer, highway, trash collection, library and a myriad of other services. It is impossible to match each individual's ability to pay taxes because of the way our tax laws are written. The town's largest source of revenue is from property taxes. Other sources include excise taxes, state aid, water and sewer bills and other smaller revenue sources.

The chart below gives a comparison of the average property tax bill in Blackstone with surrounding towns. In the quirky way our government works, the higher the ranking, the lower the average tax bill for the town. In this ranking, Blackstone has the lowest average tax bill. The average state tax bill is \$3,067.00; Blackstone is just below the state average at \$2,863.00.

Municipality	Assessed Value	Parcels	Average Value	Tax Rate	Single Family Tax Bill	Hi-Lo Rank	Bill*Parcel (Total Levy)
BLACKSTONE	485,885,200	1,955	248,535	11.52	2,863	196	5,597,165
DOUGLAS	646,837,600	2,413	268,064	11.05	2,962	182	7,147,306
MENDON	651,721,360	1,745	373,479	9.8	3,660	106	6,386,700
MILLVILLE	207,910,200	767	271,069	11.32	3,069	169	2,353,923
UXBRIDGE	896,545,800	3,171	282,733	11.67	3,299	145	10,461,129
HOPEDALE	438,393,400	1,452	301,924	11.5	3,472	130	5,041,344
MILFORD	1,638,457,500	5,661	289,429	11.83	3,424	133	19,383,264

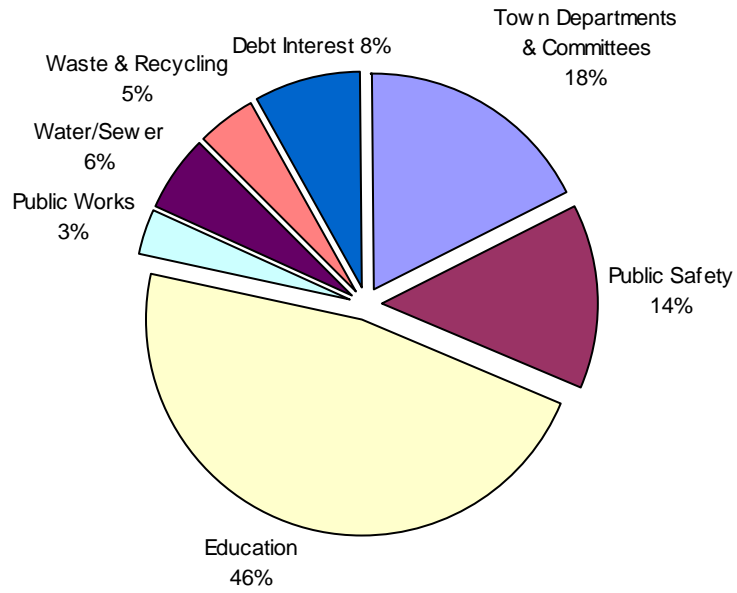
Department of Revenue website.

How your tax dollars are spent is shown in the graph below:

Town of Blackstone Budget Expenditures 2006		
Town Departments & Committees	\$2,816,673.00	17.79%
Public Safety	\$2,151,868.00	13.59%
Education	\$7,439,830.00	46.98%
Public Works (highway)	\$512,073.00	3.23%
Water & Sewer	\$918,919.00	5.80%
Waste & Recycling	\$739,474.00	4.67%
Debt Interest	\$1,257,729.00	7.94%
	\$15,836,566.00	100.00%

Compiled from Annual Town Meeting 2005

2006 Budget Expenditures



Sources of Revenue

Real Estate Taxes	\$9,153,951.00	58.64%
Excise Taxes	\$1,022,139.00	6.55%
Fees & Permits	\$342,000.00	2.19%
State Aid	\$1,350,336.00	8.65%
Transfers*	\$3,467,401.00	22.21%
Borrowing	\$275,000.00	1.76%
	\$15,610,827.00	100.00%

* Transfers from Stabilization, Free Cash & Capital Trust
Compiled from Budget Worksheets 2005

