

From the Desk of Supervisor Bloomquist

As Supervisor of Williamstown Township I will be using this weekly Letter from the Supervisors Desk to discuss current events within the Michigan Government, local historical preservation and the role of Township government within the overall fabric of Michigan government.

As income tax season comes to a close, it is a good time to discuss property taxes. In Michigan the cities and townships are responsible for collecting all property taxes which include millages and assessments for local governments; state, county, and local school taxes; Ingham County government and other County levies; and Other entities listed below.

You may ask ***“Where do my property taxes go?”*** The following breakdown is depicted on the graph for homes in the Williamston School district. Similar results occur for township homes in the Perry, Haslett and Okemos school districts.

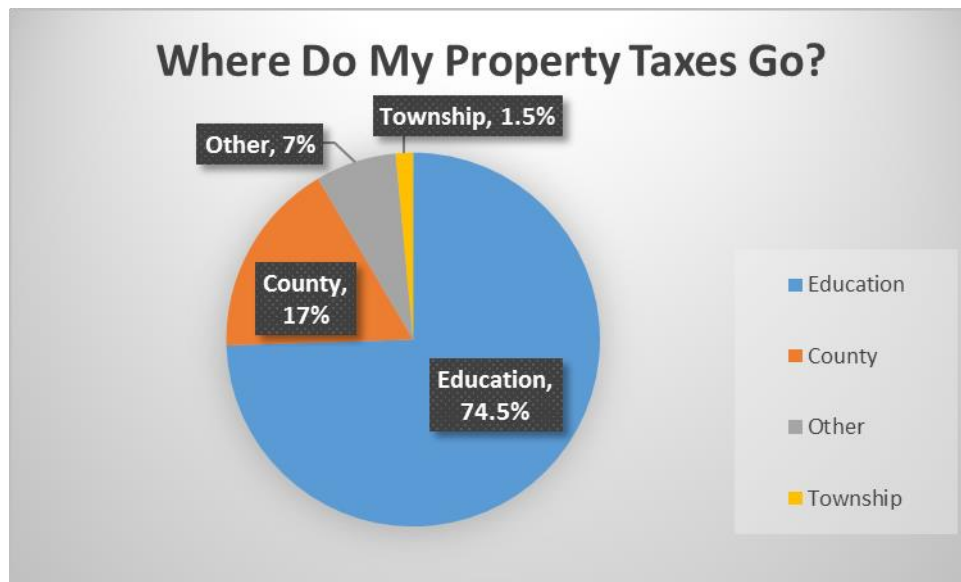
74.5% of property taxes goes to fund education in local districts, Ingham County Intermediate School District, Lansing Community College and the State School Fund.

Approximately 17% goes to Ingham County for County Government and other County levies.

Over 7% goes to NIESA (our City of Williamston and multi-township fire and emergency services authority), **Capital Area Library and the Lansing Airport.**

Less than 1.5% goes to Williamstown Township for the cemetery and other local government services.

That means, out of every \$100 of property tax assessed by millages, \$1.50 goes to Williamstown Township and \$98.50 goes to other schools, Ingham County and other taxing authorities.



Additionally, in 2010 Williamstown Township residents voted to assess each home \$150 and each business \$250 for police services when Ingham County eliminated road patrol police services to our Township. This assessment has been reduced by over 25% by the Williamstown Township Board to the current amount of \$110 per home and \$185 per business.

It is noteworthy that by the State Constitution, the Township property tax millage discussed above automatically remains the same or decreases each year unless the Township residents vote to increase it. The Township Board has never requested the voters increase the Township property tax millage.

Consequently, by state mandate and Williamstown Township Board actions, the township millage and Police assessment have been staying the same or decreasing each year.

How do we use the Township property taxes? The Police assessment is used only to purchase Police service from Meridian Charter Township, legal expenses to contract for services and defend enforcement issues, financial services related to the annual audit, Police service related supplies for our residents and neighborhood watch signs. Township property taxes combined with state revenue sharing funds are used to conduct state mandated services which are legal property assessments, collection and distribution of property taxes, voter registration and conducting elections. Additionally, funds are used to provide for the use of the Township Hall its baseball fields, pavilion, playground and as an emergency center by the residents; to resurface local roads; to maintain the Township park with its soccer fields, baseball fields, winter sledding hill, and nature trails; and to maintain two Township cemeteries.

In future letters from the Desk of the Supervisor I will discuss Township services in more detail.

Wanda Bloomquist
Supervisor
Williamstown Township