



TOWNSHIP OF MONROE BUDGET PRESENTATION

APRIL 2026

AGENDA



**2026 Budget
Overview**



**Safety and
Emergency
Services**



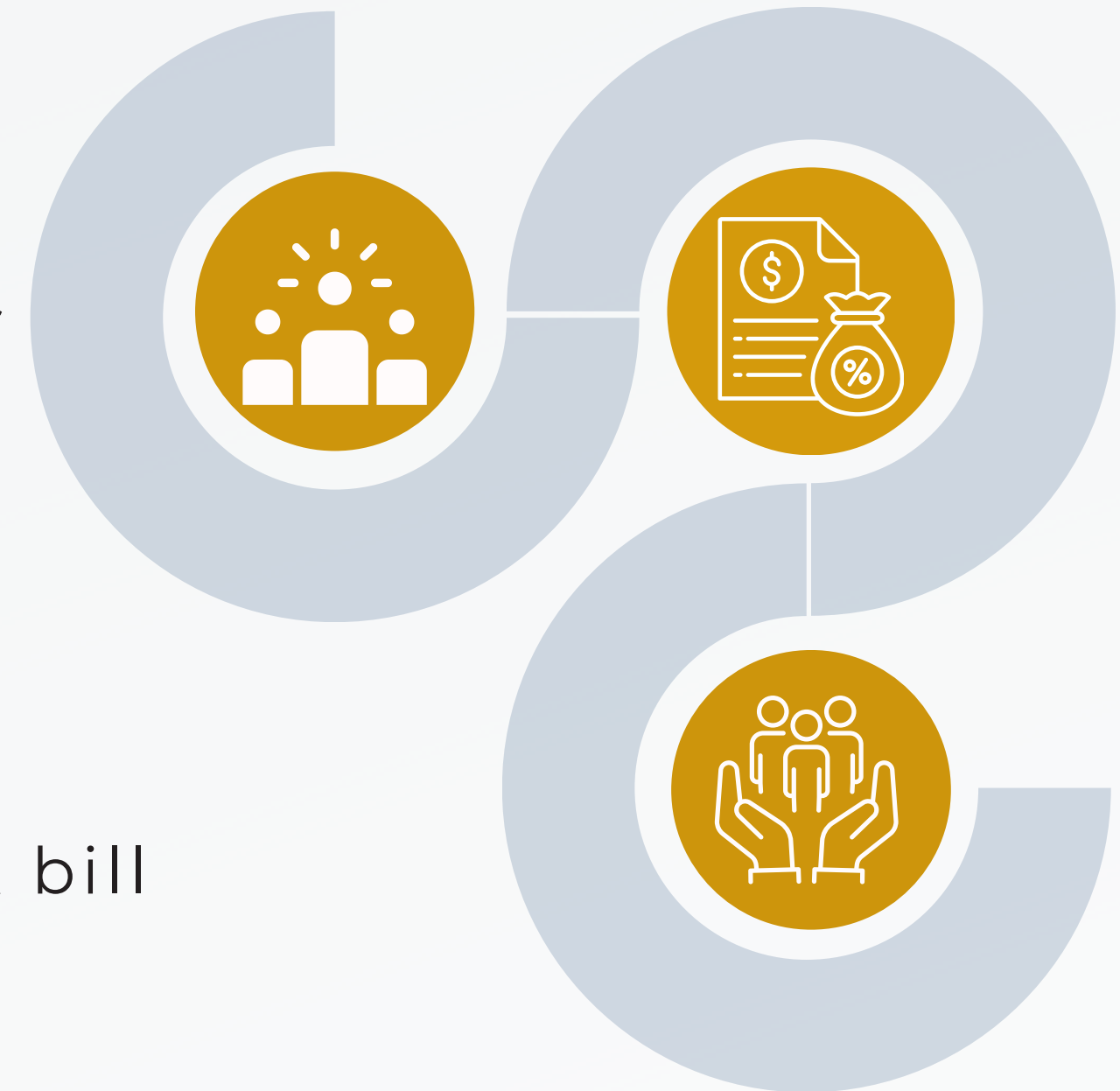
**Community
Programs**



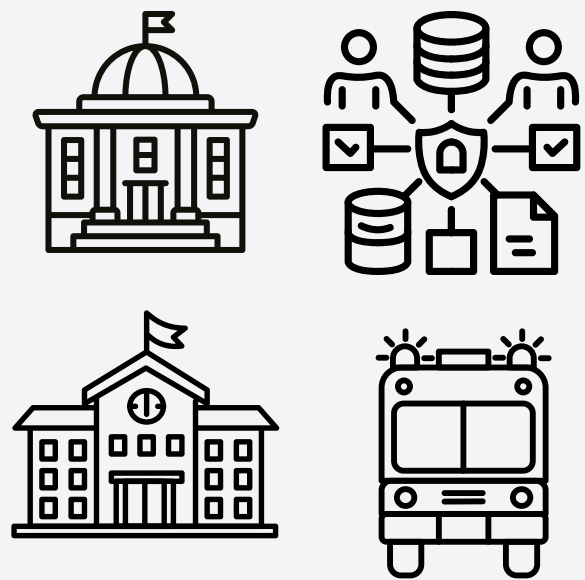
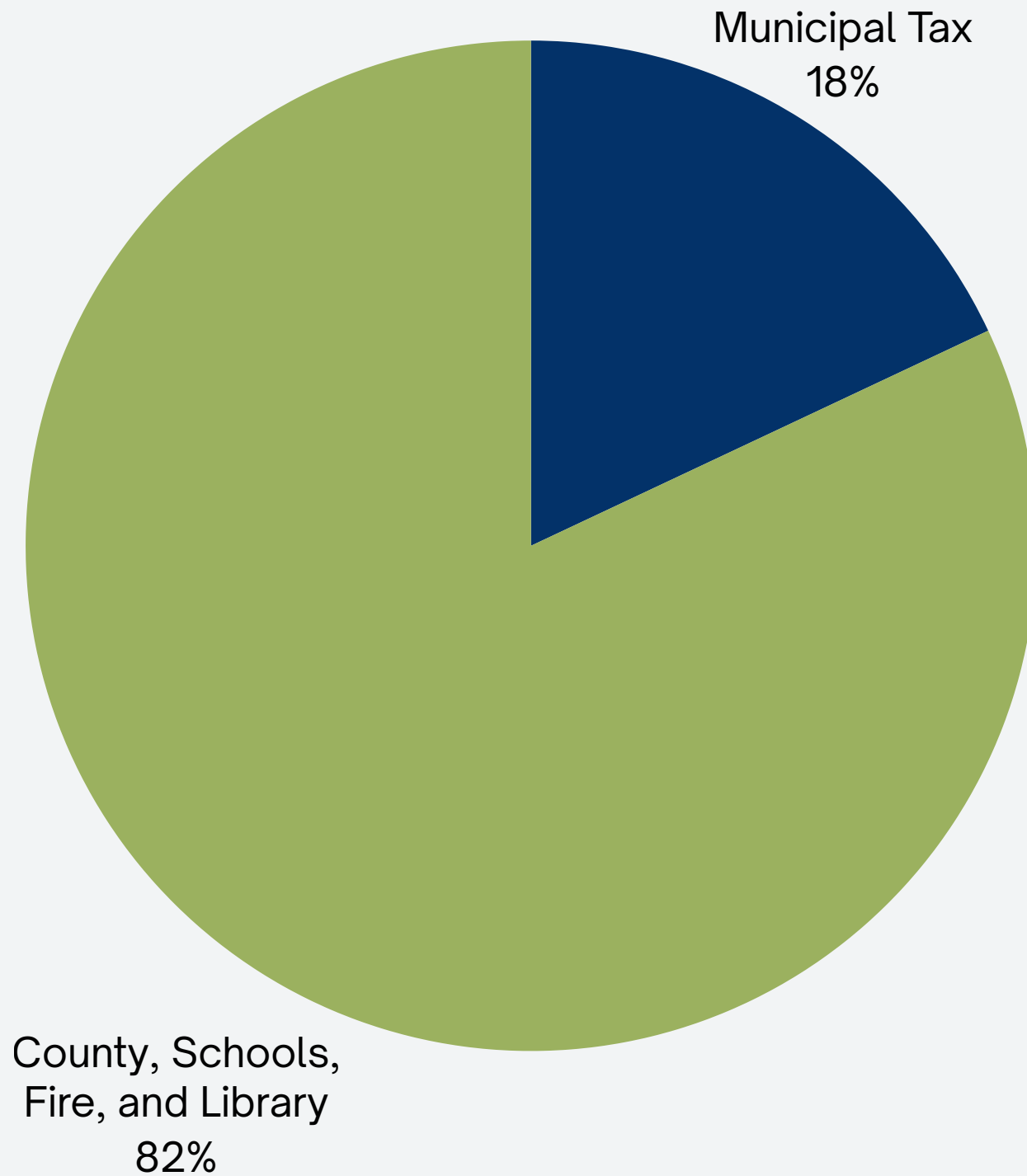
**Advocating
for
Affordability**

BUDGET OVERVIEW

- **Proposed budget** = \$79,527, 373
- Increased tax rate **4.3 cents** (municipal) for a rate of **\$0.566 per \$100 of assessed value**
 - For the average assessed home at \$338,100, this equates to an additional \$148.68 per year.
 - The Municipal tax makes up appx. 18% of total tax bill



MUNICIPAL TAX RATE IS 18% OF TOTAL PROPERTY TAX BILL



BUDGET OVERVIEW



Challenges

- ***Rising annual costs are affecting local governments state-wide***
 - Health Insurance increase 29% (\$2.4 million)
 - Liability insurance increase 35% (\$800,000)
 - Waste Disposal increase (\$200,000)
 - Winter Storm-related costs (\$520,000+)
 - Utilities Increase, Raw Materials Increase, etc.
- Conclusion of ARP federal funds and MRF state funds

BUDGET OVERVIEW



Challenges

- ***Rising annual costs are affecting local governments state-wide***
 - Rock Salt Usage and ordering: **51% increase**
 - Fuel Pricing: Gasoline- **11% increase** / Diesel Fuel- **49% increase**
 - Repair Parts (Vehicle Maintenance division services): **34% increase**
 - Equipment Repairs (Vehicle Maintenance): **20% increase**
 - Energy Costs (All Facilities): **17% increase**

BUDGET OVERVIEW



Steps the Township is taking to limit impact of rising costs

- Identified over \$1.5 Million in strategic budget reductions while preserving valuable resident services
- Includes: leaving select department vacancies unfilled and pausing all new full-time positions
- Includes strategic reductions to operating expenses - without cutting Senior programs, Recreation programs, or public safety resources
- Participate in additional purchasing co-operatives - prioritize cost effectiveness
- Aggressively identifying and securing grant funding (James Monroe Park, Community Garden, Disbrow Park, Paving projects, ESIP incentives)

COMMITMENT TO TOWNSHIP SERVICES

- Existing Construction Projects are partially funded through State or County grants or federal tax incentives
 - Community Garden; James Monroe Park Indoor recreation; Senior Center Pickleball; Disbrow Park (Green Acres application pending); ESIP solar project; Links Drive paving; Heritage Chase paving

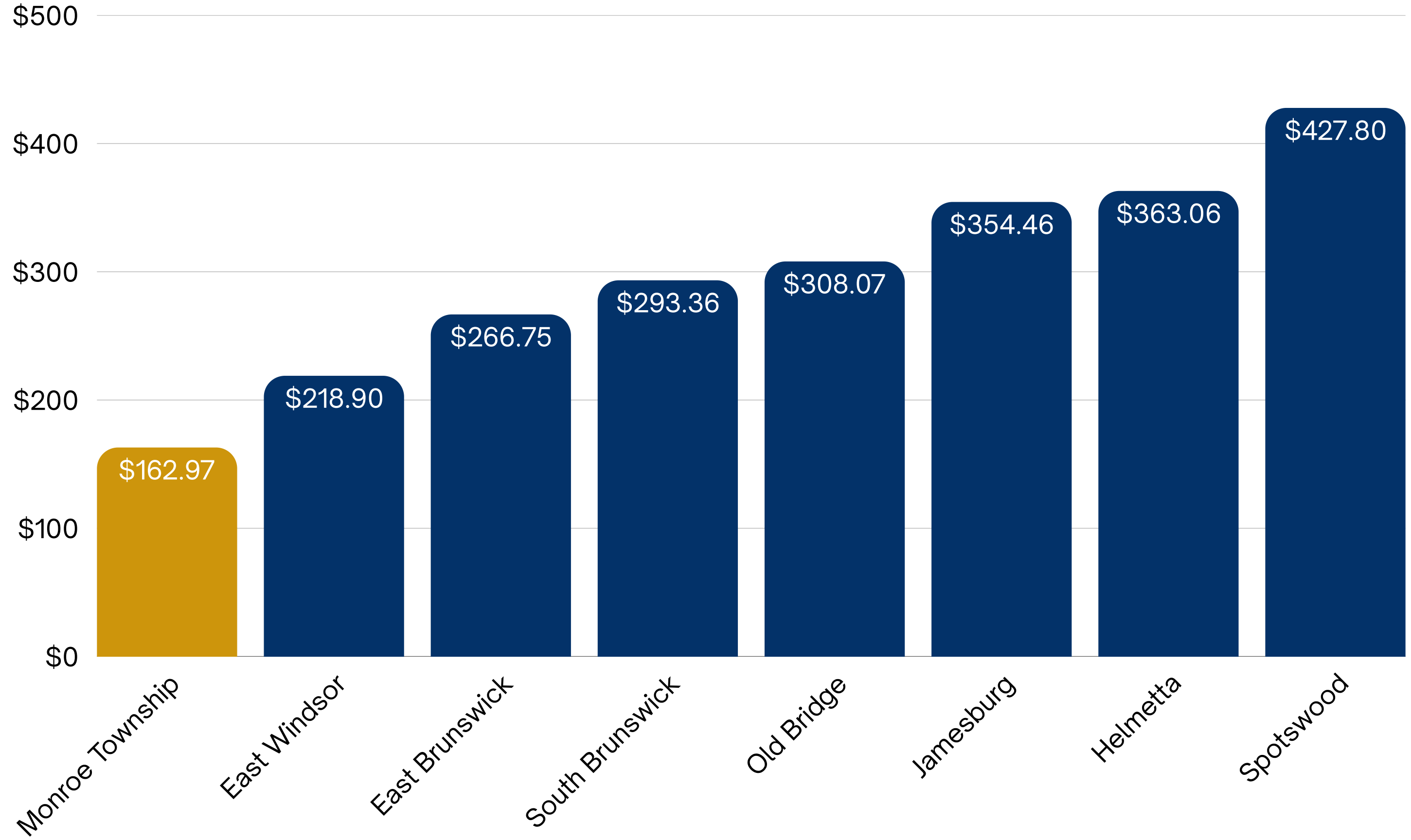
Monroe's Overall Effective Municipal Tax Ranking in Middlesex County

Taxing District	Overall Effective Tax Rate
Cranbury	1.454
Monroe	1.557
Piscataway	1.708
Carteret	1.760
South River	1.797
Old Bridge	1.836
South Brunswick	1.938
Edison	2.005
South Plainfield	2.023
Helmetta	2.054
South Amboy	2.056
New Brunswick	2.092
North Brunswick	2.092

Taxing District	Overall Effective Tax Rate
Sayreville	2.098
Middlesex	2.164
Woodbridge	2.234
Spotswood	2.276
East Brunswick	2.287
Plainsboro	2.294
Perth Amboy	2.296
Metuchen	2.374
Dunellen	2.399
Milltown	2.500
Jamesburg	2.631
Highland Park	2.802

*Source Middlesex County's 2025 Abstract of Retables.

Water and Sewer Costs (Combined) - 25,000 GPQ Average





PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Monroe Township Emergency Medical Services

- Professionally Trained EMT Staff at 5 locations.
- Full-time EMT's
- Over 11,600+ calls in 2025
- Certified Paramedics
- Paramedic unit stationed in town supplied by Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital





PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Monroe Township Police Department

- 72 Sworn and Trained Police Officers
- NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police Accredited
- Enhanced Security Measures / FLOCK Cameras
- Prescription Medicine Drop Box
- Safe Exchange Program

PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

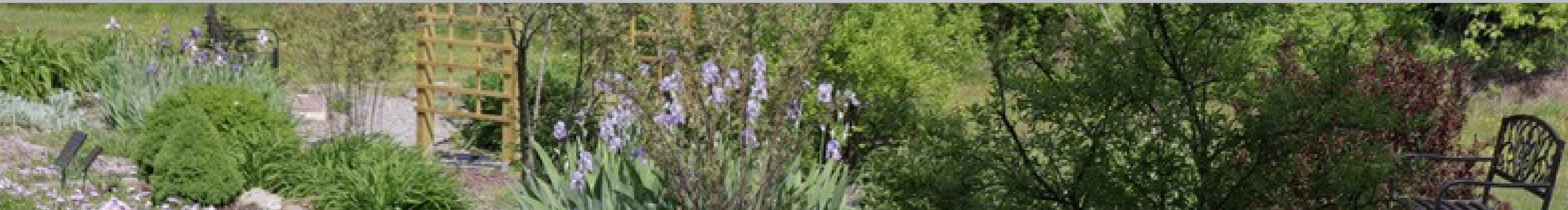
**Monroe Township
Senior Center**



**Monroe Township
Library**



**Monroe Township
Community Center**





PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Monroe Township Senior Center (2025 Data)

- Programming / Classes: 86,402 Registrations
- Transportation Services: 16,679 Residents
- Social Services Assistance: 3,144 Residents Assisted
- New Membership - Just hit 10,000 Memberships
- Satellite location for NJ Department of Military & Veteran Affairs





PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Monroe Township DPW

- State-of-the-art Recycling Facility
- Bulky Waste Curbside Pick-up
- Municipal Paper Shredding
- Sustainable Jersey Silver Status



PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Monroe Township Parks & Recreation

- Mayor's Cup Tournaments
- Seasonal Recreation Programs
- Summer Recreation Camp/MTSEPA
- Community Center Fitness Room/Open Gym
- Township Parks / Outdoor Facilities
- Community Events (4th of July, Octoberfest, Grandparents Day)





PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Monroe Township Library

- Presented 1,225 engaging and innovative programs, attracting more than 25,000 attendees
- Maintained a curated collection, with almost 494,000 items circulated
- Bookmobile and Book Bike completed 500 stops with over 8,000 visitors
- At Home Services/Bundles of Joy made over 500 deliveries.
- Expanded community outreach to connect residents with vital resources
- Provided access to technology, Makerspace resources and digital services.



FIGHTING FOR MONROE RESIDENTS



State Advocacy

- Energy Tax Receipts - \$2.29 million
- Stay NJ
- ANCHOR
- Senior Freeze
- Impact fees



Monroe is a great community with wonderful people!

As your mayor, I remain actively engaged and involved as we navigate this tight budget year, doing everything possible to ease the impact of state-wide rising costs on our residents. Our community continues to be a wonderful place to live, raise a family and retire. We are proud to provide unparalleled municipal services that support a strong sense of community connection throughout the Township. Every budgeting decision reflects our shared commitment to maintaining and strengthening a safe, welcoming environment for all.

