



BACKGROUND

January 22, 2020

Your tax dollars at work

Understanding where your tax dollars go can be difficult. The following information will help you understand how Regional taxes are spent and how the services you receive every day are funded.

2019 and 2020 Regional taxes for an average household (assessed value of \$344,200)	2019	2020	2020 change
Regional Services	\$1,388	\$1,438	\$50
Police Services	\$635	\$663	\$28
Regional and Police combined	\$2,023	\$2,101	\$78

*This chart is based on the Region's approved increase of 3.84 per cent (2.46 per cent for the Region and 1.38 per cent for Police Services).
 *The above figures are based on an "average" residential property in Waterloo Region. The average property value will differ across area municipalities.
 *Not all homeowners and businesses will pay for all Regional services. For example, Light Rail ION is not paid for in the townships.
 * Tax impacts are rounded to the nearest dollar; rounded figures may not add to total as precise figures are used for calculation purposes.

As shown above, the average household will pay \$2,101 in Regional/Police property taxes in 2020 (additional taxes on your bill go to your local municipality and your school board). Here's a rough breakdown of your Regional tax dollars at work:

Service	Portion of 2020 annual taxes
Police	\$663
Public transit	\$450
Road repairs/construction, maintaining traffic signals, plowing roads, etc.	\$195
Collection and disposal of garbage, recycling and green bin	\$163
Community Housing	\$159
Seniors' Services, Children's Services and Income Support Programs	\$137
Paramedic Services (ambulance)	\$70
Corporate Facilities, Fleet and Information Technology	\$63
Planning, Regional Library, Museums	\$62
Corporate support services	\$58
Public Health programs	\$35
Other Regional services	\$24
Region of Waterloo International Airport	\$22
TOTAL	\$2,101

How major Regional services are funded

Understanding how your property tax dollars are spent is only part of the complete picture. Many Regional services like public health, child care and income support (Ontario Works) are partially funded by provincial and federal governments. Water and wastewater services are not funded by property taxes at all – they are 100 per cent paid for by user rate charges (your water bill). Other services depend on fees and charges in addition to property taxes (for example: transit fares, waste management tipping fees and community housing rent). The chart below shows funding sources for major Regional services.

2020 Funding Sources for Major Services

