



# 2008 Princeton Township Budget Summary

This document was prepared by the Citizens Advisory Committee, with the assistance of Administrative Staff, at the direction of The Township Committee. The Advisory Committee wishes to present to citizens clear and detailed information regarding Township revenues and expenditures.

**\*2008 Tax Rate:**

Mercer County	.99
Princeton Regional Schools	1.70
<b>Princeton Township</b>	<b>.88</b>
<b>Total Tax Rate:</b>	<b>3.57</b>

\*Per \$100 of assessed valuation

**The increase for Princeton Township is 5 cents:**

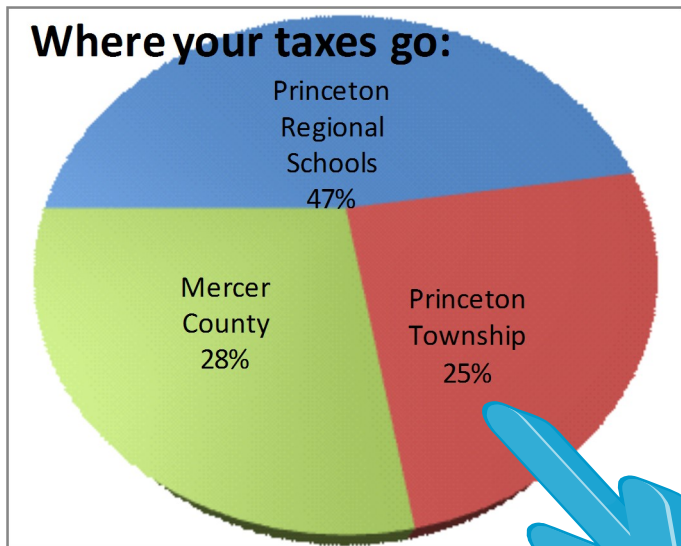
- The local tax rate is going from 83 cents to 88 cents
- This is the smallest increase in 4 years

**Township Budget Challenges:**

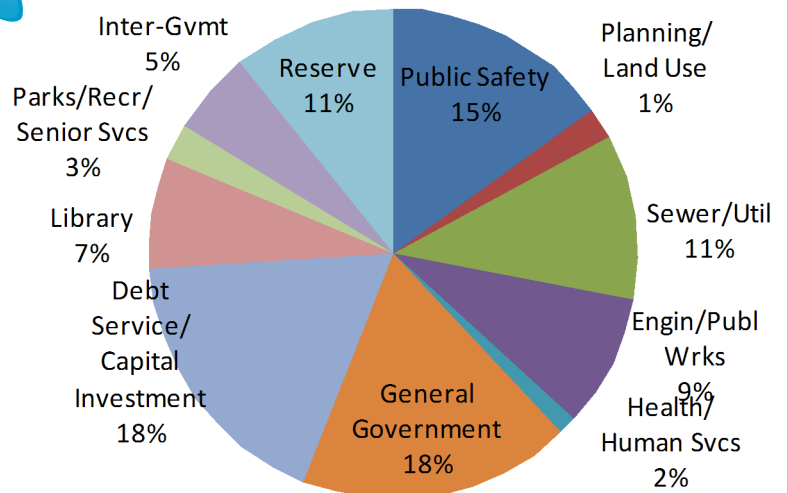
- State Mandated 4% CAP on the Tax Levy which affects the ability to provide an array of services
- Reduction of State Aid
- State Mandated binding arbitration relating to compensation and benefits
- Unfunded mandates (such as state pensions)
- Ensuring tax exempt properties contribute their fair share of tax revenue

**These are just a few of the many services and programs the Township of Princeton offers:**

- Police, Fire and First Aid
- Parks and Recreation for all ages
- Princeton Public Library
- Maintenance of streets, pathways and bikeways
- Counseling programs and Human Services
- Affordable Housing
- Planning, Historic Preservation, Environmental



**PRINCETON TOWNSHIP 2008 EXPENDITURES - \$34,527,147**



NJ State Law requires Princeton Township to collect taxes for all local governments (Township, Regional Schools, and Mercer County)

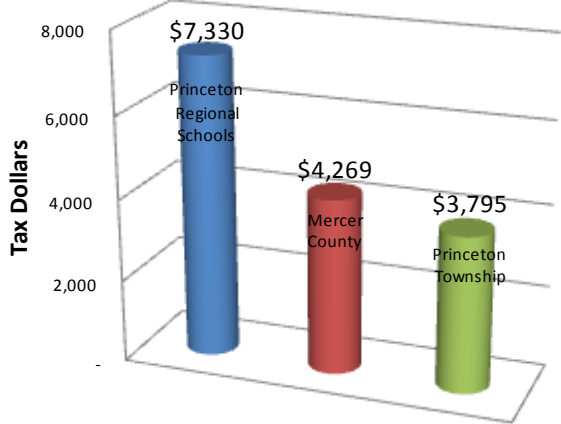
The Township maintains a reserve for contingencies. Unspent amounts are carried forward from year to year. This year's reserve, @ 11% is netted with 9% of reserves used as revenue.

Inter-Governmental expenditures are funded with dedicated revenues of the same amount and have no increasing effect on the tax rate; they include Grants from all sources, and Shared Services

Debt Service is payment of Municipal bond principal and interest, and financed capital projects that have already been completed

Princeton Twp has 3 times received the award for Municipal Public Information from the New Jersey League of Municipalities

## Average Tax Bill



Based on the Township 2008 average assessment of \$431,194, the 2008 Average Tax Bill in Princeton Township is: \$15,394

\$7,330 Goes to Princeton Regional Schools

\$4,269 Goes to Mercer County

\$3,795 Goes to Princeton Township

Did you know? . . .  
Only 25%  
Of your property tax bill  
goes to the Township of  
Princeton

Police department responds to about 19,000 calls for service per year

Princeton Twp purchases 100% Recycled Paper for a "greener" office

The Township has over 800 acres of passive and active open space

Bureau of Fire Prevention Inspection fees cover the cost of operations

The Recreation dept operates over 40 programs that serve over 6800 participants

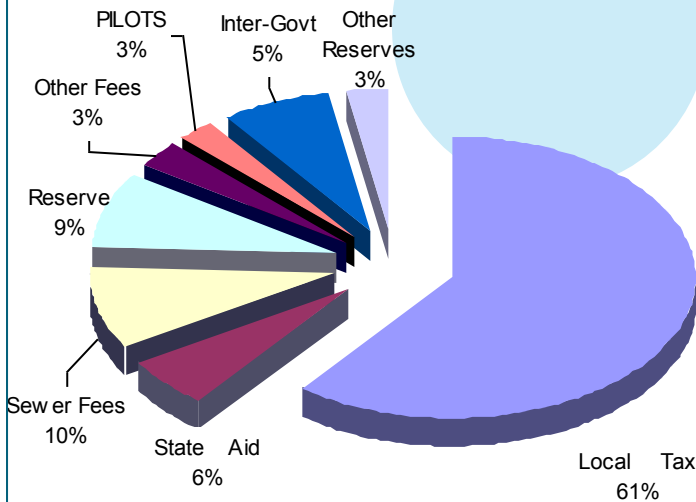
The Princetons are leaders in Shared Services with over 13 Joint Agencies

### PRINCETON TOWNSHIP-2008 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Category	Department	2008 Budget	% Total
Public Safety	Police / Police Dispatchers	4,184,100	12.1%
	Uniform Fire Safety / Emergency Mgmt	95,795	0.3%
	Hazardous Route Busing	131,000	0.4%
	Aid to First Aid and to Fire / Fire Fac / Hydrants	798,310	2.3%
Health and Human Svcs	Corner House	148,047	0.4%
	Human Services Committee	117,799	0.3%
	Regional Health Commission / Joint Environmental	305,740	0.9%
	Animal Control/Deer Mgmt	140,644	0.4%
Sewer / Utilities	Sewer	3,153,367	9.1%
	Utilities	583,000	1.7%
Engineering/Public Works	Engineering	871,847	2.5%
	Roads / Vehicle Maintenance	1,567,190	4.5%
	Buildings and Grounds	349,768	1.0%
	Recycling/Shade Tree	251,016	0.7%
Planning / Land Use	Regional Planning Board	234,417	0.7%
	Zoning /Historic Preservation	200,191	0.6%
General Government	Administration/Finance/Court/Tax	1,691,411	4.9%
	Legal / Prosecutor / Public Defender / Contract	561,327	1.6%
	Information Technology	250,908	0.7%
	Insurances (Medical, Liability, WC, FICA)	2,584,541	7.5%
	Pensions	1,125,521	3.3%
Parks/Recreation/Seniors	Parks and Playgrounds / Joint Recreation Board	808,295	2.3%
	Suzanne Patterson Center	55,780	0.2%
Library	Joint Public Library	2,514,302	7.3%
Debt Service for Capital Investment	Bonds and Notes	5,888,411	17.1%
	Down payments	300,000	0.9%
Reserve	Spending CAP and Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	3,718,817	10.8%
Intergovernmental	Grants	1,120,817	3.2%
	Shared Services (Joint Agencies)	774,786	2.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>34,527,147</b>	

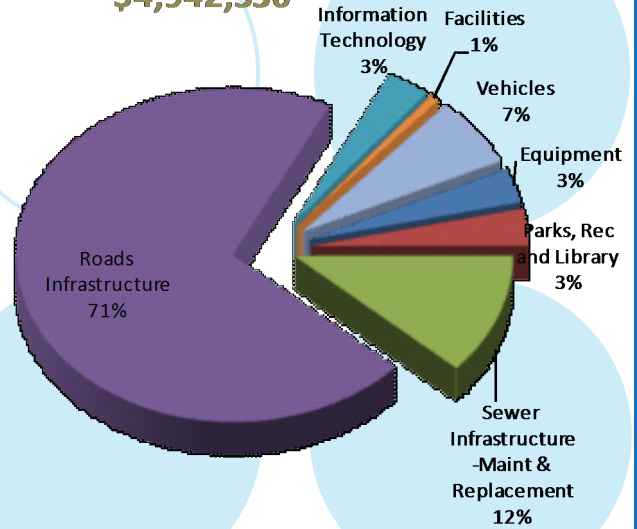
### 2008 Sources of Revenue

**\$34,527,147**



### 2008 Budget Capital Expenditures

**\$4,942,330**



## PRINCETON TOWNSHIP - 2008 BUDGET REVENUES

Category	Revenue Source	2008 Budget	% Total
Reserve	Surplus	3,000,000	8.7%
	Other Fees	Licenses	17,900
Sewer Fees	Fees and Permits	72,300	0.2%
	Municipal Court Fines	289,900	0.8%
	Interest and Costs on Taxes	215,700	0.6%
	Interest on Investments and Deposits	424,700	1.2%
	Sewer Revenue	3,285,000	9.5%
Payments in lieu of Taxes (PILOTS)	Institute for Advanced Study	210,000	0.6%
	Tenacre Foundation	450,000	1.3%
	Princeton Community Village, Inc.	245,000	0.7%
State Aid	Cons Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid	239,898	0.7%
	Energy Receipts Tax	1,751,537	5.1%
	Garden State Trust Fund	5,000	0.0%
	Inter-Governmental	Interlocal: Joint Agencies w/Boro	774,786
Inter-Governmental	State Grants	662,656	1.9%
	Mercer County Grants	169,431	0.5%
	Contributions	278,730	0.8%
	Other Reserves	Reserve for Wastewater Treatment Fund	185,028
Other Reserves	Reserve for Fire Protection Fund	128,580	0.4%
	Reserve for Debt Service	400,000	1.2%
	Assessment Trust Fund	121,000	0.4%
	Capital Surplus	100,000	0.3%
	Municipal Taxes	Delinquent Taxes	603,579
Municipal Taxes	Local Tax	20,896,423	60.5%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>34,527,148</b>	

We receive over \$600,000/yr in grants and aid for Corner House

Over 60% of our budget is derived from property tax

Princeton Township has the lowest effective tax rate in Mercer County

Prior year's surplus accounts for 9% of our total revenue

Princeton Twp has received over \$5 million in road grants over the past 10 years.

### **The Citizens Advisory Committee Members:**

Committeeman Chad Goerner—Liaison  
Mayor Phyllis Marchand—Liaison  
Diantha Johnson Allenby  
Zvi Eiref  
Jason Peterson  
Scott Sillars  
John Wynne, Jr.

## **Township of Princeton**

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Website: [www.princetontwp.org](http://www.princetontwp.org)

### **PRINCETON TOWNSHIP: A GREAT PLACE TO BE**

The Township of Princeton covers an area of 16.5 square miles in the heart of central New Jersey. It surrounds the 1.85 square mile area of the Borough of Princeton. The 2000 census stated the population of the Township to be 16,027. A substantial portion of the property of Princeton University lies within the borders of the Township as does all the property of the Institute for Advanced Study.

### ***IT'S ALL ABOUT SERVICES***

The Princeton Township Police Department is staffed by 31 sworn officers, 6 civilian communications officers, and 3 civilian administrative secretaries. Together they provide 24-hour service to the citizens and visitors of Princeton, and they take pride in the fact that its makeup mirrors the diverse community which it serves. A recent study indicated Princeton Township enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the nation.

The Princeton Recreation Department operates almost all of its program and facilities by use of a "user fee" entrance system. This method provides a full spectrum of programs and opportunities at a "tax cost" substantially less than what you may find in other communities that do not charge for their programs. Additionally, over the last 8 years, the department has received over \$2.5 million of grant support for programs and capital improvements. Recently, the Mercer County "at play" program, under the direction of Brian Hughes, has granted over \$988,000 for Potts Park improvements, the construction of a skate park, and synthetic turf installation.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention performs annual fire safety inspections in all buildings and structures with the exception of owner-occupied homes, assuring compliance with the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. Residential dwellings are inspected for compliance with the Code requirements for the placement and/or maintenance of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. In 2007 the Bureau replaced an aging vehicle with its first Hybrid vehicle. The Princeton Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization that serves both Princeton Township and Borough. There are 29 active members working out of three fire stations. The Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad is a combination career and volunteer group manned 24 hours per day.

Corner House provides substance abuse treatment services to Princeton residents. Fees for treatment are based on a sliding scale. Through outreach to the police department and Princeton schools, they provide early intervention options, evaluations, and assessments for at-risk students. The Corner House Student Board spearheads alcohol- and drug-free events for students in Princeton. During the 2007-2008 school year approximately 3000 students attended these programs.

The Human Services Department Received a \$20,000 grant from J. Seward Johnson 1963 Charitable Trust for the Summer Employment Program for economically disadvantaged youth. This department also provided Holiday Wishes to over 200 children in the community at no direct cost of tax dollars.

The Princeton Community Master Plan was updated in 2007 and strikes a balance among the many competing needs and goals of the community. Protecting the quality of life for all residents is the plan's underlying goal. The plan balances affordable housing, senior housing and economic development needs with preserving neighborhoods, protecting the environment and encouraging sustainable development. The Township is currently undertaking a comprehensive energy facilities assessment and sustainability plan which includes the audit and analysis of current energy usage and costs; identify, analyze and recommend energy conservation measures, renewable energy systems and strategies for the purchase of "green power" energy.

In 2007 the Township continued to add to its open space inventory by preserving Tusculum, the historic home of John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Township partnered with The Friends of Princeton Open Space, Mercer County, and the State of NJ

to acquire 35 acres. On the same subject, history, the Township installed interpretive signs at Mountain Lakes in 2007 to tell the story of the development of the Preserve and the Princeton Ice Co. These signs were part of a NJ Historic Trust grant and received an Historic Preservation Award in 2008 from the Historic Society of Princeton.

The Department of Public Works manages Road maintenance, Open Space and Tree care, with 21 employees including a full time arborist. Clean Communities and Recycling programs are ongoing, as well as the yearly Brush and Leaf collection.

The Township's Affordable Housing programs offer low- and moderate-income properties for rent and for sale. Griggs Farm, and Washington Oaks are just 2 of the many areas offering affordable housing. This program is funded from reserve accounts that are monitored by the state for compliance.

#### **The Township of Princeton is committed to:**

- Providing services to continue to make Princeton a great place for you to live
- Reducing costs and improving efficiency while increasing non-tax revenues
- Creating a more sustainable community
- Keeping Princeton a safe place for citizens

THIRD QUARTER 2008 TAXES ORIGINALLY DUE AUGUST 1, 2008 WILL NOW BE DUE **AUGUST 15, 2008**, THIS INCLUDES A TEN-DAY INTEREST-FREE GRACE PERIOD. THE INTEREST-FREE GRACE PERIOD APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR TAXES THROUGH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2008. THOSE ACCOUNTS WITH DELINQUENCIES AND ANY PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER **AUGUST 15, 2008** WILL BE CHARGED INTEREST FOR THE THIRD QUARTER FROM AUGUST 1, 2008 TO THE DATE OF PAYMENT AT THE CURRENT AUTHORIZED RATE (8% OF THE FIRST \$1,500.00 OF DELINQUENCY AND 18% ON THE EXCESS OVER \$1,500.00). [PER STATE OF NJ, P.L. 1994, C.72, SIGNED JULY 14, 1994.]