

Understanding Your Property Tax Bill

A simple guide for Racine property owners



What Are Property Taxes?

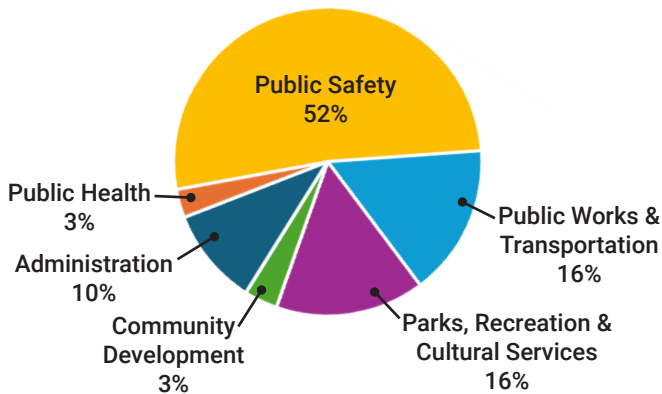
Property taxes are payments that support essential local services such as schools, police, fire protection, streets, libraries, parks, community centers, and public health.

Your total property tax bill includes charges from multiple taxing jurisdictions:

- Racine Unified School District (including voucher schools)
- Racine County
- Gateway Technical College
- City of Racine

Although the **City collects your full tax payment, we only retain the City portion**. Each jurisdiction independently sets its own budget and tax rate.

How Are My City Tax Dollars Spent?

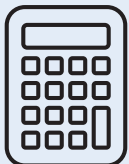


How Are Property Taxes Determined?

Each local jurisdiction publicly reviews and approves a budget. That budget determines how much property tax revenue is needed to fund services.

A tax rate is then set for each jurisdiction to distribute the cost across all taxable properties based on value.

Your tax bill is calculated as:



$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Assessed Property Value} \\ &\quad \times \text{Tax Rates} \\ &\quad - \text{Credits} \\ &\quad + \text{Special Charges} \\ &\hline &= \text{Tax Bill Amount} \end{aligned}$$

Assessed value is determined by the City Assessor and reflects the estimated market value of your home.

Tax rates vary by jurisdiction and change annually based on their approved budgets.

Credits (such as the Lottery & Gaming Credit) reduce your bill if you qualify.

Special Charges are fees added to your bill for specific City services such as recycling collection, sanitary sewer, or other service-based charges.

Why Did My Taxes Go Up?

The Referenda Passed

For 2025, property taxes increased due to:

- The impact of **two** voter-approved referenda this year (see below)
- A decrease in the Wisconsin state school credit

Racine Unified School District Referendum

- This year, voters approved an operational referendum allowing RUSD to exceed revenue limits by \$190 million over five years, adding about \$35 per \$100,000 of property value per year to support staffing, class sizes, security, and operations.
- A previously approved capital referendum (up to \$1 billion over 30 years) continues to fund new buildings, renovations, safety upgrades, and technology.

City of Racine Fire Department Referendum

- This year, voters approved a Fire Department operational referendum allowing the City to exceed levy limits by \$1.5 million annually to maintain staffing and emergency response capacity. This will add about \$31 per \$100,000 of property value per year to your tax bill.

Where can I pay my property taxes?

Payments can generally be made in the following ways:

- **By mail** (Must be postmarked by the due date)
- **In person** at the City Treasurer's Office inside City Hall during business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays)
- **Red Drop Box** at City Hall (west entrance)
- **Online** via the City of Racine Payment Portal (Scan the QR Code to access the portal)



Who Do I Contact If I Have Questions?

For billing questions:

City of Racine Clerk/Treasurer (262) 636-9171

For questions about delinquent taxes or credits:

Racine County Treasurer (262) 636-3239

For property valuation questions:

City of Racine Assessor (262) 636-9119

For questions about the school referenda or tax impacts:

Racine Unified School District (262) 635-5600