

Tax Talk with the Tax Collector's Office

2023 2nd half tax bills were sent out on 11/13/23 with a due date of 12/13/23. We have received a few calls about the increase in tax amount in comparison to the 1st half bill. Here is some info to help clear things up:

- 1. The 1st half bill is an estimated one half tax amount for the entire year. This estimate is based on the previous year's tax rate. In this case the 1st half bill was based on \$18.71 per thousand of assessed value.**
- 2. The 2nd half bill is the amount due after paying the estimated 1st half bill. The difference here is that we now receive a new tax rate from the NH Department of Revenue. In this case the tax rate increased \$2.20 to \$20.91 per thousand.**

Why did the tax rate increase?

The rate is created by the NH DRA as a calculation on what the Town of Stratham (and every other town) has to collect based on the budgets voted on by the Town of Stratham voters. So it is important to participate in the Town and School budget voting process so that you can understand the increases or decreases in the potential tax rate. This past year we only had an 8% voter turnout for the Town Election in March. This is when the Town's budget is voted on!!

In this specific case the rate saw an increase of \$2.09 in the local and state school rate, \$.08 in the municipal rate, and \$.03 in the county rate. (See link below for breakdown comparison). On average we have seen approximately an 11.7% increase from total 2022 tax amount to 2023 tax amounts for each property (with no improvements made to the property). If you made physical changes to your home or added a pool or shed this would also affect your tax amount.

The 1st tax bills for 2023 that will be due in July should be the same as this December 2022 tax bill (assuming again no improvements are made to the property). Below are some links to helpful information about the property tax breakdown, history, and how the property taxes are determined. Please take a moment to review this very useful information and share with your friends and neighbors. As always if you have questions about your specific property please feel free to call our office at 772-4741 ext. 140.

History- <https://www.strathamnh.gov/town-clerk-tax-collector/pages/tax-information>

Current Breakdown of taxes

https://www.strathamnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhli5051/f/uploads/2023_tax_rate.pdf

Video on how tax rate is determined-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PtAuUmlzjU>