PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MUNICIPAL TAX DIFFERENTIAL REPORT FY 2020



Angela D. Alsobrooks County Executive

Prepared by

Office of Management and Budget

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I. Overview

Under the Laws of Maryland, municipal and county governments have the authority to concurrently levy certain taxes and fees to fund the delivery of public services to their residents. Prince George's County established the Municipal Tax Differential program to avoid the double taxation of residents that pay real property and personal property taxes to both the municipality and county. The Municipal Tax Differential program lowers the County tax rate for residents in municipalities to ensure that residents are not taxed twice for services provided by both the County and their municipal government.

In accordance with Chapter 267 of the 2015 Laws of Maryland (House Bill 681), the municipal tax report includes a summary of the tax setoffs granted to municipalities, program guidelines, and a description of the methodology used to determine the amount of tax setoffs and the services that are eligible for the tax setoff.

	FY 2020 TAX DIFFERENTIAL RATES									
	FY 2020 TAX D	FFERENTIAL		FY 2020 VALUE						
Municipality	PERSONAL PROPERTY	REAL PROPERTY	PE PF	ERSONAL ROPERTY	REAL PROPERTY			TOTAL		
Berwyn Heights	0.311	0.128	\$	59,040	\$	382,008	\$	441,048		
Bladensburg	0.326	0.134		56,287		633,913		690,200		
Bowie	0.367	0.152		498,514		10,189,049		10,687,563		
Brentwood	0.187	0.077		8,159		195,144		203,303		
Capitol Heights	0.277	0.114		38,581		331,570		370,150		
Cheverly	0.326	0.135		54,224		802,652		856,875		
College Park	0.083	0.034		81,823		978,885		1,060,708		
Colmar Manor	0.253	0.104		6,140		99,231		105,371		
Cottage City	0.226	0.094		9,029		94,656		103,685		
District Heights	0.322	0.133		22,331		495,495		517,825		
Eagle Harbor	0.008	0.003		14		246		260		
Edmonston	0.234	0.096		16,766		152,366		169,132		
Fairmount Heights	0.202	0.083		3,384		88,612		91,995		
Forest Heights	0.176	0.072		6,635		129,444		136,080		
Glenarden	0.284	0.117		26,770		630,434		657,203		
Greenbelt	0.379	0.157		265,842		3,291,478		3,557,320		
Hyattsville	0.361	0.149		293,749		2,887,250		3,180,999		
Landover Hills	0.209	0.086		7,578		135,099		142,677		
Laurel	0.443	0.183		412,929		5,562,137		5,975,066		
Morningside	0.193	0.080		5,501		77,808		83,308		
Mount Rainier	0.348	0.144		22,811		653,668		676,480		
New Carrollton	0.296	0.122		44,536		935,303		979,839		
North Brentwood	0.012	0.005		109		2,739		2,848		
Riverdale	0.328	0.135		91,050		1,010,753		1,101,803		
Seat Pleasant	0.288	0.119		25,842		359,816		385,659		
University Park	0.325	0.134		9,051		443,236		452,287		
Upper Marlboro	0.185	0.077		53,670		68,913		122,583		
Total			\$	2,120,365	\$	30,631,901	\$	32,752,266		

The chart below details the FY 2020 Municipal Tax Differential rates and tax setoffs:

Note: 1) Numbers may not add due to rounding.

II. Program Guidelines and Methodology

There are four basic criteria for municipalities receiving tax relief:

- The municipality must provide a service that replaces a service currently provided by the County;
- County wide services are not eligible for a tax differential;
- The service must be originally funded with County General Fund property tax revenues; and
- Typical eligible services are police services, fire services, public works, human services, etc. A complete listing of eligible services are detailed in appendix.

If the above listed criteria are met, there are two major steps required in calculating the municipal tax differential rate and setoffs. This includes calculating the County tax rate equivalent and the municipal tax differential rate.

Calculating the County Tax Rate Equivalent

- The County determines the net cost of an agency providing a service by adding together costs for compensation, fringe benefits, expenses, capital outlay and recoveries as well as any applicable indirect costs.
 - Agency budget costs are reduced by non-property tax revenues directly related to service.
 - Support costs (Budget, Finance, Law, etc.) are reflected in indirect costs.
 - Debt service is allocated to appropriate functional categories.
- For each eligible service or program, the County calculates the net County service or program cost by dividing the net cost of the service by both the countywide real and personal property tax assessable bases.
- This calculation determines the real and personal property tax rate equivalents for each eligible service or program. Additionally, it creates the base for the calculation of the tax differential for the individual municipalities.

Calculating the Municipal Tax Differential Rate

- The County calculates the unadjusted real and personal property tax differential rate by multiplying the County Tax Rate Equivalent by the municipal service level.
 - The municipal service level is based upon the degree of service provided by the municipality. The degree of service is determined based on an evaluation of the tax differential request form, questionnaire, budget documents and supporting documentation detailing the level of service provided by the municipal government.

- The unadjusted municipal tax rate for each municipality is averaged with the current year and immediate prior fiscal year rates (three year average) to determine the upcoming fiscal year tax differential rate for each municipality.
- The estimated tax relief for a municipality is calculated by multiplying the municipal tax differential rate by the estimated municipal tax base and then dividing by 100.
 - The estimated tax base assessment information is provided by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

III. APPENDIX

- A. FY 2020 Tax Differential Decisions by Municipality
- B. FY 2020 Municipal Tax Differential Program Manual