



Fiscal Year 2023 - Budget in Brief

The Village of Wilmette

The annual budget is the Village's most important document as it directs spending and investments in alignment with the Village Board's established priorities and policies. Creating the budget is an all-encompassing process that incorporates feedback from residents, business owners, elected officials, staff and other key stakeholders. To that extent, the Village is pleased to present this 2023 Fiscal Year Budget, which continues to maintain the Village's strong financial position.

The Village is in a strong financial position heading into 2023. The Village continues to improve and expand services to our residents while minimizing tax and fee increases. A strong financial position enables the Village to mitigate the impact of its operations on taxpayers to an extent not seen in decades. For 2023, the Village is reducing the tax levy for the first time in over 30 years. The Village's operating budgets are balanced and reserves are being drawn down for facility and technology upgrades, infrastructure improvements, capital equipment, and to reduce pension liabilities.

Top Budget Takeaways:

1. **Reduction of the property tax levy** for first time in over 30 years.
2. No **tax or fee** increases.
3. We practice **fiscal responsibility** by leveraging technology, practicing good governance and investing wisely in infrastructure improvements.
4. The Village receives **revenue from many sources**, including property taxes, sewer and water fees, grants and the state.
5. The Village maintains a **Aaa bond rating** (the highest rating possible), which allows us to invest in the future and bond for capital investments with lower interest rates.
6. The Village continues to **maintain or enhance** all Village services.

Strategic Budget Priorities

The Village's 2023 Budget fulfills the community's needs by focusing on these key priorities to ensure that Wilmette retains its hometown identity, high quality of life and natural beauty.



Public Safety

Nationally accredited police and fire departments provide 24/7 ambulance, fire, police and 9-1-1 services through community-oriented policies that garner the community's trust and support.



Economic Development

Create a thriving business environment and economy by way of supporting existing businesses and recruiting new and innovative companies.



Infrastructure

Forward-thinking investment into the Village's vast infrastructure, including stormwater management, water plant, roads and facilities.



Service Delivery

Maintain excellent services, such as leaf collection, composting, refuse and recycling services, snow and ice control and drinking water.



Technology

Continued improvements in customer service through the use of technology like Smart-911, My311, Community Portal and e-billing.



Good Governance

Meet the highest standards of accountability, stability and fiscal responsibility, including a Aaa bond rating—the highest possible rating—and awards for achievement in financial reporting and budgeting.

2023 Capital Improvement Projects

Total Planned Investment: \$19.34 million

The Village of Wilmette is strategically investing in capital improvements with a significant focus on improving our road and stormwater systems. This budget allocates \$7.4 million towards roads, sidewalks and alleys. This budget allocates \$9.0 million towards sewer and water improvements.

\$350,000

- Website Redesign
- Automated License Plate Readers
- Body-worn Cameras

Equipment & Technology

\$1.0 million

- New Police Station Space Needs
- Parking Lot Paving
- Historic Resources Survey
- Facility Improvements

Facilities and Professional Services

\$1.5 million

- Hybrid Squads (6)
- Dump Trucks (3)
- Service Trucks (2)
- Message Board

Vehicles

\$7.4 Million

- Roads
- Alleys
- Brick Streets
- Sidewalks and Curbs
- Traffic Calming
- Active Transportation Plan Implementation
- Engineering Studies & Designs
- Pavement Maintenance Programs

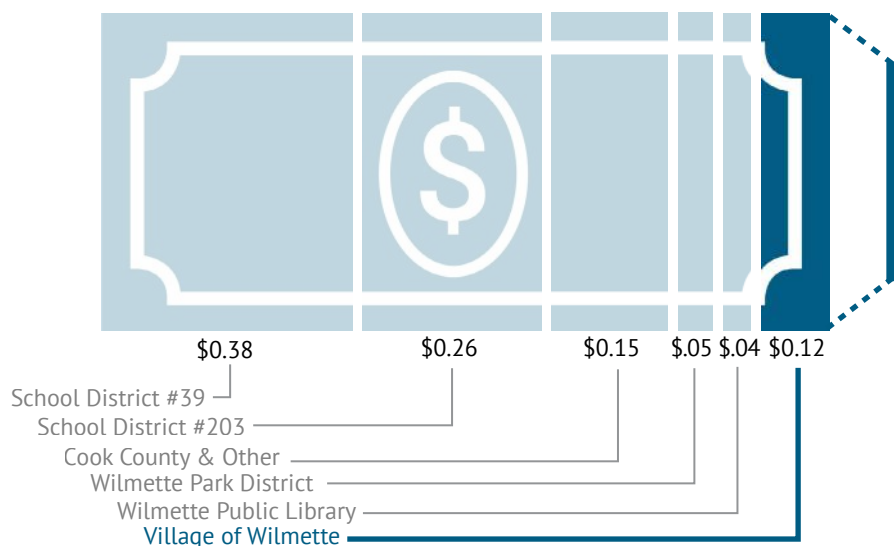
Road System Improvements

\$9.0 Million

- Sewer Lining
- Sewer Main Repairs
- SWPS Electrical improvements
- Distribution System Improvements
- Lead Service Line Replacement
- Water Main Replacement Program
- Automatic Meter Reading Program
- Treatment Process Improvements
- PFAS Study

Water & Sewer Infrastructure

Your Property Tax Dollar



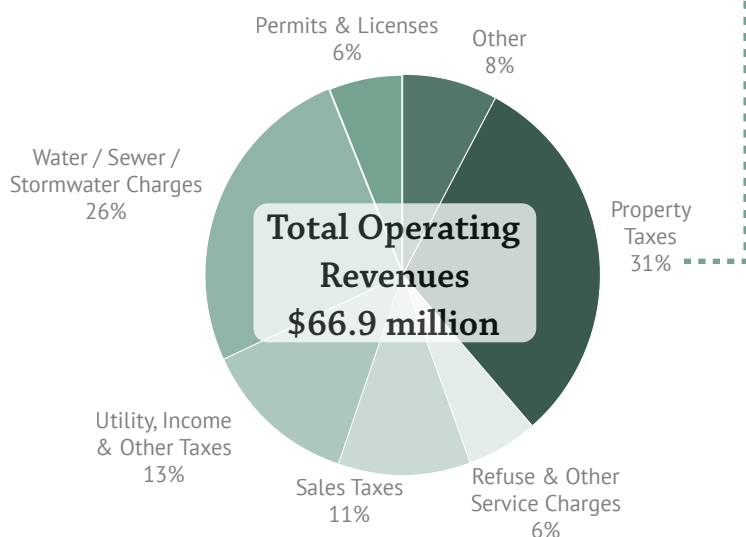
- **12%** of your property tax payment goes directly to the Village of Wilmette.
- **\$15,000** annual property tax payment (average)

The Property Tax Levy

The single largest source of General Fund revenue is the real estate property tax. While other revenue sources are subject to the condition of the national and regional economies, property taxes are a stable revenue source for the Village. In 2023, the Village's share will **decrease** by **.56%** for the first time in over 30 years.

Each year, the Village Board aims to limit the rate of growth in the general operating portion of the tax levy as much as possible. Other portions of the levy, such as required pension contributions and pre-existing debt service, cannot be reduced.

Where does the Village's revenue come from?



2023 Tax Levy Growth Breakdown

General Operations and Road Infrastructure	-1.04%
Debt Service	0.48%
Pension Funding Obligations	0.00%
Total	-0.56%

Non-Property Tax Revenue

The Village collects revenue from a variety of sources to deliver a wide range of services and invest in infrastructure improvements.



Water/Sewer/Stormwater/Refuse Charges:

Revenue generated from quarterly utility bills pays directly for all water and sewer maintenance, stormwater investment, and refuse and recycling collection.



Utility, Income & Other Taxes:

Revenue generated from utility taxes is based on consumption. State income tax is allocated on a per capita basis (based upon population).



Sales Tax:

Revenue generated from purchases made within Village limits, including online sales shipped to a Village address.



Permits & Licenses:

Revenue generated from property improvements and vehicle stickers. 100% of vehicle sticker revenue is used toward road infrastructure.

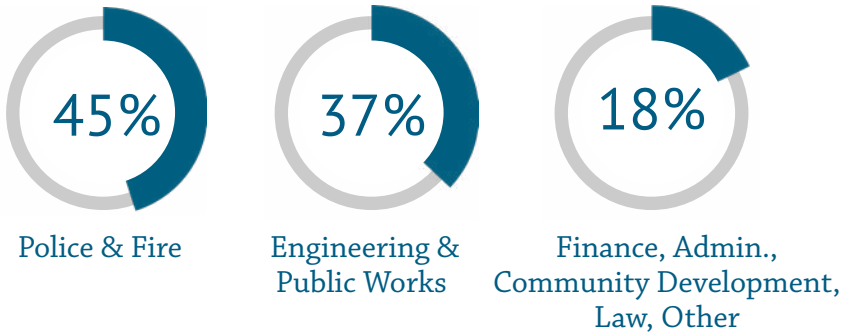
The Village receives other miscellaneous revenue from fines, service charges, franchise fees, parking and cell tower rental.

Where Your Taxes and Fees Go - Expenditures

The Village's General Fund supports the daily operations and maintenance that make Wilmette a safe, clean and vibrant place to live.

Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of these expenditures support police and fire services, followed by just over $\frac{1}{3}$ toward engineering and public works, which provide roads, sewers, drinking water and refuse collection services.

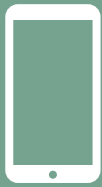
General Fund Expenditure Takeaways



The Village's **strong financial position** has been built over time through the following actions. These actions have demonstrated sound financial administration and planning:

- Fortifying reserve levels by reducing recurring expenses through structural efficiencies and maintaining appropriate staffing levels.
- Maintaining a Aaa bond rating while committing to investment in critical infrastructure.
- Mitigating future pension requirements by meeting or exceeding required contributions and update of pension methodology.

2022 SERVICE STATS



Responded to nearly 23,000 public safety calls for service



4.51 miles of street improvements including road program



Over 280,000 unique website visits



Neighborhood Storage Project substantially completed

Future Financial Challenges

Lead Service Line Replacements

In 2021, the State passed a law requiring the removal of all lead service lines. The law requires an inventory of all water service lines and a plan for replacement starting in 2025. This project is estimated to cost up to \$88 million dollars over 15-20 years. The Village Board will be reviewing this project in the coming years to determine an appropriate implementation strategy. The Village will review all funding opportunities, including grants, to assist in the full replacement of lead service lines.

Inflation Impacts and Recession Risks

The Village is sensitive to the current inflationary environment and is prudently planning for the risk of a recession. The Village conservatively projects revenues and continually reviews spending. Per best practices, the Village earmarks substantial non-recurring revenues (such as building permits for large developments) to fund pension obligations or one-time capital projects and does not rely on these revenues to balance the budget.

Aging Infrastructure

The Village's aging infrastructure requires more resources than ever. While we are committed to additional funding for our infrastructure, there are few solutions that do not require increased contributions from our residents. To that end, the Village Board will be mindful of the impact our decisions have on you as a taxpayer.



Services Remain a High Priority

As a service organization, nearly 60% of the Village's General Fund expenses are allocated to personnel. Maintaining appropriate staffing allows the Village to fulfill the Village Board's commitment to providing a high-level of service to residents, businesses, and visitors. In 2023, this includes new initiatives related to public safety, tree preservation, economic development, and sustainability.

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