



# FACT SHEET

## PROPERTY TAXES

Each year, the Municipality of Anchorage collects property taxes from homeowners and commercial entities, and in return, those taxes fund local services like fire and police, schools, parks, libraries, roads, and health services. Property taxes account for about half of the revenue needed to fund the Municipality's operations. Other sources of funding include non-property taxes such as room, auto, tobacco, and alcohol taxes as well as investment revenue, fees and permits, and federal and state contributions.

**Property taxes are calculated by a formula with two main parts: municipal budgets and property assessments.**

**The Municipal Charter assigns the Anchorage Assembly the responsibility to pass a balanced budget.**

The Assembly holds legislative power to set a **balanced annual budget** including operating budgets for general government, utilities and the Anchorage School District (which makes up about 45% of the budget funded by property taxes). Anchorage property taxes have held steady since the early 1980s due to the tax cap that was put in place in 1983 that links taxation to population growth and the rate of inflation.

### What is a **Tax Cap**?

The Tax Cap is a value calculated annually that establishes the maximum total amount the Municipality of Anchorage can collect in property taxes.

Per Anchorage Municipal Code 12.25, the Anchorage Assembly is not allowed to pass a budget that collects more property taxes than the Municipal Tax Cap allows.

**DIVE IN**

Learn more about the history of the tax cap: [ancgov.info/Tax-Cap-History](http://ancgov.info/Tax-Cap-History)

**Every year, property value assessments are conducted by the Municipality of Anchorage's Property Appraisal Division.**

Property owners throughout the city receive green cards in the mail every January, called a Property Appraisal.

Headed by the Municipal Assessor, the Division is staffed by career professionals who use data, property visits and market information to locate, identify and value all taxable real property and personal property within the Municipality. If a property owner disagrees with their assessment, there is a detailed and open process for making an appeal.

**DIVE IN**

Connect with the **Property Appraisal Division**: [www.muni.org/pa](http://www.muni.org/pa)

Review the **2026 Property Appraisal Annual Valuation Report**: [ancgov.info/2026ValuationReport](http://ancgov.info/2026ValuationReport)

## While a major increase in your property assessment may result in higher property taxes, this is not always the case.

Due to the growing housing market, most homeowners observe a jump in property assessment values each year, but not everyone sees a corresponding increase in taxes. In fact, sometimes homeowners see an **increase** in their property's assessed value, but a **decrease** in their property taxes.

**DIVE IN**

View your **property tax payment and assessment history**: [property.muni.org](http://property.muni.org)

## Once the property assessments are complete and the budget finalized, mill rates are set for public services in each neighborhood.

Mill rates are a **unit of measurement** for tax rates. By definition, one mill is equivalent to \$1 owed per \$1,000 in real assessed value.

$$\frac{\text{Total Property Taxes to be Collected}}{\text{Total Assessed Value}} \times 1,000 = \text{Mill Rate}$$

**DIVE IN**

Learn more about how mill rates and **property taxes are calculated**: [bit.ly/3lmLbll](http://bit.ly/3lmLbll)

## Your property tax bill depends on where you live.

Different neighborhoods receive different city services and the municipality has over 40 taxing districts. Some neighborhoods, like those in the Girdwood Valley or the Eagle River Street Lights Service Areas, pay mill levies for services specific to their neighborhoods.

**DIVE IN**

Review the 2025 **mill rates for each tax district**: [ancgov.info/mill-rates-2025](http://ancgov.info/mill-rates-2025)

View a **map of Anchorage Tax Districts**: [ancgov.info/TaxDistricts](http://ancgov.info/TaxDistricts)

## How do Anchorage property taxes compare to other cities?

Anchorage is on the higher end of property taxes compared to similar communities. However, **with no sales or income taxes, Anchorage consistently ranks as one of the lowest taxed cities in the U.S.**

An April 2025 WalletHub study found that Alaska residents have the lowest tax burden in the country, compared to Hawaii with the highest tax burden.

**DIVE IN**

Read the 2025 Smart Assets report on the **lowest taxes in America (Anchorage is #1)**.

[bit.ly/taxes-in-America](http://bit.ly/taxes-in-America)