



# THE BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN

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A borough resident recently asked what the borough has done to reduce costs during this difficult economic period. He specifically referenced the real estate tax.

Please keep in mind that the borough receives only a very small fraction of the revenue generated by the real estate tax. Approximately 80% of the revenue goes directly to the school district and 6.8% goes to the county. Of the remaining 13%, one-third is used to support our police department.

The members of borough council take our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously and we strive to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. Here are some of the cost cutting measures undertaken by council:

1. We continue our efforts to secure grant funding, efforts which have been highly successful over the past few years, including but not limited to the new municipal parking lot, borough-wide traffic calming, York Road streetscaping, and traffic signal interconnection on York Road;
2. We have reduced the cost of communicating with borough residents by utilizing the borough's website and email blasts;
3. We have renegotiated healthcare costs for borough employees, saving the borough \$125,000 this year alone;
4. We have reduced our general liability premiums by 10%;
5. The borough joined a consortium in order to purchase fuel, road salt, street light maintenance and other equipment at reduced costs;
6. We are working to reduce energy costs by undertaking an energy audit. We have installed energy efficient light bulbs with automatic timers. We are maintaining lower temperatures in the municipal building in the winter months, and higher temperatures in the summer;
7. We have reduced office supply purchases;
8. We are working to reduce overtime expenses, although this winter's snowstorms made this particular goal impossible to achieve;
9. We have developed the ability to produce street signs in-house, saving taxpayer dollars;

10. Our silent attendant parking system will lead to a more efficient use of parking enforcement and public works staff collection time; and
11. Despite a difficult economic climate, we were able to **increase** tax revenue collected by hiring Berkheimer to more efficiently collect the business privilege tax, the mercantile tax, and the local services tax. We have seen a \$79,000 increase in our collections as a result of that decision.

As always, we welcome your feedback, questions and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sandra Goldman  
Borough Council President