

COUNTY OF BERGEN 2023 Budget

As presented by

County Executive
James J. Tedesco III

Inflation & Supply Chain Challenges

Bergen County is not immune to inflationary pressure as we see costs increase across the board

Increased costs throughout the Operating budget

Long lead time on purchases

Extremely tight labor market



Inflation



Rise in the average national cost of energy and food September 2021 vs. September 2022

20%





Inflationary Pressures

INCREASED COSTS FOR BERGEN COUNTY

Road Materials	20 %
Vehicles	13 %
Electric & Gas	14 %
Cleaning Supplies	38 %
Water	25 %
Sewer	56 %



Economic Reality

“Budgets are about priorities and despite the challenges of inflation and rising costs, this proposed budget strikes an important balance of delivering critical services, ensuring community safety, investing in education, and improving public health and infrastructure, while also maintaining fiscal responsibility.”

James J. Tedesco, III
County Executive

Budget Revenue Challenges



COVID-19 challenges still exist

American Rescue Plan Grant expires in 2024

TOTAL LOSS OF REVENUE OVER FOUR YEARS:

- 2020 - \$27,500,000
- 2021 - \$30,878,000
- 2022 - \$39,600,000
- 2023 - \$39,600,000

TOTAL : \$137,578,000



2023 Budget Challenges

Year-Over-Year increase for statutorily-required items contributing to budget pressure



Budget Category	Budget Increase	% Increase
Health & Liability Insurance Premiums & Claims	\$ 22,688,752	23.66%
NJ State Pension Increase to PERS & PFRS Pensions	\$4,135,468	11.46%
Total	\$ 26,824,220	

Police and Firefighter Retirement System (PFRS) –Law Enforcement Pensions

Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) – Non-Law Enforcement Pensions

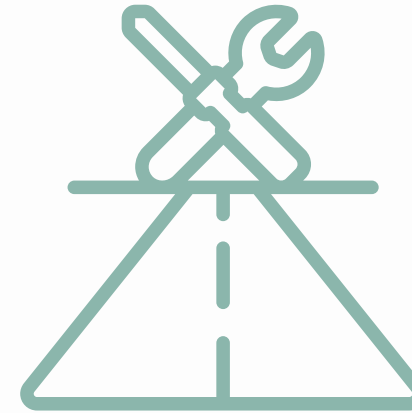
Goals of the 2023 Budget



Community
Safety



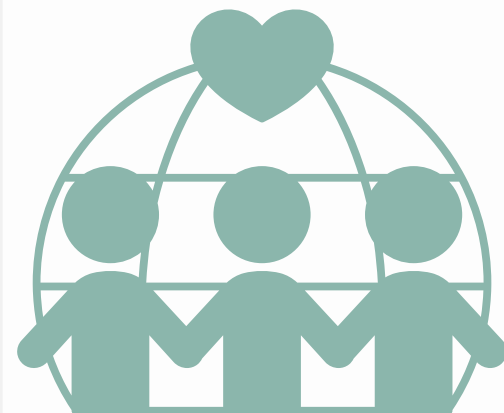
Education



Public
Infrastructure



Parks and
Recreation



Critical
Services



Strong Fiscal
Management



Building a safer tomorrow through community safety

Established **Bergen EMS Response Unit** **SAVING LIVES!**

Completed state-of-the-art Training Facility at the Law and Public Safety Institute

Launched new encrypted BC-ALERT communications radio channel

37 new Sheriff Officers hired



Supporting Education

Building a new **Career and Technical Education (CTE) High School**

30% increase to the County's Special Services School District since 2014

Providing funding to Bergen Community College to support initiatives like **Bergen Business Resource Network's Economic Recovery Specialist program** and **the Center for Online Learning**





Parks and Recreation

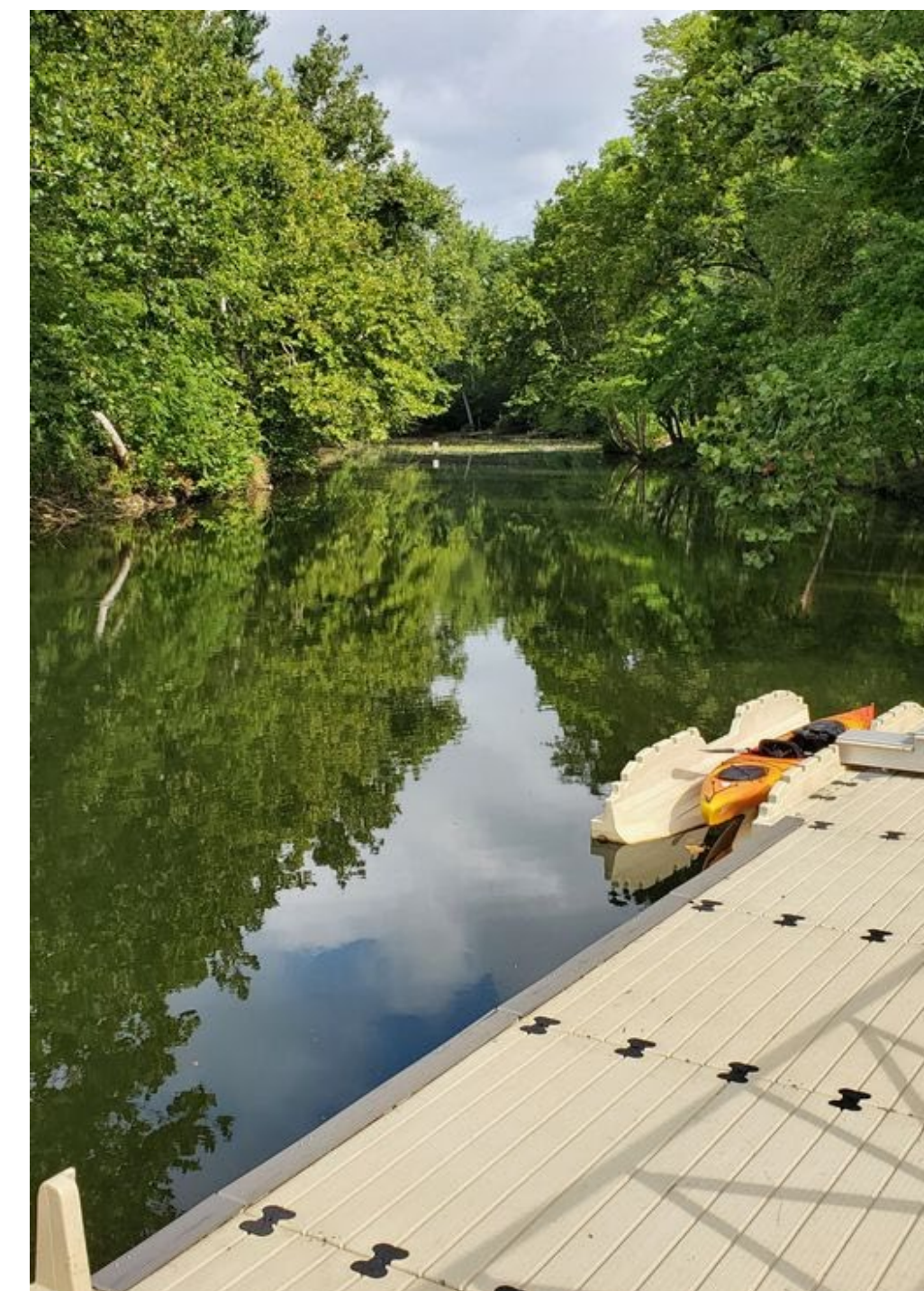
Completed two major ecological restorations at Teaneck Creek Park in Teaneck and the Wild Duck Pond in Ridgewood

Expanding access to waterways by completing the Van Buskirk Island Paddle Center in New Milford and the Bergen Rowing Center in Riverside County Park

Undertaking **recreational renovations** at several county parks this year

Converting former abandoned railroad to a **1.2-mile linear park connecting the Passaic River to downtown Rutherford**

Awarded **\$10.1 million to municipalities** through Open Space Trust Fund in 2022



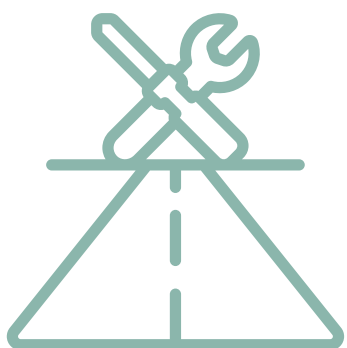
Public Infrastructure

Paving roads, fixing bridges and completing infrastructure projects.

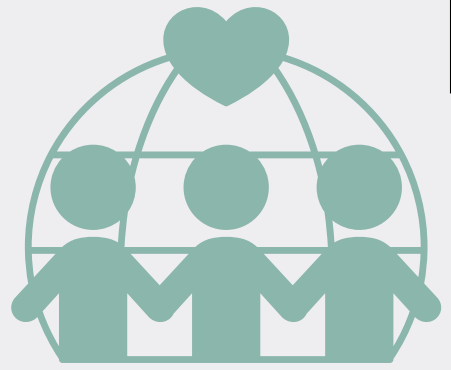
Proactively working on flood mitigation in Bergen County with the installation of backflow preventers.

Unclogging the economic artery of Bergen County by fixing the Rt. 17 bottleneck.

Breaking ground on a visionary transportation & mixed-development project the County Seat.



Delivering Critical Services



To those who need help the most

- Investing in **mental health services** and taking a lead role in **combating the opioid epidemic** using funds from the national opioid settlement
- **Fighting Food Insecurity**
- Logged **626,296 miles** of critical rides to **residents with limited mobility** through Bergen County Community Transportation
- Taking care of our **seniors, veterans, and residents with disabilities**



2023 Capital Spending

Major Capital Expenditures	2023 Funding Amount
Public Works	\$23,955,750
Parks	\$37,454,500
Community Safety	\$8,797,908
Planning & Engineering (Including Road Projects)	\$16,473,188
Elections	\$15,776,250

Bergen County continues to invest in our infrastructure

Proposed Total Capital Spending: \$104.35 million

MAINTAINING STRONG FISCAL MANAGEMENT



Aaa bond rating reaffirmed ***Aaa*** HIGHEST RATING ISSUED BY

MOODY'S
INVESTORS SERVICE

Issuing pooled notes to help municipal partners save thousands of dollars

Committed to Year-Over-Year Growth in Fund Balance...Increased by **\$42.2 million since 2015**

Expanding new shared service opportunities and increasing recreational programming

Pursing new revenue opportunities and expanding existing revenues for current and future budgets

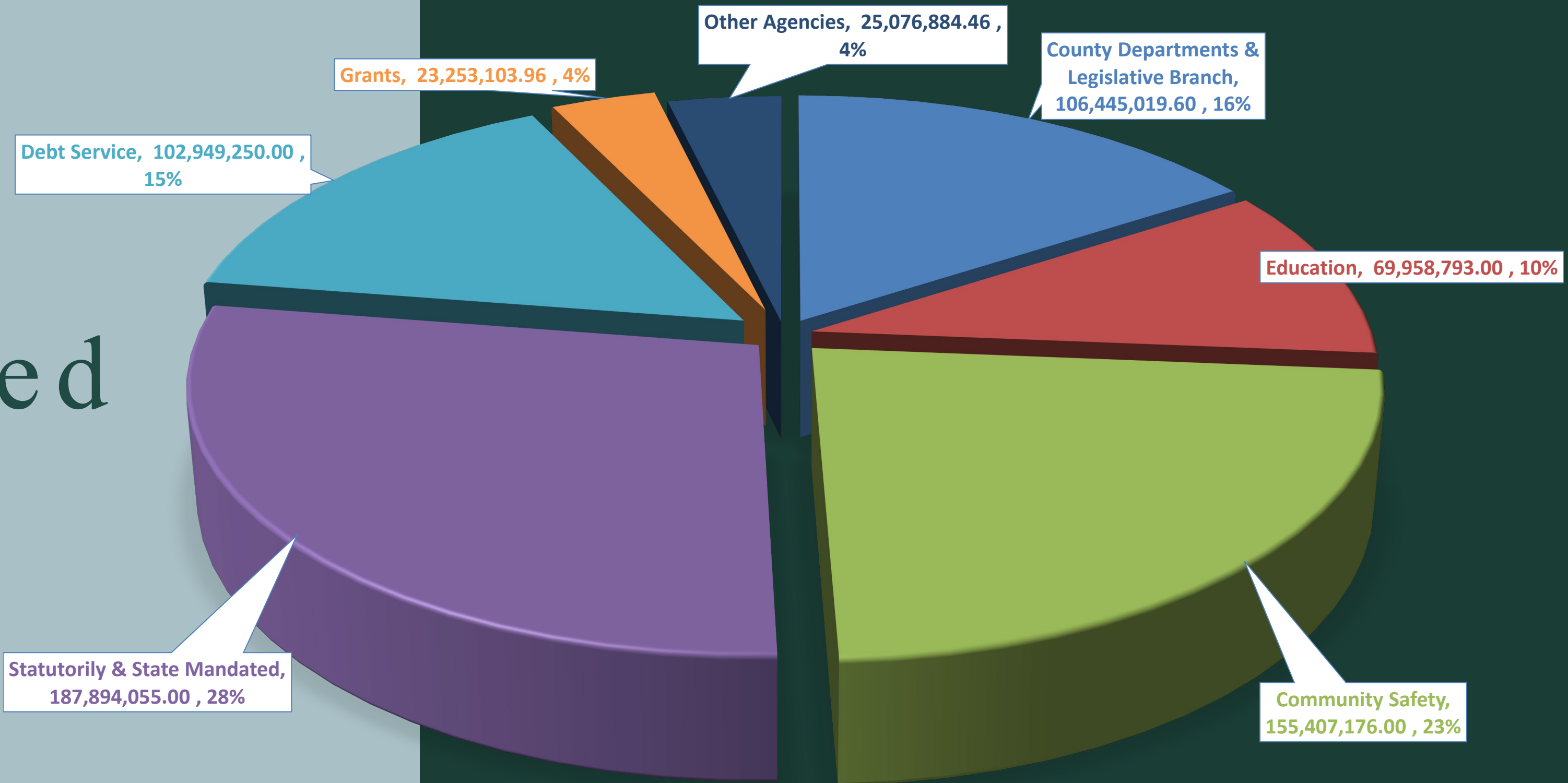




\$670.9M

TOTAL BUDGET

2023 Proposed Budget



2023 Budget Synopsis

Budget Pressures	Amount
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	\$32,646,188.64
Statutorily and State Mandated Expenses	<u>\$26,824,220.00</u>
Increase in Controllable Costs of County Government	\$5,821,968.64

Despite inflationary pressures , the net increase in **controllable costs** is **1.30%**

What does this mean for property owners?



On the average house assessed
at \$500,000.00

\$3.79 increase per month

\$45.42 increase per year

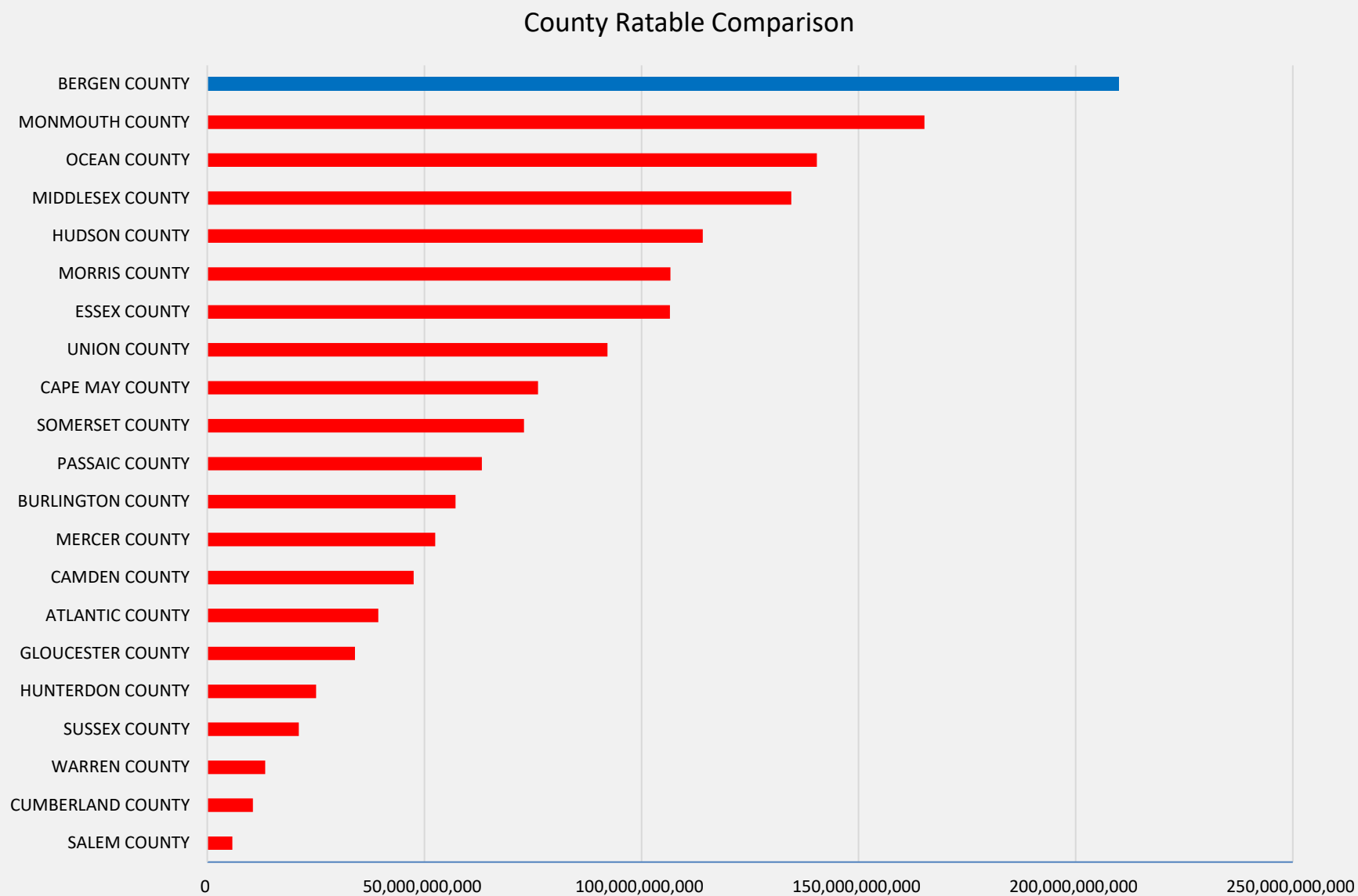
= 3.54% increase



That's less than one Starbucks Tall Mocha
Frappuccino \$3.95 per month

The Value of Bergen County

Strongest Property Values



Second Lowest Tax Rate

County	Tax Rate	County	Tax Rate
Monmouth	.2519	Sussex	.6325
Bergen	.2673	Mercer	.6896
Morris	.2897	Gloucester	.7271
Cape May	.3254	Middlesex	.7306
Somerset	.3815	Warren	.7801
Hunterdon	.4068	Camden	.8849
Ocean	.4250	Passaic	.9512
Burlington	.4308	Union	.9546
Hudson	.4860	Cumberland	1.2752
Essex	.5131	Salem	1.3382
Atlantic	.5791		

*State Equalized Tax Rate

Bergen County property values, totaling **\$209.8 BILLION** remain **27%** higher than any other county in NJ!



TO

RECAP

Budgets are about priorities



The 2nd lowest tax-rate in NJ

Highest property values in NJ

Budget Credits

County Executive James J. Tedesco, III extends his appreciation to following individuals for their dedication, work ethic and professionalism in the formulation of the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget.

Treasury & Division of Budget & Capital Planning

Jon Rheinhardt – Chief Financial Officer

Melissa Howard – Treasurer

Marlene Golden – Budget Examiner

Michael Kaplan – Budget Clerk

Sadie Ortiz – Executive Assistant

Executive Office

Thomas Duch – County Administrator/County Counsel

Michael Bellucci – Deputy County Administrator

