



# DOLLARS AND CENTS

Fiscal Year  
**2022**

## CITY PORTION OF PROPERTY TAXES

### City of Dubuque FY2022 Property Tax Rate

- \$9.8890 per thousand dollars assessed value
- Decrease of 2.51% from FY2021

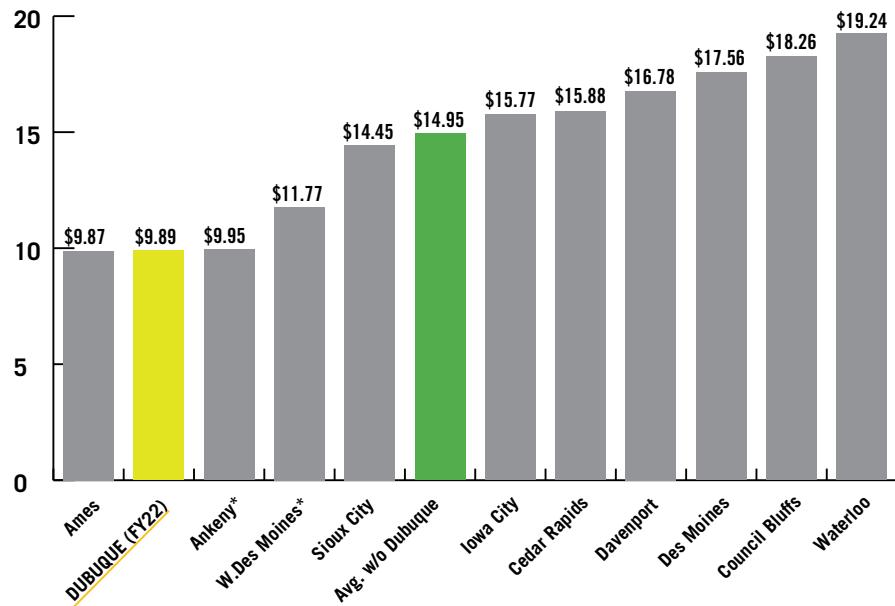
Property Type	Average Property Tax Cost Change from FY2021	% Property Tax Cost Change from FY2021
Residential	\$0	No change
Commercial	\$50.64 less	1.6% decrease
Industrial	\$88.98 less	1.9% decrease
Multi-Residential	\$144.99 less	7.64% decrease

Current Property Tax Rate	Next Year's Property Tax Rate	% Change
\$10.1440	\$9.8890	2.51% decrease

## Crisis Reveals Character

The City of Dubuque survived the pandemic without making service cuts, laying off employees, or increasing taxes. This was possible because of important decisions made by the mayor and city council creating the City's strong financial position going into the crisis -- with ample financial reserves, high credit ratings, less than 50 percent use of the statutory debt limit, very competitive property tax rates compared to other cities in Iowa (second lowest), one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country (under 2 percent at one point), the willingness of City employees to not take a pay raise in fiscal year 2021, freezing vacant positions, and delaying some capital and equipment projects and purchases. Now, with federal funding from the American Rescue Plan and continued prudent financial planning by the mayor and city council, economic recovery efforts are under way.

### FY2022 City Property Tax Rate Comparison



- Highest-ranked city (Waterloo, \$19.24) is **94.56% higher than Dubuque**
- Average of other 10 cities (\$14.95) is **51.21% higher than Dubuque**

\*Includes the transit tax levy adopted by the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority for comparability.

## City Saves \$5 Million in Interest, Credit Rating Upgraded

In May 2021, Moody's Investor Services **upgraded the City's Water Enterprise's outstanding revenue bonds to A1 from A2** and affirmed the Aa3 credit rating on general obligation bonds. That same month, the City sold \$29.5 million in tax-exempt general obligation bonds and \$12.5 million in taxable general obligation bonds, **receiving a 1.36% rate on the non-taxable bonds** and 1.62% rate on taxable bonds. In July 2021, the City sold \$3.7 million in water revenue refunding bonds, receiving a 1.04% rate. Of the \$45.7 million in bond revenues, nearly \$41 million will be used to refund previously issued debt. The favorable interest rates secured through strong credit ratings **will save the City nearly \$5 million** in interest over the life of the current debt that is being refinanced.

**What does it mean for our community?** These credit ratings are affirmation of the sound fiscal management of the mayor and city council, put Dubuque in a strong position to capitalize on favorable financial markets, borrow at low interest rates when necessary, and make critical investments in the community.

# CITY BUDGET

The City of Dubuque's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget runs from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. The budget has two primary components: the **operating budget** and the **capital budget**.

The **operating budget** includes personnel costs and annual facility operating costs. It is funded primarily through local property and sales taxes.

The **capital budget** funds major improvements to City facilities and infrastructure. The capital budget is supported through multiple funding sources, including federal and state grants.

**The City's total budget for FY2022 is \$191,235,194**

## Fiscal Year 2022 City Budget



	Operating	Capital
General Fund	\$68,885,005	\$2,354,811
Water Fund	\$9,662,972	\$3,279,268
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$11,488,643	\$5,920,553
Stormwater Fund	\$4,778,350	\$3,810,977
Refuse	\$3,133,490	\$847,751
Parking	\$2,826,227	\$81,305

## GENERAL FUND

The **general fund** is the operating fund for general City departments and their programs/services, such as public safety, culture & recreation, health & social services, and general government.



### How General Fund Money is Spent

Category	Description	Portion of General Fund
Public Safety	(fire, police, ambulance services, 9-1-1 dispatch, animal control, building inspections, crime prevention, emergency management, flood control, etc.)	<b>42.3%</b>
Culture & Recreation	(AmeriCorps, arts and cultural affairs, civic center, conference center, library, marina, parks, recreation, etc.)	17.9%
General Government	(city attorney and legal services, city clerk, city council, City Hall and general buildings, city manager, finance, information services, etc.)	14.1%
Public Works	(airport, maintenance of streets, bridges, and sidewalks; snow removal, street cleaning, street lighting, traffic control, etc.)	8.4%
Community & Economic Development	(economic development, housing and community development, neighborhood development, planning and zoning, etc.)	6.1%
Transfers Out	(to funds other than General Fund)	6.1%
Capital Projects	(City infrastructure improvements or major equipment purchases)	3.1%
Health & Social Services	(community health, health regulation and inspection, human rights, etc.)	1.4%
Debt Service	(government capital projects, tax-increment financing [TIF] capital projects)	0.5%

# WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR MONTHLY UTILITY BILL?

	Utility	Rate	Ranking
	<b>Curbside Collection</b> (trash and recycling)	Basic rate: \$15.38 / month (2.6% increase from FY2021) Curbside recycling collection is no extra charge.	<b>4th Lowest</b> (Highest, Ames, is 67.62% higher than Dubuque, and average is 14.46% higher than Dubuque)
	<b>Water</b>	Avg. household rate: \$31.67 / month* (3.00% increase from FY2021)	<b>2nd Lowest</b> (Highest, West Des Moines, is 27.04% higher than Dubuque, and average is 10.85% higher than Dubuque)
	<b>Stormwater</b>	Avg. household rate: \$8.85 / month** (6.76% increase from FY2021)	<b>2nd Highest</b> (Highest, Des Moines, is 75.03% higher than Dubuque, and average is 29.52% lower than Dubuque)
	<b>Sanitary Sewer</b>	Avg. household rate: \$43.51 / month*** (3.00% increase from FY2021)	<b>4th Highest</b> (Highest, Ankeny, is 41.73% higher than Dubuque, and average is 5.58% lower than Dubuque)

\*Average household rate based on 6,000 gallons per month at \$0.00528 per gallon

\*\*Monthly rate for majority of Dubuque households based on usage of one single family unit. Stormwater fees are based on the amount of impervious ground coverage on a property. Fees collected are only used for stormwater management activities such as the construction, maintenance and operation of the public stormwater management system.

\*\*\*Average household rate based on 6,000 gallons per month at \$0.00674 per gallon. The City's wastewater collection and treatment system operates as a self-supporting enterprise fund which means that it is funded only with revenue from user fees.



## WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!

Residents are strongly encouraged to get involved in next year's budget process!

Visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2022budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2022budget) to learn more about virtual community budget input sessions and the following tools:

1. *Balancing Act Budget Simulator*
2. *Taxpayer Receipt*
3. *Public Comments Form*

## General Fund Reserve Projections

The City maintains a general fund reserve, or working balance, to allow for unforeseen expenses that may occur. The goal is to have at least a 20% reserve. In Fiscal Year 2022, it is projected that the City will have 24.72% in reserve.

	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
City's Spendable General Fund Cash Reserve Fund Balance	\$17,903,632	\$17,903,632	\$17,903,632	\$17,903,632	\$17,903,632
% of Projected Revenue	24.72%	24.24%	23.76%	23.29%	22.84%



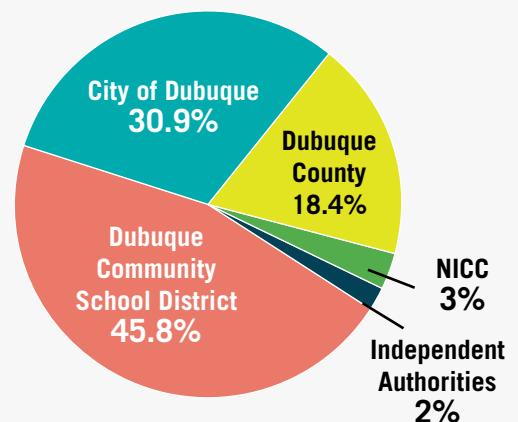
## Where do your property taxes go?

Property taxes are collected by the County and distributed monthly to the City of Dubuque and other taxing bodies. Property taxes are distributed among the Dubuque Community School District (45.8%), City of Dubuque (30.9%), Dubuque County (18.4%), Northeast Iowa Community College (3%), and independent authorities\* (2%).

Property taxes are certified July 1 with the first half due on or before September 30 and the second half due on or before March 31. For more information, contact the City Assessor at 563-589-4416.

## How Your Property Tax Rate Is Split

FY2021 Consolidated Rate of 32.29306



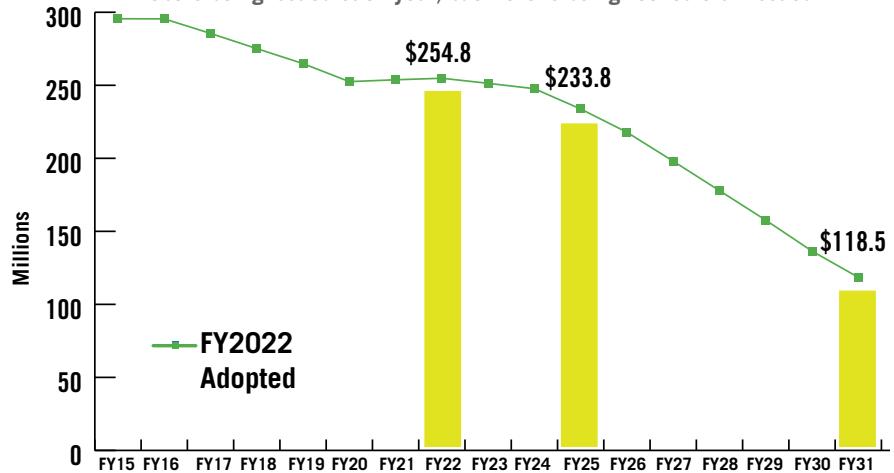
\* "Independent authorities" includes City Assessor, County Hospital (Sunnycrest Manor), Dubuque County Agriculture Extension, and the Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Eradication Fund.

# Debt Reduction Plan

(Adopted August 2015)

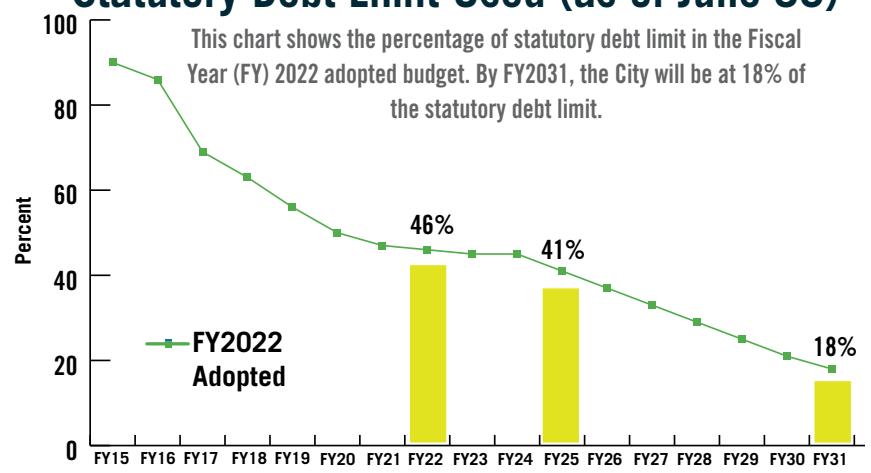
## Total Debt (in millions)

Debt is being issued each year, but more is being retired than issued.



## Statutory Debt Limit Used (as of June 30)

This chart shows the percentage of statutory debt limit in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 adopted budget. By FY2031, the City will be at 18% of the statutory debt limit.



The City of Dubuque's use of debt can be compared to many average homeowners who borrow to buy their home. The City has borrowed money at low interest rates to invest in infrastructure. Unlike the federal government, the City does not borrow money to cover operating expenses.

## Top 10 Debt Uses (as of June 30, 2021)

#	Project Description and Amount Outstanding
1	Stormwater Improvements \$76,527,913
2	Water & Resource Recovery Center \$57,395,000
3	Water Improvements \$30,069,008
4	Parking Improvements \$23,769,184
5	Downtown TIF Incentives/Improvements \$20,177,588
6	Sanitary Sewer Improvements \$13,301,860
7	TIF Rebates/Bonds to Businesses \$8,216,815
8	Industrial Park Expansions \$6,413,953
9	Caradco Building Iowa Finance Authority Loan \$3,470,309
10	Street Improvements* \$2,941,387
	<b>Total \$242,283,017</b>

\* \$162 million has been spent on street improvements from 1997-2021

## Percentage of Legal Debt Limit Utilized (FY2020)

