



Statement from Borough of South River Mayor Peter Guindi

Residents and Business Owners,

As this year's property tax bills are mailed to homeowners, I want to provide our residents with transparency regarding the property tax impacts facing our community.

Based on current estimates, residents can expect the following tax increases:

- 6.65% Borough (Municipal) Tax Increase
- 11.759% School Tax Increase
- 5.93% County Tax Increase

It is important to understand how your property tax dollars are distributed. 50.48% of every tax dollar supports our public schools, 28.90% funds Borough municipal services, 18.73% supports Middlesex County services, and 1.89% funds the South River Public Library.

Although residents receive a single property tax bill, that bill is divided among several independent taxing entities. The Borough is responsible only for determining the municipal tax levy, which represents 28.90% of the total tax bill. The South River Board of Education establishes the school tax levy, while the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners determines the county tax levy.

Like municipalities across New Jersey, every level of government continues to face significant financial challenges. Rising health insurance costs (25%-36%), contractual salary obligations, increased fringe benefit expenses, inflation, and higher operating costs have placed considerable pressure on municipal, school, and county budgets. These challenges are not unique to South River but are being experienced by communities throughout the state.

Despite these financial pressures, the Borough Council and I have remained committed to minimizing the impact on our residents. Over the past year, we have advanced several strategic initiatives designed to strengthen the Borough's long-term financial position and

reduce future reliance on property taxes. These efforts include moving forward with Phase II of the Battery Energy Storage Project and encouraging responsible economic development that will generate new commercial ratables and broaden our tax base.

These initiatives are part of a long-term strategy to diversify municipal revenues, improve operational efficiency, and lessen the burden on taxpayers whenever possible. While many of the financial factors driving these increases are outside the Borough's control, we remain committed to making fiscally responsible decisions that protect the high-quality services our residents expect while exercising careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

We recognize that any tax increase places an additional burden on our families, seniors, and local businesses, and these decisions are never made lightly. My administration and the Borough Council remain committed to operating with transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. We will continue pursuing opportunities to strengthen South River's financial future while investing in the services, infrastructure, and quality of life that make our community a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

The Borough Council and I remain committed to transparency, responsible financial management, and identifying every opportunity to operate more efficiently while maintaining the high-quality public safety, public works, recreation, and community services that make South River a great place to live.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and commitment to our Borough. We remain dedicated to serving our community and ensuring that every tax dollar is managed responsibly and effectively.

Peter S. Guindi

Mayor, Borough of South River