



passaic
COUNTY

NEW JERSEY

2024 Budget Introduction

February 27, 2024



Budget Committee

Commissioner Pat Lepore, Chair
Director John W. Bartlett, Esq.
Commissioner Cassandra “Sandi” Lazzara

County Staff

Matthew P. Jordan, Esq., County Administrator
Marc Seemon, Deputy County Administrator
Richard Cahill, Chief Financial Officer
Kelly C. Ruffel, Assistant County Administrator
Steve Wielkotz, County Auditor

Highlights of the 2024 Budget

- 1.97% increase in the Tax Levy amounts to a \$6.8 million dollar increase from 2023.
- \$7 million dollar increase in health benefits and prescription benefits.
- Replenishing reserve and trust accounts
- Protecting the County's credit rating which continues to be the highest in County history.
- Responsible Negotiations with County Collective Bargaining Units
- Continued investment in the County's infrastructure and the Passaic County Park System

The 2022 Rating Action by Moody's Investor Services Pursuant to the New Credit Rating Criteria

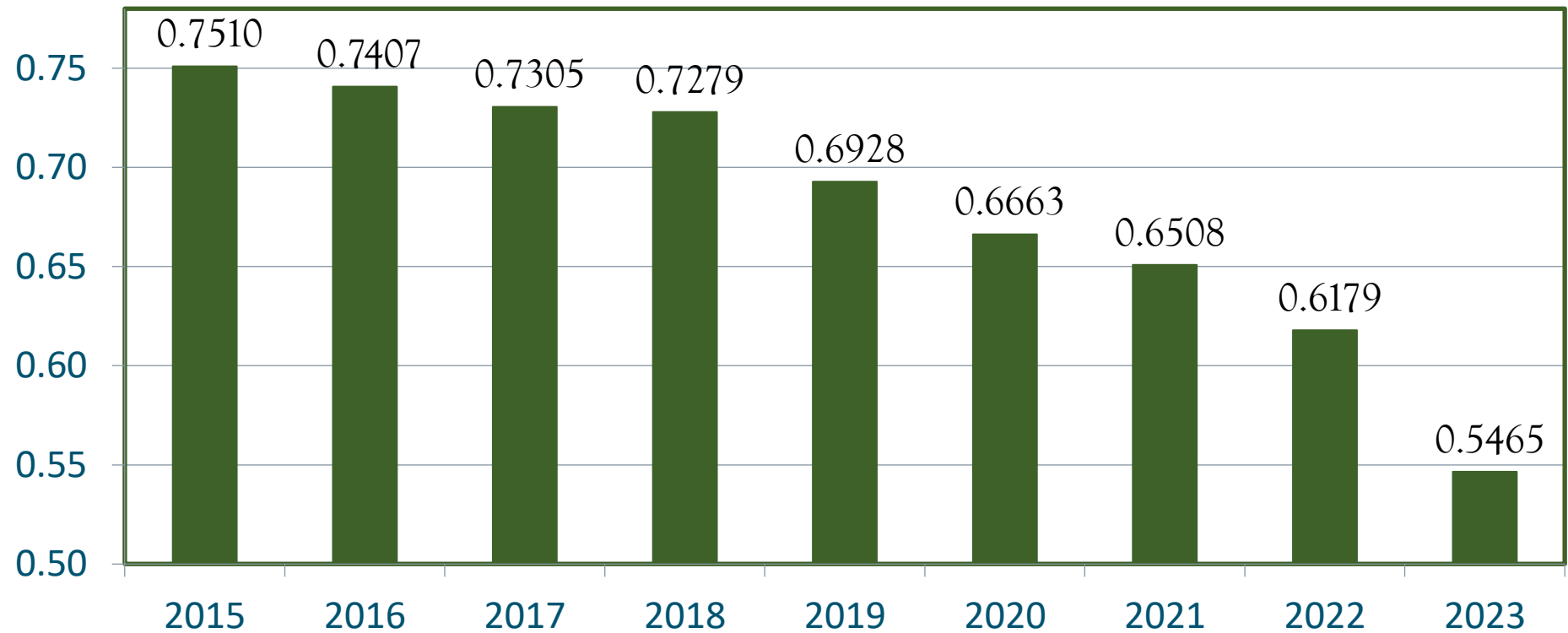
- On December 20, 2022, Moody's Investor Services confirmed Passaic County's Aa1 GO credit rating
- Continues to be the highest credit rating in the history of Passaic County
- The ratings rationale stated that:
 - “The Aa1 issuer ratings reflects the County's strong and diverse local economy with average resident incomes indicators, healthy reserve position and very strong governance.”
 - “The financial position of the County is strong and will remain healthy in the near-term driven by management's active management over spending.”
 - “The stable outlook reflects the expectation that the County's economy and financial position will continue to show its strength.”

MOODY'S
INVESTORS SERVICE

Aa1 GO Credit Rating

Stabilizing Taxes

County tax rate lowered for 8th consecutive year

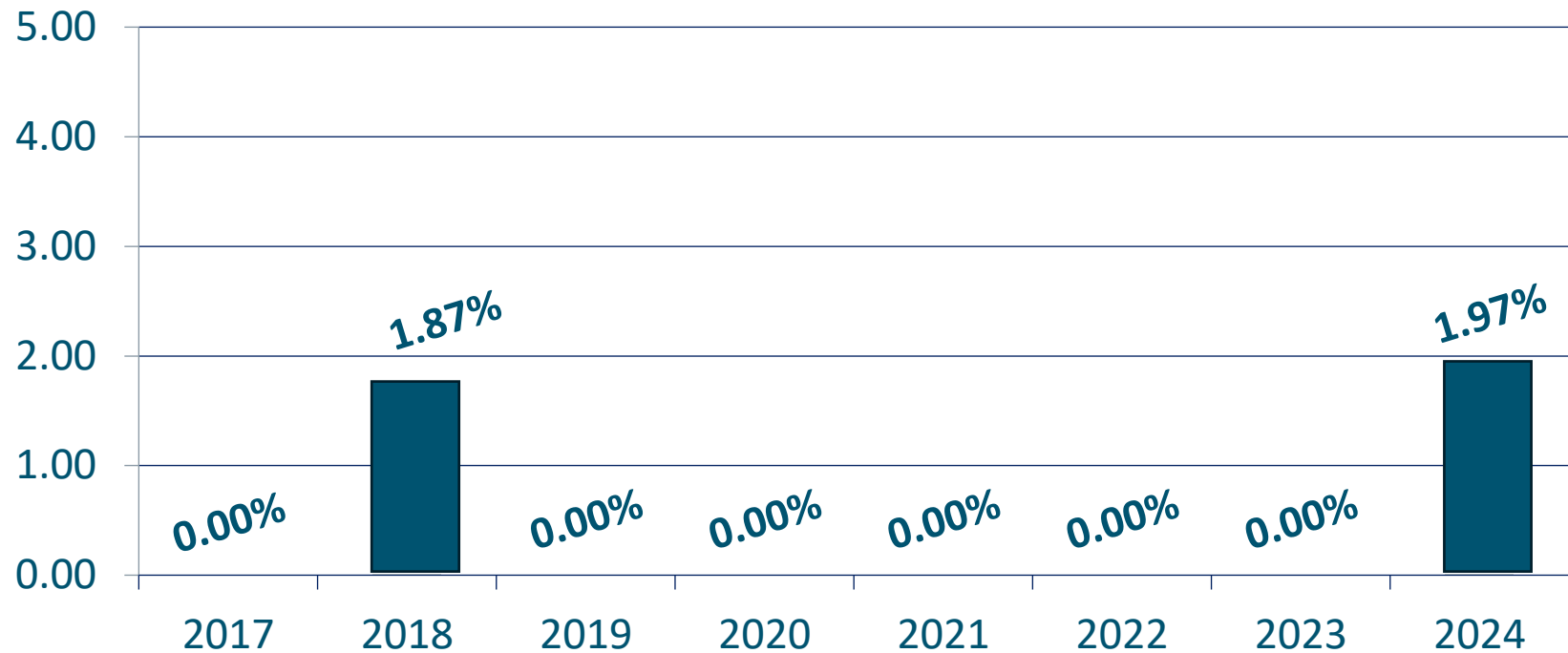


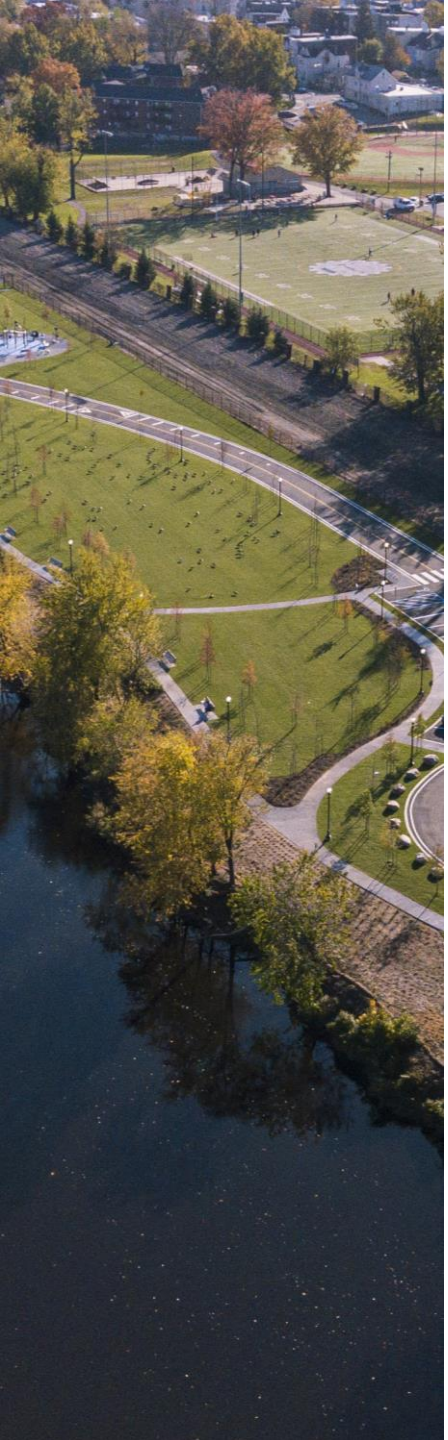
Source Passaic County Board of Taxation, Abstract of Ratables



Responsible Budgeting & Stabilized Taxes

COUNTY TAX LEVY HAS **NOT INCREASED**
IN FIVE (5) OF THE LAST SIX (6) YEARS





Increasing fund balance to ensure fiscal stability for future generations

2023	\$106,076,813
2022	\$98,275,027
2021	\$88,814,032
2020	\$85,573,813
2019	\$77,510,058
2018	\$66,427,185
2017	\$50,056,246
2016	\$45,016,252
2015	\$34,364,188

Source, Passaic County Audit Reports, and 2023 Annual Financial Statement (unaudited)

Replenishing & Maintaining Budget Reserves

Increasing reserves to insure fiscal stability for future generations

RESERVES	2017	2019	2021	2023
Workers' Compensation	\$5,456,202	\$9,616,289	\$9,241,136	\$8,675,613
Health Benefits	\$13,912,500	\$25,067,153	\$27,213,889	\$24,662,526
Liability Insurance	\$5,436,558	\$17,405,901	\$25,351,672	\$27,235,723
Snow Removal	\$783,671	\$2,174,124	\$5,509,520	\$5,335,160
Accumulated Absences	\$774,927	\$1,645,217	\$4,426,217	\$3,706,428
Unemployment Compensation	\$731,357	\$1,254,670	\$1,643,948	\$1,839,020
County Pension Plan	\$575,735	\$1,748,320	\$4,246,034	\$3,926,239
Mosquito Control	0.00	0.00	\$973,055	\$912,267
TOTAL RESERVES	\$27,670,950	\$58,911,674	\$78,605,471	\$76,292,976
TOTAL RESERVES PLUS FUND BALANCE	\$77,727,196	\$136,121,732	\$167,419,503	\$182,369,789

Source, Passaic County Audit Reports, and 2023 Annual Financial Statement (unaudited)



Passaic County Equalized Valuation

32% overall growth in Passaic County over the past 6 years and every municipality has seen growth

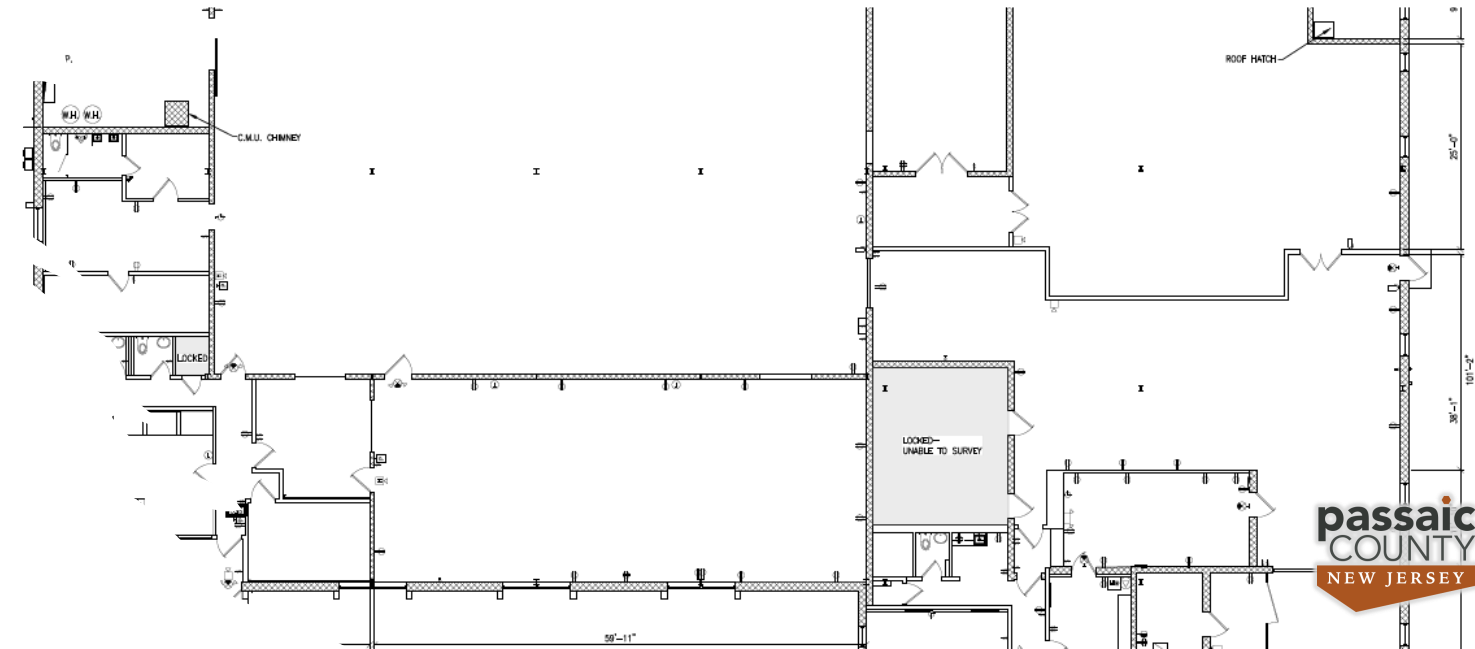
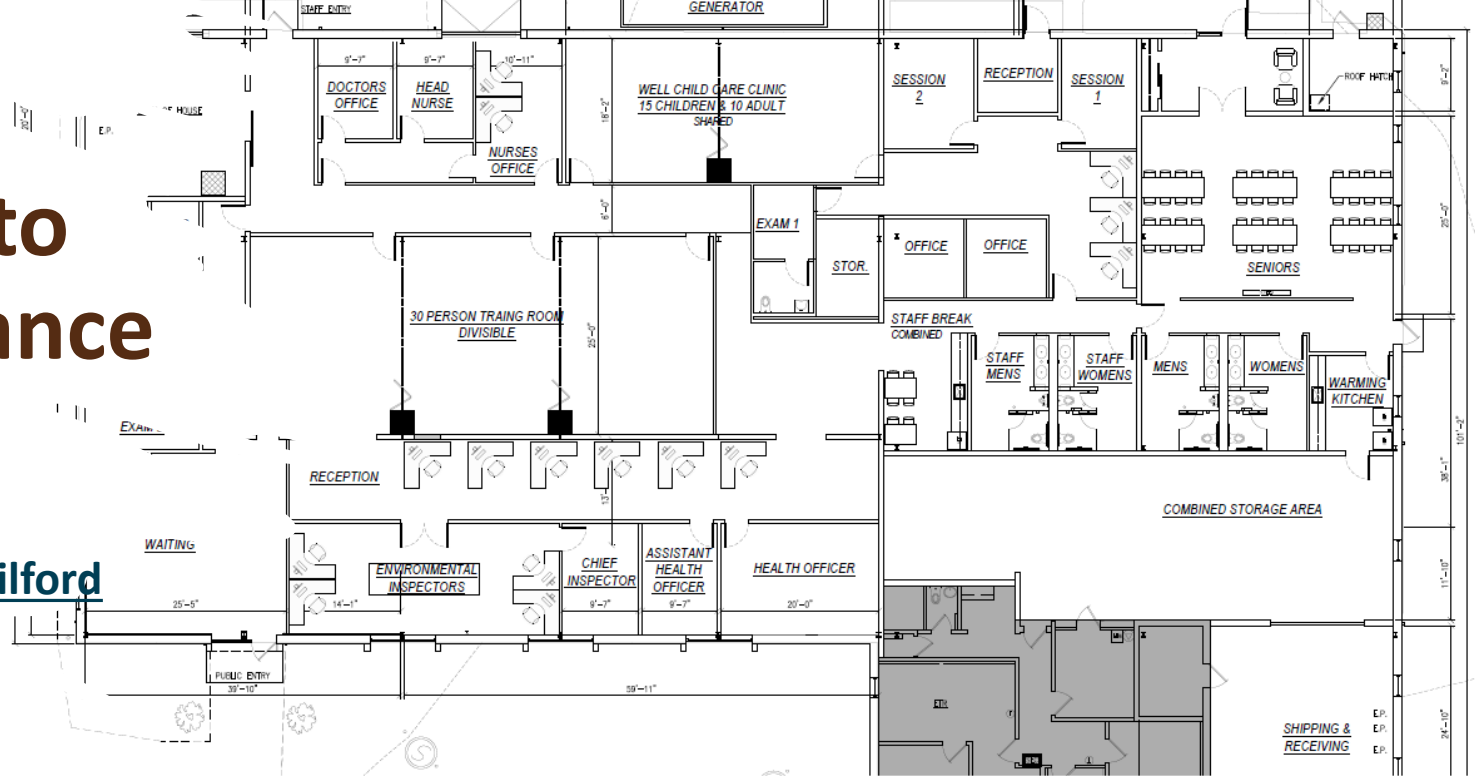
2023	\$63,801,178,837
2022	\$57,311,045,503
2021	\$53,704,723,231
2020	\$52,529,894,433
2019	\$50,520,359,011
2018	\$48,211,396,964

Source Passaic County Board of Taxation, Abstract of Ratables

Working with Passaic County Municipalities to Reduce Taxes and Enhance Constituent Services

Development of Satellite County Office in West Milford

- August 2023 – County and West Milford signed a letter of intent to transform a Township owned property into a Satellite County Office
- County is leasing the property for a 20-year term, with a simultaneous extension of 20-years for the County to provide Public Health Services to the Township
- County is developing construction documents to transform the property into an up-county location with office and clinical space, and a senior nutrition site with construction slated the summer
- Construction is being funded by a variety of State and Federal grant sources



Update: Consolidation of Correctional Operations with Bergen County & Redevelopment of 11 Marshall Street Site

- In 2021, the County negotiated a shared services agreement with Bergen County whereby correctional services would be regionalized at the Bergen County Correctional Facility.
- In April 2023, the County stopped overnight stays for inmates, and 11 Marshall Street has strictly been a processing and transport location
- Over the last 6 months, work has been ongoing to upgrade the Sheriff's Headquarters in Wayne to process inmates with a final inspection by the NJDOC in March
- Bids are being unsealed for the demolition of the Passaic County Jail on March 6th
- 35% decrease in the Corrections Division salary and wage budget line and 75% decrease in the operating expenses budget line

*\$11.7 million reduction in
Corrections Division Budget*

Collective Negotiations with County Unions

UNION	DEPARTMENT	TERM BEGIN	TERM END	FINANCIAL IMPACT TO BUDGET
AFSCME Local No. 2522	Preakness	1/1/2023	12/31/2026	2.681%
IBT Local No. 11 (Paratransit)	Paratransit Division	1/1/2024	12/31/2027	4.620%
PBA Local No. 197 (RF)	Sheriff's Office	1/1/2024	12/31/2029	2.948%
PBA Local No. 197 (SOA)	Sheriff's Office	1/1/2024	12/31/2029	2.140%
PBA Local No. 286 (SOA)	Sheriff's Office	1/1/2024	12/31/2028	2.841%
CWA Local No. 1032 (SOE)	Superintendent of Elections	1/1/2021	12/31/2026	2.957%
IBT Local No. 125 (Sheriff's Civilian)	Sheriff's Office	1/1/2023	12/31/2027	2.589%

Investment in the Passaic County Park System



Rifle Camp Park Roadway Improvements

- \$2 million historic preservation project
- Upgrades internal driveways and parking lots within parks

Restoration of the Schuyler Colfax House Phase I – Wayne

- \$1.4 million historic preservation project
- Restoration to include visitor center, restrooms, exhibit space, and community space

Rehabilitation of the Harry S. Vreeland House – Highlands Meadow Park, Ringwood

- \$1 million historic preservation project
- Restoration to include visitor center, restrooms, exhibit space, and community space

Investment in the Passaic County Park System

- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Project – **Wayne**
- Rifle Camp Park Amphitheater Improvements – **Woodland Park**
- Dundee Island Park Phase II & Pedestrian Bridge - **Passaic**
- Lambert Castle Carriage House & Visitor Center Restoration – **Paterson/Clifton**
- Lambert Tower Visitor Center & Improvements - **Paterson/Woodland Park**
- Goffle Brook Park North Corridor Improvements – **Hawthorne**
- Peckman Preserve Site Improvements – **Little Falls**
- Highland Rail Trails Phase I – **Wanaque**



The 2024 Capital Budget Continues the Investment in Passaic County Infrastructure

- Replacement of Doty Road Bridge No. 1600-147 in **Borough of Wanaque**
- Replacement of Hershfield Park pedestrian bridge in **Pompton Lakes**
- Redecking of the Greenwood Lake Turnpike Bridge No. 1600-513 in **West Milford**
- Replacement of Lincoln Avenue Culvert No. 1600-151 in **West Milford**
- Replacement of Lower Notch Road Culvert No. 1600-214 in **Woodland Park**
- Replacement of Passaic Avenue Culvert No. 1600-092 in **City of Passaic**
- Replacement of High Mountain Ave Culvert No. 1600-338 in **North Haledon**
- **2024 Resurfacing Program** - about 7 miles of resurfacing in various municipalities.



QUESTION & ANSWER

Rich History. Bright Future.