



2024 PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION



PROPERTY TAX + HOME OWNER GRANT DEADLINE:

July 2, 2024

Home Owner Grant applications are due to the Province:
gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or call [1.888.355.2700](tel:18883552700)

GREETINGS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

As your property tax notice for 2024 arrives, we want to provide you with greater context regarding your taxes and how they contribute to the services offered by the District of Sooke.

Your input is crucial to us each year as we prioritize community projects and make decisions that shape the District. Our goal is to manage increases while meeting the needs of our growing community and planning for the future.

In the 2024 budget, several key projects have been identified and funded through various sources including provincial allocations, federal and provincial grants, fees, charges, and property taxes.

These projects include:

- Increased police service delivery, aiming towards 24/7 coverage;
- Continuing 24/7 fire rescue services, along with a dedicated Emergency Program Manager;
- Completion of the Church Road Roundabout (2023-2024 Project);
- Charters Road Corridor construction, addressing weather damage and incorporating sidewalks and bike lanes (2024-2025 project);
- Road design for Charters South, Throup Connector, Phillips Connector and Ella for shovel-ready grant applications;
- Little River (DeMamiel Creek) Pedestrian Crossing (2024-2025 Project);
- Development of and ongoing contributions to an asset management program;
- \$400K in bridge maintenance and repairs to maximize lifespan;
- \$100K annual investment in playground equipment safety upgrades and replacement; and
- Ravens Ridge Park enhancements, including bleachers, a small playing field, a 3-on-3 basketball court, and FireSmart landscaping.

We understand the concerns regarding traffic delays and are actively working on implementing the Transportation Master Plan, accepted in 2020. This is why significant resources are being invested in plan implementation. You can learn more and track the plan's progress at letstalk.sooke.ca/tmp. Additionally, a Community Economic Development Officer has been hired to help foster local employment opportunities, not only diversifying

our tax base to include more commercial investment but alleviating commuting for some residents altogether.

Your ideas and feedback are invaluable to us. We encourage you to participate in our annual budget survey, available from mid-June to mid-August each year. Your input, both through the survey and at the community pop-ups held alongside it, plays a fundamental role in shaping our budget. We are listening and eager to hear from you. Please stop by and say "hello" when you see our team at local markets and parks this summer.

In addition to municipal levies, you'll notice on your tax bill that the District collects taxes on behalf of other agencies, such as the Provincial School Tax and the Capital Regional District. Taxes from multiple agencies are collected on one bill for ease – eliminating the need for you to deal with municipal bills and agencies. For 2024, taxes collected on behalf of other agencies represent 54.6% of your total property tax amount; the District's portion represents 45.4%.

We hope this newsletter provides clarity on how your tax dollars are invested and that you see your input reflected. If you have any questions about your 2024 taxes, please don't hesitate to connect with us or District staff – our team is here to assist you.

Kind regards,

Mayor Maja Tait and Councillors Jeff Bateman, Al Beddows, Dana Lajeunesse, Megan McMath, Kevin Pearson, and Tony St-Pierre

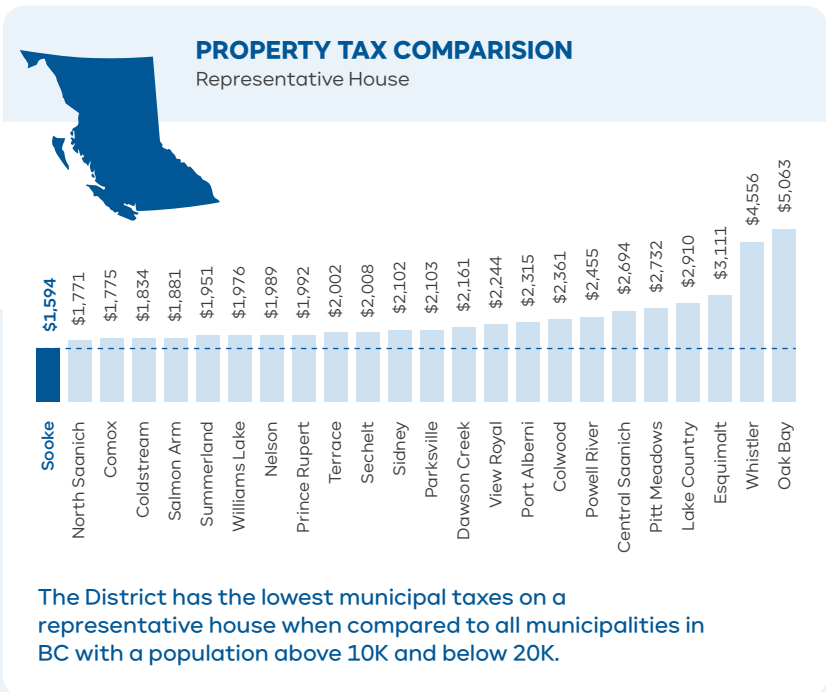


Back Row L-R: Councillors McMath, Beddows, Pearson, Bateman
Front Row: L-R: Councillor Lajeunesse, Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor St-Pierre



HOW DO DISTRICT PROPERTY TAXES COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?

The District of Sooke is committed to ensuring fiscal responsibility while responding to the needs of a growing community.



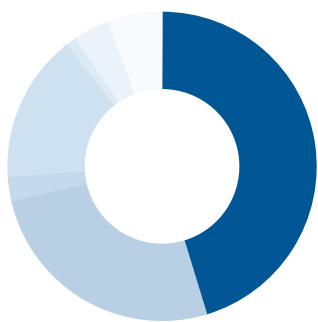
DID YOU KNOW?

Sooke taxes and charges are **among the lowest** when evaluated against neighbouring municipalities and those with comparable populations (see chart).

Please note that this is not a direct comparison as services vary between municipalities. One example of this is where municipalities with populations less than 15,000 are responsible for 70% policing costs; Sooke's population is greater than 15,000 and, therefore, responsible for 90% of policing costs.

The District has the lowest municipal taxes on a representative house when compared to all municipalities in BC with a population above 10K and below 20K.

Source: Government of British Columbia, Municipal taxes and charges on a representative house (2023)



Tax Distribution by Agency

(not local government/municipal services)

● School District	26.2%
● Capital Regional District	15.3%
● BC Transit	5.9%
● Vcr Island Regional Library	3.7%
● Regional Hospital District	2.7%
● BC Assessment Authority	0.8%
● Municipal Finance Authority	0.0%
● General Municipal Taxes	45.4%

LESS THAN HALF OF YOUR TAX BILL IS MUNICIPAL TAX

54.6% of the charges on your property tax bill are collected for **OTHER AGENCIES** over which the District has no direct control. It all goes on one tax notice so you don't have to deal with multiple bills.

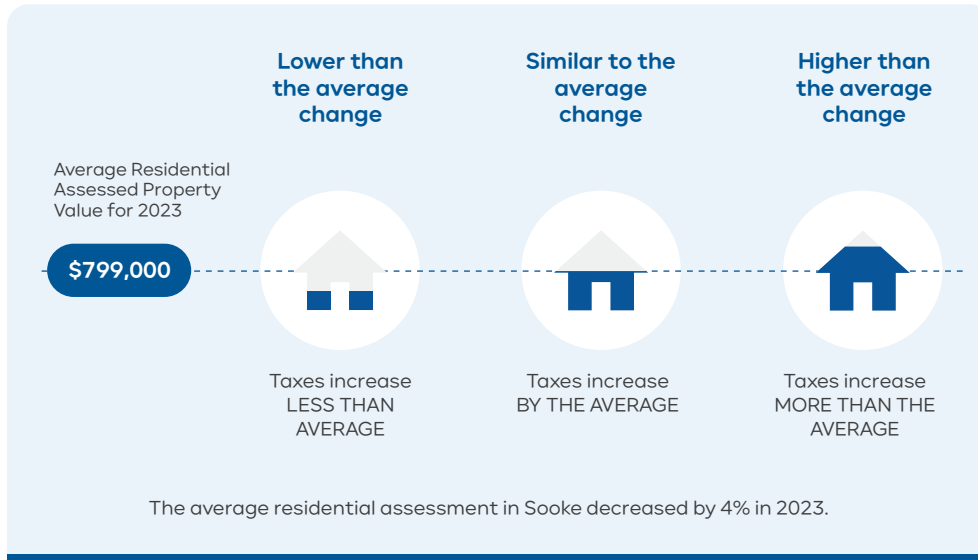
BREAKDOWN OF MUNICIPAL TAX PORTION

15.8% Police Services	8.2% Roads & Subdivisions	6.1% Planning, Development & Building Services	3.0% Debt Servicing
13.6% Fire Rescue & Emergency Program	6.7% DCC Funds*	4.3% Administration	1.2%* GIS (Mapping)
10.5% Sewer Operations	6.7% Finance & IT	4.3% Legislative & Bylaw	
9.6% Transfer to Reserve	6.4% Parks	3.6% Council	

*Development Costs Charges are funds applied to roads and parks projects from local development based on the DCC Bylaw

HOW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AFFECTS YOUR TAXES

Your property value as determined by BC Assessment is factored into your tax calculation. If your property's value increased more than the average for Sooke, the municipal portion of your tax bill may increase.



UNDERSTANDING THE BUDGET PROCESS. IT STARTS WITH YOU!

The foundation of the District of Sooke's budget process is resident involvement!

From mid-June to mid-August each year, the groundwork for our budget is laid through initiatives like the annual budget survey and community pop-ups at local markets. These engagements serve as crucial touchpoints where residents can voice their concerns, aspirations, and priorities to District Council and staff.

Additionally, the budget process draws heavily from planning documents, informed by residents, including the Official Community Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, the Parks and Trails Master Plan, Sooke 2030: Climate Action Plan, the Community Economic Development Strategy, and the Fire Master Plan. These blueprints of community vision and development enrich the budgetary deliberations, ensuring alignment with broader goals and objectives.

By incorporating feedback and insights gleaned from residents, alongside the insights provided by master plans, Council can make informed choices on service levels and resource allocation. This reality requires your active involvement!

Participate at letstalk.sooke.ca/budget and connect at the pop-ups so that your voice can be heard.

KEY DATES FOR 2025 BUDGET

June 12-August 25, 2024:
Budget 2025 Survey + Pop-ups

November 2024:
Budget What We Heard Report published

December 2024:
Service Level Reviews

Early 2025:
Budget Deliberations + Updates to five-year financial plan



IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

CLAIM YOUR HOME OWNER GRANT THROUGH THE PROVINCE OF BC

Claim before July 2, 2024

Apply for your Home Owner Grant directly with the Province online at:

www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant

To be eligible to receive the grant, the home owner must:

- Be the registered owner of the home.
- Occupy the residence as their principal residence.
- Live in BC and be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada.

For assistance, please call the Province of BC at 1-888-355-2700 or visit a Service BC Centre.

To avoid interest and penalties, apply ONLINE before the tax due date of July 2, 2024.

DEFERRING YOUR PROPERTY TAX

The Province of BC's Property Tax Deferment Program is a low-interest provincial loan program designed to help qualified BC home owners pay annual property taxes on their principal residents.

Submit your property tax deferment application to the Province, or learn more about the program:

- Online: www.gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment
- Phone: 1-888-355-2700

WAYS TO PAY

In person at the Municipal Hall:

Open Mon–Fri 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding statutory holidays. Extended hours are available on Tuesday, June 25 and Thursday, June 27 (closing at 8:00 p.m.). Bring your Tax Notice and payment to the Municipal Hall.

You can pay by:

- Cash
- Debit: Check with your card provider to see if you have a daily limit.
- Cheque: Make cheque payable to District of Sooke. Dishonoured cheques constitute non-payment of taxes and will be subject to penalty, interest and a \$35.00 service charge.
- Note: credit cards are NOT accepted.

Drop box:

There is a secure slot at the entrance of the Municipal Hall. Access this entrance front the parking lot. The drop box is available 24/7 for non-cash payments.

By Mail:

Mail your cheque and bottom portion of your tax notice to 2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC V9Z 1J2. Make your cheque payable to District of Sooke.

Online banking:

Pay through your financial institution's online banking system. Check their local cut-off time to ensure payment is received by the due date. To pay online:

1. LOG ON to your financial institution to add a payee.
2. SEARCH for Sooke and select "District of Sooke"
3. USE THE NINE DIGIT FOLIO NUMBER on the front of your Property Tax Notice as the account number (no decimals).
4. MAKE PAYMENT prior to your bank's local daily cutoff time. Retain receipt for proof of payment.

Visit your bank:

Make sure to get proof of on-time payment (with date and time). Please contact your financial institution for hours of operation and local cut-off times.

Through your mortgage company:

Contact your financial institution for more information.

Pre-pay your 2025 property taxes:

Enroll in the Pre-Authorized Payment Plan to have monthly property tax payments automatically withdrawn from your bank account. To sign up for the plan, complete the Pre-authorized Application form on our website and return it to municipal hall with a VOID cheque.

PROPERTY TAX + HOME OWNER GRANT DEADLINE:

JULY 2, 2024

AVOID PENALTIES: Any payments received at the Sooke Municipal Hall after **July 2, 2024 will be subject to a 10% penalty**, including payments made by mail, dropbox, and bank payment. Be sure to also apply for your HOME OWNER GRANT, if eligible, through the province before the July 2, 2024 deadline.