

Town of Simsbury Budget Preview



2014-2015



Overview



- **Budget Goals**
- **Drivers of the 2014-2015 Budget**
- **Budget History**
- **Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?**
- **Cost Saving Efforts**
- **Budget Checklist**

Budget Goals



- Provide for public health and safety
- Provide quality services at an affordable cost
- Maintain Simsbury's status as one of the best towns in Connecticut:
 - ❖ Simsbury Ranked #1 in Hartford Magazine's List of Top Towns
 - ❖ Ranked #39 in the country on a list of "Best Places to Live" by Money Magazine in 2011

Pressures on Town Budget

- **Expenses:**

- Health Insurance
- Pensions
- Contract Settlements
- Utilities & Materials
- OPEB Funding
- Farmington Valley Health District

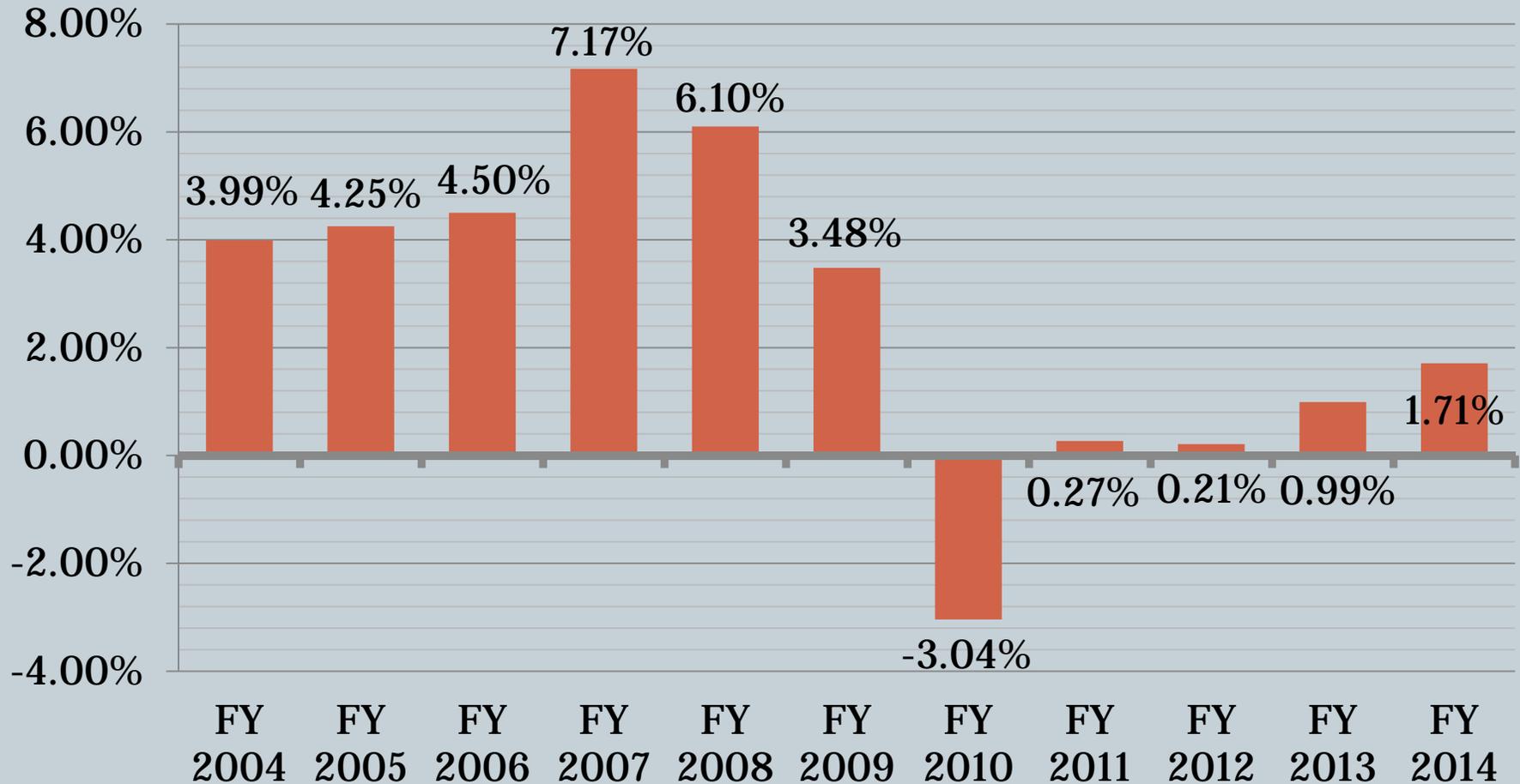


Pressures on Town Budget

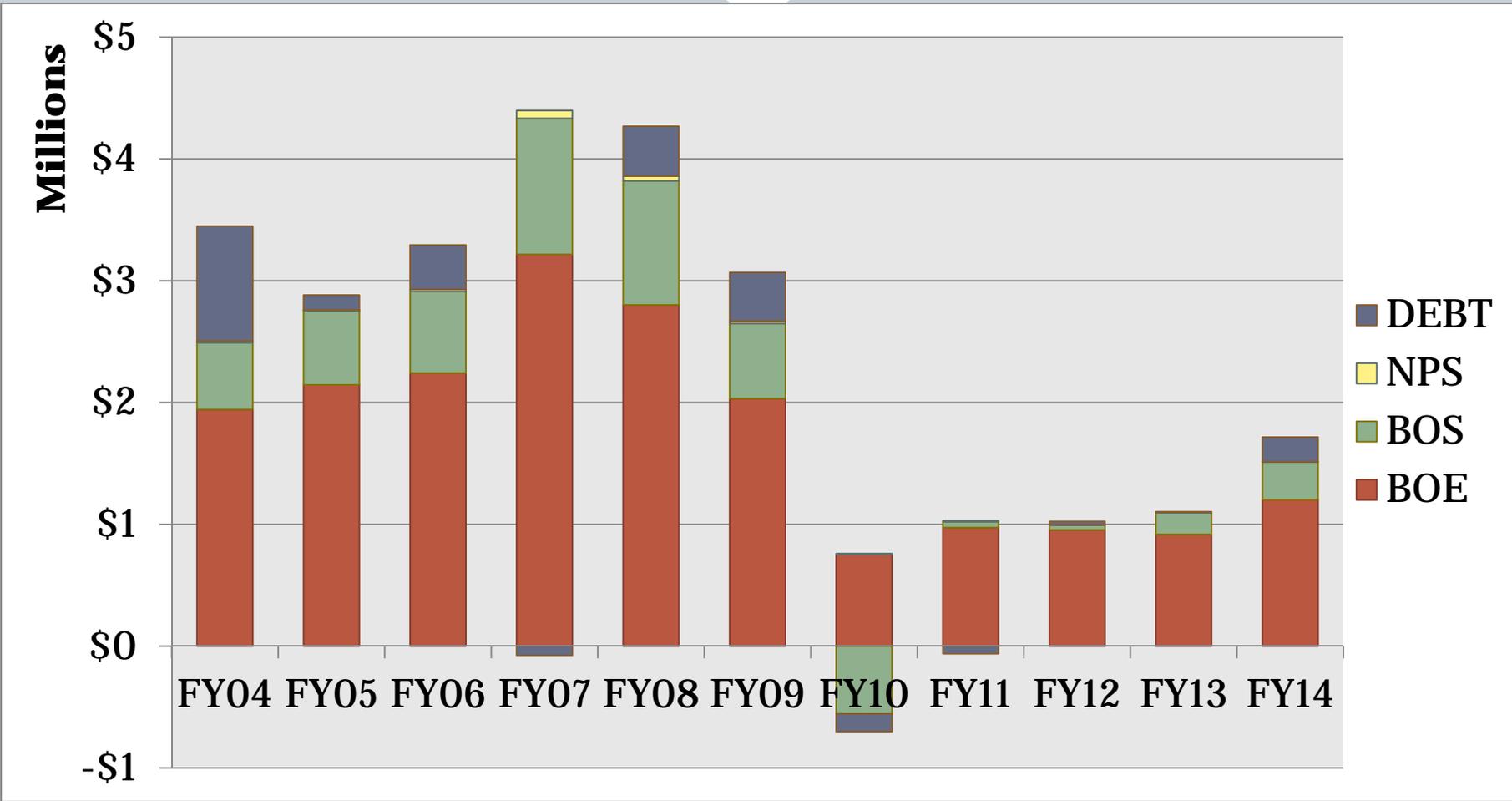
- **Revenues:**
 - Grand List Stagnant
 - Car Tax Elimination
 - State Aid Reductions
 - The Hartford uncertainty



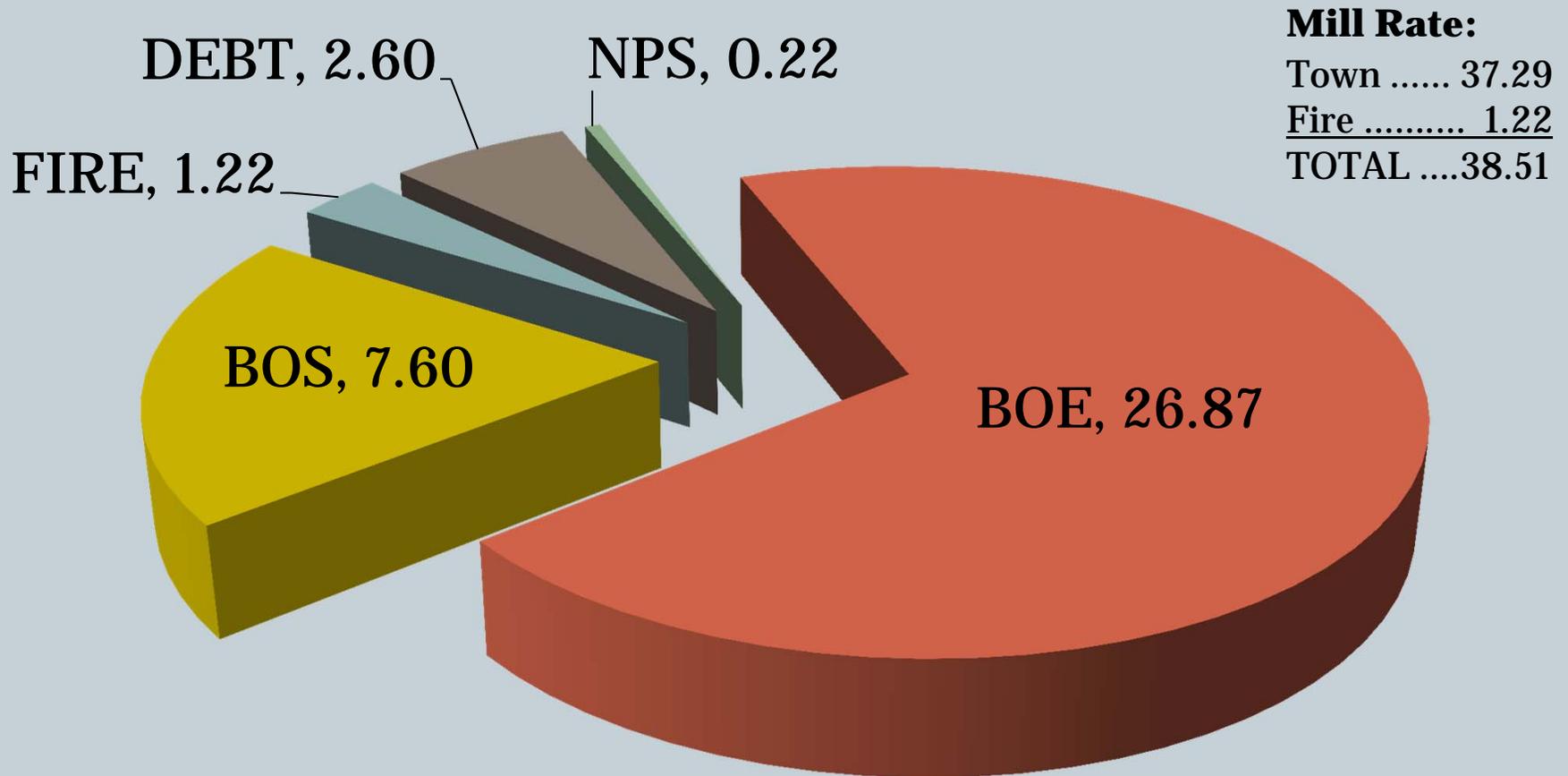
Recent BOS Budget History



Budget Increases/Decreases



Mill Rate Distribution



(Based on FY14 Budget Appropriations)

Median Net Taxable Assessments



2007-2011 Grand Lists

Median Net Taxable Assessment of **\$231,000**

Based on an average home value of approx. \$330,000

Using the previous **32.40 Mill Rate**, the Median Tax Bill in Simsbury was approximately **\$7,484**.

2012-2016 Grand Lists

Median Net Taxable Assessment of **\$194,000**

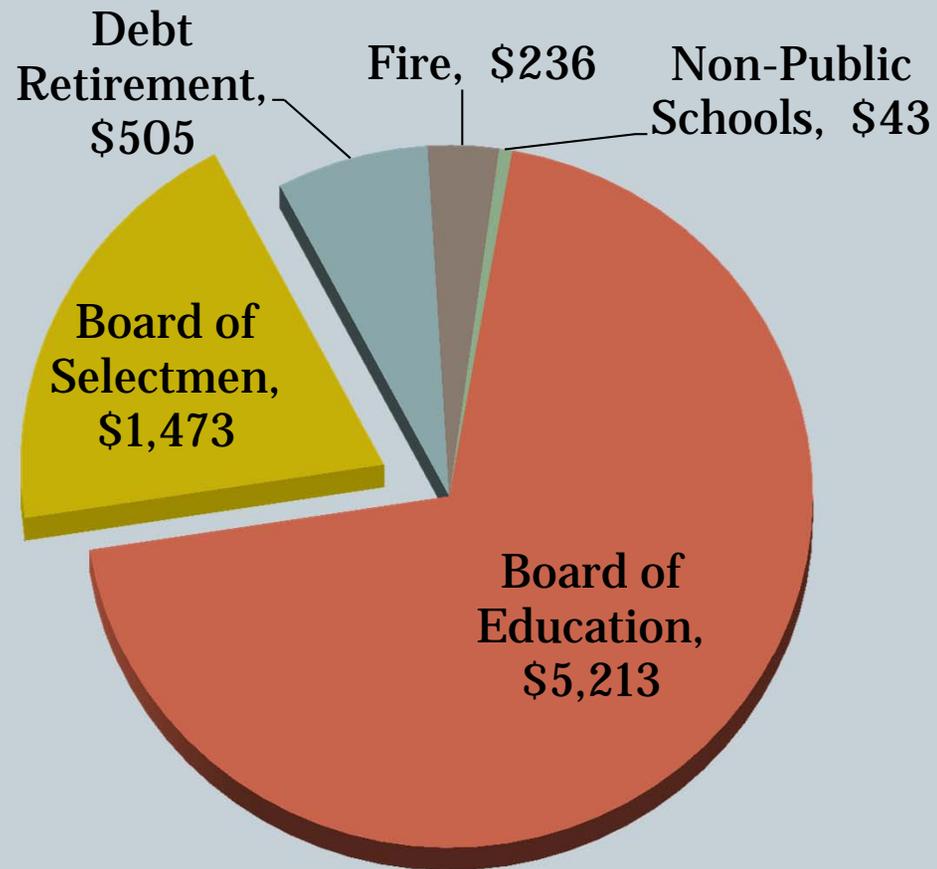
Based on an average home value of approx. \$277,000

Using the current **38.51 Mill Rate**, the Median Tax Bill in Simsbury is approximately **\$7,471**

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



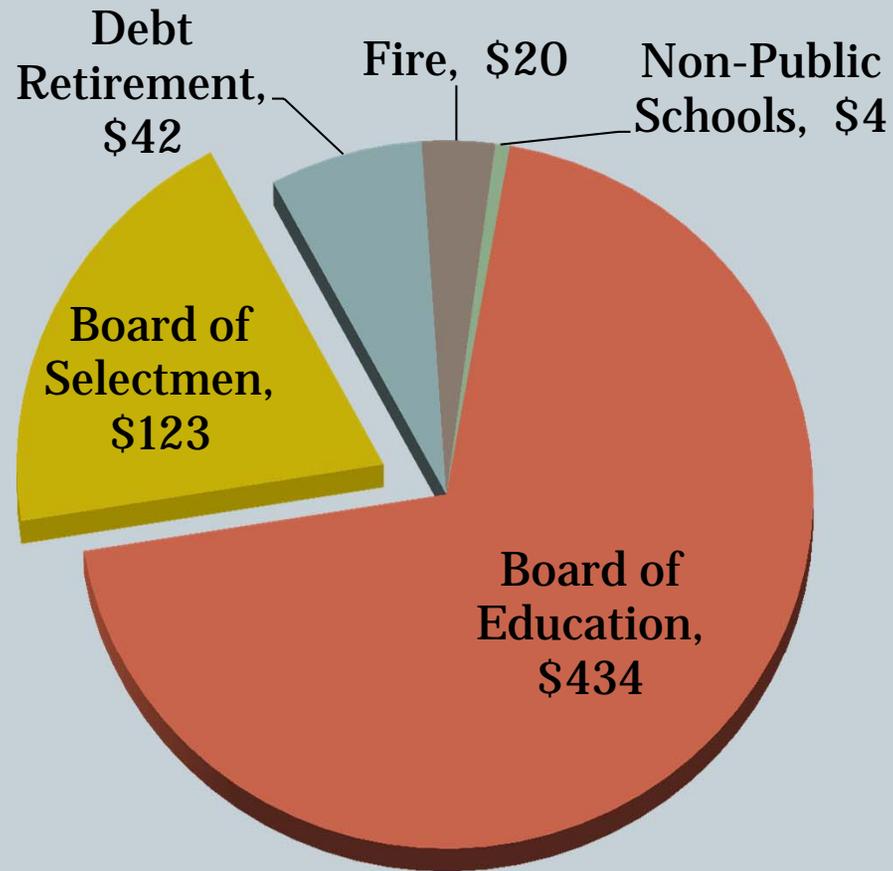
Median 2013-2014 Tax Bill of \$7,471 Per Year



Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



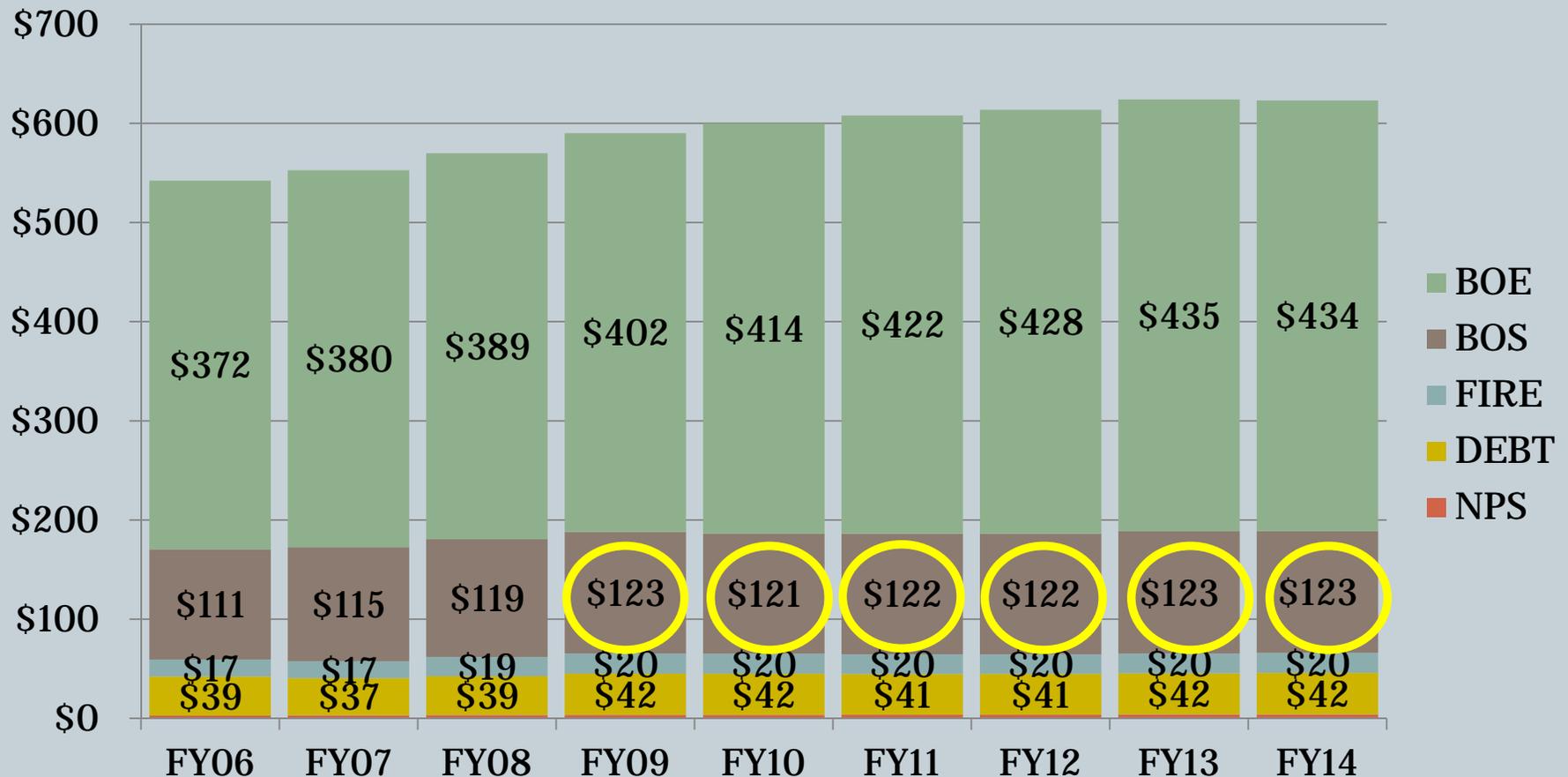
Median 2013-2014 Tax Bill of **\$623** Per Month



Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



Monthly Median Tax Bill Over 9 Years



Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



\$123 Per Month Paid For:

- **Police Protection**
 - 35 Sworn Police Personnel
 - 33,311 Police Calls for Service in FY 2011-2012
- **Road Paving and Maintenance**
 - 164 Miles of Town Roadway and 3,850 Catch Basins
 - 20 Miles of Road Resurfacing; 9 Miles Cracksealed
 - 92 Crosswalks re-painted
- **Snow Removal and Treatments**
 - 18 Highway Dept. Personnel & 12 Plow Trucks

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



\$123 Per Month Paid For:

- **Library Services**
 - 477,650 Items Circulated by 14,149 Borrowers
 - 34,556 Patrons Attended Library Programs
 - Library Staff Answered 53,306 Questions
- **Town Hall Services**
 - 140 Land Use Applications Processed
 - 766 Building Permits Issued
 - 1,981 Inspections Performed
 - 15,206 Registered Voters
 - 274 Marriage Licenses Issued

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



\$123 Per Month Paid For:

- **Engineering and Capital Project Services**
 - 9 Capital Projects Managed Valued at \$8.2 Million
 - Grants Managed Valued At \$3.8 Million
- **Emergency Response**
 - 5 Major Natural Disaster Incidents in Past 2 Years
 - 5,048 Devices Registered on Simsbury Alerts & CTAlerts
 - 264 Storm-Related Tweets to 512 Followers in 15 Months
 - 64 Storm-Related Press Releases Issues in 2 Years

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

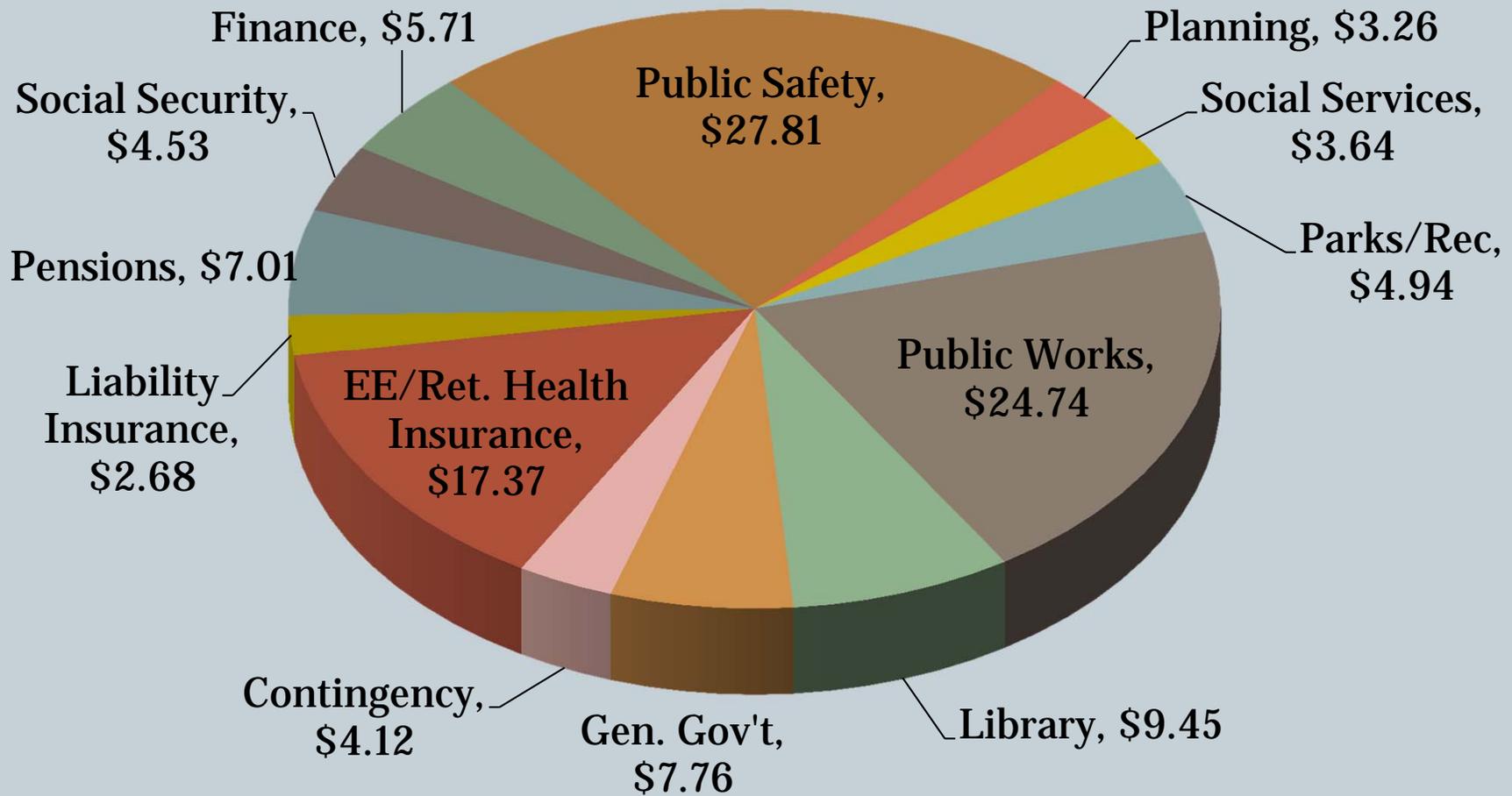


\$123 Per Month Paid For:

- **Parks, Pools & Recreational Services**
 - 2,300 Acres of Open Space
 - 440 Acres of Town-Owned Parks
 - 30 Playing Fields and 2 Aquatic Areas
 - Over 30,000 Users of Simsbury Farms Pool
 - 39,568 Rounds of Golf at Simsbury Farms
- **Social Services and Senior Center**
 - 11,336 Dial-A-Ride Passengers Travelling 67,127 Miles
 - 8,539 Requests for Social Services
 - 972 Senior Center Fitness Classes Offered

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

\$123 per month to the BOS pays for:



BOS Budget History



Board of Selectmen 10-Year Budget Comparison

<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>Net Difference</u>	
\$14,302,408	\$18,332,609	\$4,030,201	Increase
		28.18%	Increase
<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>Net Difference</u>	
\$18,332,609	\$18,347,575	\$14,966	Increase
		0.08%	Increase

Cost Saving Efforts



- 40 Recent Grants Received in Recent Years
 - **Totaling \$8,360,050**
- Volunteer Positions
 - **More than 30 Volunteer Boards & Commissions**
- Retiree Health Plan Switch
 - **Saving \$240,000 per year**
- Online Tax Payment Option
 - **4,400 Users**
- Energy Saving Awards Received
 - **Totaling \$400,000**

Budget Planning Checklist



- Contractual Wage Increases
- Benefit Costs
- Department Head Requests
- Town Technology Needs
- Grand List Changes
- State Aid Projections
- Revenue Estimates
- Tax Appeal Settlements
- Collection Rate
- Debt Level
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Capital Non-Recurring Needs

Budget Workshops



- **Location: Town Hall – Main Meeting Room**

- Thursday, February 27th – 5:30 to 7:15 pm
- Friday, February 28th – 5:30 pm
- Saturday, March 1st – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Friday, March 7th – 5:30 pm
- Saturday, March 8th – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Monday, March 10th – 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm (prior to the regular BOS meeting)

- **Location: Library – Large Program Room**

- Tuesday, March 11th 5:30 pm