

YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

A Report to the Citizens of Lakewood, California

Lakewood, with its population of 74,733, was incorporated as a city on April 16, 1954. It has a net assessed valuation of \$54,636,000, encompassing an area of seven square miles, with 135 miles of streets and service roads.

You will find your taxes listed by groups. One group lists the *normal* municipal functions. The other lists *special* functions—those over which the city has no control.

You will also find that taxes are shown as before incorporation (1953) as well as after incorporation.

The property tax rate for the normal municipal functions has been reduced considerably as the result of incorporation. The future promises an even further reduction. *It is only in the area of special, or non-city, taxes that an increase has occurred.*

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

City Hall

Lakewood, California

YOUR TAXES

There is no one-sentence summary of local taxes. They come from many places. Some property taxes are set by your Lakewood City Council. In addition, however, other taxes are set by separate, individual governing boards.

You receive one property tax bill from the County Tax Collector and on this bill are listed all the property taxes that you will pay. The tax levied by the City of Lakewood represents only 9% of your total property tax bill. The remaining 91% is paid by you for schools, fire protection, flood control, Los Angeles County general government, and water supply.

The total property tax rate for your home or business depends upon the area in which it is located. The difference in the tax rate is generally caused by the varying school district taxes.

MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS

You will note in Group I of the accompanying chart, that between 1953 and 1957 there has been a *drop* of 25c in the property tax rate for the normal municipal functions.

Immediately after incorporation, the County Road District tax was automatically abolished. Also, the City Council reduced the property tax rate by assuming street lighting obligations out of municipal revenues, thus eliminating the rate pertaining to the Lighting Maintenance Districts.

All but a small section of the city has been served by the Lakewood Park, Recreation and Parkway District, which was dissolved by public vote in June, 1957. This was a local, self-governing body established in 1951, with the power of taxation. This district pioneered the excellent landscaping of Lakewood's parkway panels and growing park and recreation program. The functions of this district were consolidated with the City on July 1, 1957, and the 1957 city tax rate of 69c includes the tax for this district.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The City of Lakewood is served by three separate unified school districts. All of them are entirely independent of the city government. They are self-governing and set their own tax rate.

The Long Beach Unified School District (tax: \$3.4695 per \$100) serves approximately 65% of the city. The increase of \$.0571 over last year is due to increased maintenance and operation costs such as increased facilities, enrollment, teachers, salaries, debt service, etc.

The Bellflower Unified School District (tax: \$4.5260) serves about 25% of the city. The 1957 rate reflects a decrease of \$.4711 from the 1956 rate of \$4.9971.

The Paramount Unified School District (tax: \$4.8189) serves about 10% of the city. This district's tax rate for 1957 reflects an increase of \$.1013 over the 1956 rate of \$4.7176.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD
COMPARATIVE PROPERTY TAX
RATES

Before After
Incorporation Incorporation
1953 1956 1957

Group I

NORMAL MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS:

A. Those over which the City of Lakewood has a measure of control, including districts in which Lakewood elected to remain:			
City of Lakewood.....	\$ 0	\$.2400	\$.6900*
Lighting Maintenance Districts			
(Rates ranged from .23 to .81, but averaged .4357)			
County Road District.....	.4357	0	0
County Public Library.....	.0334	0	0
Consolidated Fire Protection District.....	.0765	.0895	.0992
Lakewood Sewer Maintenance District.....	.6118	.5606	.6263
Lakewood Sewer Maintenance District.....	.0350	.0312	.0171
B. Those administered by their own governing boards:			
Lakewood Park, Recreation and Parkway District (Dissolved 6-30-57).....	.4636	.4576	0 §
Mosquito Abatement District (Southeast)....	.0147	.0097	.0077
Sanitation District No. 3.....	.1724	.1610	.1536
Total Tax Rate for Normal Municipal Functions	\$1.9431	\$1.5496	\$1.5939

Group II

NON-CITY FUNCTIONS

A. Special district over which the City has no control:			
Metropolitan Water District			
(People voted 2,681 to 139 to join in Sept., 1954)			
.....	\$.0	\$.3600	\$.3300
B. County wide districts, governed by Board of Supervisors:			
Los Angeles County General Government....	\$1.6988	\$1.8322	\$1.9246
Flood Control3411	.2714	.2733
Water Conservation—Zone 1.....	.0500	.0500	.0500
Tax Rate for County Government.....	\$2.0899	\$2.1536	\$2.2479
C. Schools (Long Beach Unified School District)			
.....	\$2.6723	\$3.4124	\$3.4695
Total Tax Rate for Non-City Functions	\$4.7622	\$5.9260	\$6.0474
Combined Rate for Normal City and Non-City Functions	\$6.6053	\$7.4756	\$7.6413

*Includes former Lakewood Park, Recreation and Parkway District rate.

§Obligation assumed by City of Lakewood.

TAX ASSESSING AND COLLECTING

The County of Los Angeles assesses the property and collects all property taxes for 57 of the 59 cities of the county, including Lakewood. Remember that the *assessed valuation* is not the same as the *market valuation* or *selling price*! For example, a house and lot worth \$12,000 may be assessed at approximately \$3,000. The tax rate shown on the accompanying chart, and also on the back of your tax bill, is the rate for each \$100 of the assessed valuation of your property. This valuation is determined each year by the County Assessor and shown on the front of your tax bill. Your total annual tax may be computed by multiplying the tax rate by the net assessed valuation.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please call at City Hall, or phone MEtcal/ 0-3115. Kindly address your questions either to the Director of Finance or to the City Administrator.

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CITY COUNCIL

ANGELO M. IACOBONI, *Mayor*
ROBERT W. BAKER GENE NEBEKER
WILLIAM J. BURNS GEORGE NYE, JR.

ADMINISTRATION

HENRY L. GOERLICK.....*City Administrator*
CARL J. ELLIS.....*Asst. City Administrator*
CARL J. ELLIS.....*Director of Finance*
JO BENNITT.....*City Clerk*
DONALD SINGER.....*Admin. Assistant*
JOHN TODD.....*City Attorney*
GUY HALFERTY.....*Director of Public Relations*

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*Additional copies of this booklet may be
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City Hall
Lakewood, California