

# Fairfax City Taxes Tops in Area Survey

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Fairfax City has moved to the top of the Metropolitan Washington tax heap—for \$15,000-a-year men with a home, a wife, two children and a car.

But Montgomery County is still stiffest in taxes for homeowners with just as many dependents but smaller paychecks.

The shifting fortunes of Washington area taxpayers are charted in an annual digest prepared by the District's Department of General Administration.

All the tax comparisons are based on home-owning, car-driving families of four.

For those who earn \$15,000 a year, it's cheapest to live in the District, just as it was last year.

But Alexandria took over as the least expensive place for taxpaying families with incomes from \$5000 to \$10,000 a year.

## Fairfax Loses Out

Last year, Fairfax County was easiest on the \$5000-a-year bracket while Falls Church had that distinction for those earning \$7500 or \$10,000.

But no matter where you live, you'll find taxes catching you one way or another. It's just the method that varies.

In Northern Virginia, for example, it costs \$4 in taxes to roll out the barrel (of beer). It was only \$3 10 back in 1958.

The same barrel in Maryland costs only 93 cents in taxes. But if you want a smoke you'll be puffing away three-tenths of a cent in state cigarette taxes every time you light up.

Income taxes are highest in Virginia, but suburban Maryland levies the heaviest real estate taxes.

## Montgomery Ahead

Montgomery County tops the real estate tax list with an actual average rate of \$1.61 for every \$100 of market value (rather than assessed valuation). Prince Georges comes next with an actual average of \$1.39 per \$100.

At the other end of the scale, Alexandria has the lowest real

estate tax, with an actual rate of \$1.10½.

The District's income tax is the lightest in the area, but the Capital is the only place that taxes the food you buy in the supermarket.

Virginia has no sales tax, but the Old Dominion's suburbs are the only areas where property taxes are levied on cars and household furnishings. In the District and Maryland, only businessmen have to pay a personal property tax.

A comparison of major taxes by area shows that Fairfax City actually sat still to earn first place in taxes on the \$15,000-a-year families.

## Same as Last Year

It costs them \$1014 in taxes, the same as last year, to live there. Montgomery County dropped from first to fourth place in this category by lowering the bite there from \$1045 to \$973.

The lowest tax bill for the \$15,000-a-year group, \$841 in the District, compares with a \$922 last year.

For \$5000-a-year families, this year's low of \$245 in Alexandria beat last year's low point of \$277 in Fairfax County. The high this time, \$328 in Montgomery, compares with a top bill of \$346 in Montgomery last year.

Those earning \$10,000 a year in Alexandria will pay the lowest bill this year, \$532, instead of the \$567 low registered last years in Falls Church. At the top of the list, Montgomery homeowners with a \$10,000 income will pay \$633 this year, compared with the \$661 they paid last year.

For the \$7500-a-year group, this year's low of \$339 in Alexandria compres with last years' low of \$372 in Falls Church. The high this year is \$448 in Montgomery; last year the high was \$468 in Montgomery.

# How Tax Rates Compare

The following tables compare tax burdens for residents of the various localities in the Washington Metropolitan Area. All comparisons are based on a family of four owning a home and a car.

Tax burden for family with \$5000 income, home valued at \$13,500 and \$700 worth of personal property.

TAXES	DISTRICT	MARYLAND		VIRGINIA				
		Montgomery	Prince Georges	Arlington	Alexandria	Falls Church	Fairfax County	Fairfax City
Income	\$ 38	\$ 39	\$ 39	\$ 47	\$ 47	\$ 47	\$ 47	\$ 47
Real Estate	159	217	188	159	149	187	171	181
Personal Property	0	0	0	30	29	28	31	33
Sales	69	57	57	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Tags	22	15	15	20	20	11	20	20
Total	\$288	\$328	\$299	\$256	\$245	\$273	\$269	\$281

Tax burden for family with \$7500 income, home valued at \$15,000 and \$1000 worth of personal property.

Income	\$ 94	\$114	\$114	\$112	\$112	\$112	\$112	\$112
Real Estate	177	241	208	176	166	208	190	201
Personal Property	0	0	0	43	41	40	45	47
Sales	89	78	78	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Tags	32	15	15	20	20	11	20	20
Total	\$372	\$448	\$415	\$351	\$339	\$371	\$367	\$380

Tax burden for family with \$10,000 income, home valued at \$20,000 and \$1600 worth of personal property.

Income	\$155	\$189	\$189	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225
Real Estate	236	321	278	235	221	277	253	268
Personal Property	0	0	0	70	66	64	72	75
Sales	110	100	100	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Tags	32	23	23	20	20	11	20	20
Total	\$533	\$633	\$590	\$550	\$532	\$577	\$570	\$588

Tax burden for family with \$15,000 income, home valued at \$30,000 and \$2500 worth of personal property.

Income	\$310	\$339	\$339	\$475	\$475	\$475	\$475	\$475
Real Estate	354	482	417	353	331	416	380	402
Personal Property	0	0	0	109	102	100	112	117
Sales	145	129	129	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Tags	32	23	23	20	20	11	20	20
Total	\$841	\$973	\$908	\$957	\$928	\$1002	\$987	\$1014