

# Why is Bountiful City Considering a Property Tax Increase?



## Recover Loss from SB235

**State Legislation:** SB235, passed in the 2018 legislative session, now requires cities without a homeless shelter to pay 1.8% of their local sales tax to the State of Utah to offset costs associated with homelessness. The immediate and ongoing consequence for Bountiful is loss of funding for basic services such as public safety and roads. In 2018 this loss of revenue will add up to approximately \$75,000. This amount must now be made up to maintain levels of service.



**Police - Public Safety Needs:** The Bountiful City Police Department has 36 sworn officers (including 4 in administration). A review shows that the Department has been fully staffed only 20% of the time in the past 6½ years.

Contributing to the understaffing is a statewide shortage of police officers which has caused competition between agencies for wages and benefits. Impacts of short staffing include fewer Problem-Oriented Policing (POP units), pulling administration and detectives into daily policing, overtime, and officer burnout.

To prudently address public safety, the City needs to fund two additional officers and related equipment at a combined cost of approximately \$225,000.



**Increased Cost of Providing Services:** While taxes in Bountiful haven't gone up in 18 years, the same cannot be said for inflation and Bountiful City population. During this time costs of providing services have escalated.

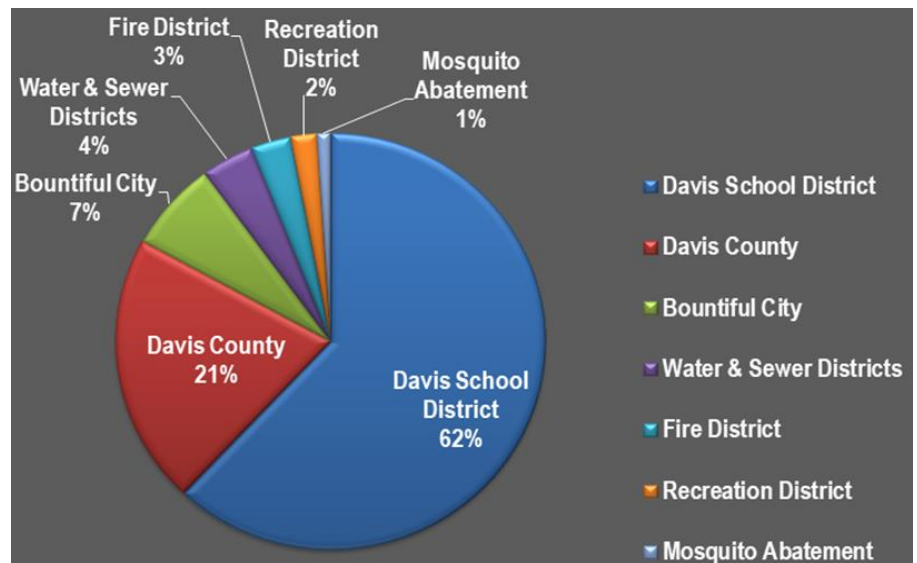
## Most of these services are not just nice options:

Police protection and road maintenance are critical to safety; quality of life remains one of the most important issues for Bountiful residents. Cutting level of service is not a desirable solution.

## Who Receives the Property Taxes that I Pay?

The Davis School District acquires the largest portion of property tax revenue annually, or about 62% of the total amount collected, followed by Davis County, which claims about 21%.

Bountiful City receives approximately 7%; the special districts (Water, Sewer, Fire, Recreation, and Mosquito Abatement) share the final 8% of total property tax paid.



Learn more at: [www.bountifulutah.gov/Bountiful-Property-Tax](http://www.bountifulutah.gov/Bountiful-Property-Tax)

**Questions?** If you have questions please contact Galen Rasmussen [GalenR@bountifulutah.gov](mailto:GalenR@bountifulutah.gov) 801.298.6117