



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the tax rate compare to other towns. Much lower due to fewer services necessary. Basic formula: Revenue = tax rate * assessed value. Denver has a significantly higher assessed value than surrounding towns, per population. Denver (just the Town) would contain 37% of the County's property. As one extreme example, Lincolnton's tax rate is 56 cents, but if Denver were to raise the same revenue, a tax rate of only 13.5 cents would be needed. Denver's assessed value is 4x Lincolnton's.

Almost all neighboring towns have Fire departments. In Denver there is a separate fire tax (8.9c for East Lincoln Fire Dept. and 11c for Denver Fire Dept.) If the town did "provide" fire service, those taxes would vanish, and the town would need a higher rate to provide that same revenue to the two departments. The net effect on the check you write: ZERO. But there's no reason to change the current structure, nor is it required. Fire service in Denver is not "broken"

The larger surrounding towns have separate police departments, which is effectively a duplication of services. The vast majority of those towns are >40 years old, created in the days when County Sheriff's had much smaller resources. For example, in 1980, the budget of the town of Lincolnton was three times the County's budget. More recent incorporations rely on County Sheriff's Dept to provide basic service (5 towns in Iredell, 9 towns in Cleveland), and a few contract with the Sheriff to also provide extra deputies (Indian Trail, and most towns in Union County). There's no point in having another law enforcement management structure, so the Charter prohibits both police and fire without a referendum. The Town can send money to the Sheriff for extra deputies, if a future board feels more coverage is needed.

Most other neighboring towns have curbside trash pickup, which is expensive to do, and with recycling issues, getting more expensive.

Those three services contribute to 60-70% of our neighboring town's budgets.



E-mail us at denverinc2018@gmail.com

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