



## **Region of Queens Municipality**

### **Brooklyn Recreation and Brooklyn Cemetery Area Rate Request Public Information**

**March 2023**

#### **What is an Area Rate?**

Area Rates are special tax rates over and above the normal tax rates which are applied specifically to one or more assessment districts only. Property owners in other districts do not have to pay this charge.

#### **What's the difference between an Assessment District and an Electoral District?**

An assessment district is an area of land where property owners pay a certain amount of taxes. Region of Queens Municipality currently has 13 assessment districts. The tax rate requests are for assessment districts 5 and 6, both of which are in Brooklyn.

An electoral district is an area of land where residents can vote for a municipal Councillor.

There are 7 electoral districts. Both assessment districts 5 and 6 are in electoral district 4, which is represented by Councillor Amirault.

To see a map of all electoral and assessment districts, visit:

<https://www.regionofqueens.com/document-library/finance/1640-tax-electoral-district-boundary-map/file>

A map of only assessment districts 5 and 6 are available at:

<https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/council-agendas-minutes-audio>

#### **How much is being asked for?**

Brooklyn Recreation has requested a 4 cent area rate per \$100 of assessment for the next year. Therefore, if your property is assessed for \$100,000, you would pay \$40 more.

Brooklyn Cemetery has requested an 1.5 cent area rate per \$100 of assessment for the next year. Therefore, if your property is assessed for \$100,000, you would pay \$15 more.

## How much money will the area rates raise?

Assessment District	Area Rate	Total Amount Raised
5	4 cents per \$100	\$14,902.00
6	4 cents per \$100	\$17,264.32
Combined		<b>\$32,169.32</b>
5	1.5 cents per \$100	\$5,589.38
6	1.5 cents per \$100	\$6,474.12
Combined		<b>\$12,063.50</b>

## Who will have to pay this area rate?

Every property owner in Assessment Districts 5 and 6 which includes Brooklyn.

## Who gets to vote on the request?

Every person who owns property in Assessment Districts 5 or 6, is a Canadian Citizen, and 18 years of age is eligible to vote.

## Are the vote results binding?

No, the voting is one tool that Council will use to assess the community interest in putting an area rate on all property owners in Assessment Districts 5 and 6. Some residents may not be able to vote on the voting day, and can still contact their council member to share their thoughts.

## When will the decision be made?

Council will review all budget matters during March and will determine the tax rates for all of Queens County in April.

## What will the area rate be used for?

Brooklyn Recreation and Brooklyn Cemetery have submitted proposals to Council for consideration which led to this area rate request. Those documents are available on [www.regionofqueens.com](http://www.regionofqueens.com) for your review. You can review those documents to determine why they have made the requests.

## Why can't everyone in Queens County pay for rate through the general rate or a grant from the Municipality?

Other non-municipally owned facilities are maintained and paid for by community groups directly. The Municipality cannot pay for the costs of one community facility and not provide the same funding to more than 30 facilities throughout Queens County. All community groups can apply for grant funding from the municipality if they are eligible however; funding is limited.

## If the rate is approved, will I get to vote next year and each year thereafter?

Council's policy is that Council decides whether there is a need for public consultation each year when it receives a request. Therefore, there may be future public consultations, or Council may choose to not hold them.

**Can Council provide a different rate than the one asked for?**

Yes. Once a community group makes a request, they cannot change their request. However, Council can choose to agree to the request, provide a larger area rate, provide a lower area rate, provide no area rate, and decide in which years the area rate will apply.