



The Town Manager's Proposed

# FY 26 BUDGET IN BRIEF

## Budget Introduction

The proposed budget supports a wide variety of daily tasks and multi-year investments that comprise the services and programs the Town of Windsor and Windsor Public Schools deliver to residents, businesses and visitors.

In preparing the budget we worked to balance the multiprong goal of maintaining current services, reinvesting in our infrastructure, and meeting emerging service demands while understanding the notable increases in assessed values of residential properties due to the second year of the two-year phase-in of state-mandated property revaluation.

The proposed FY 2026 budget works to support:



Diverse, safe and strong neighborhoods and families



Leadership and engagement



Competitive and sustainable economy



Environmental sustainability and stewardship

The proposed budget:

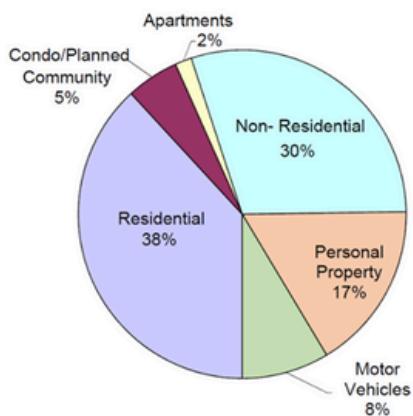
- Maintains current general government and public safety service levels
- Continues investment in public spaces as well as assets such as streets, sidewalks, fleet, and school facilities
- Provides planned increase for emergency medical services

## Grand List & Revaluation

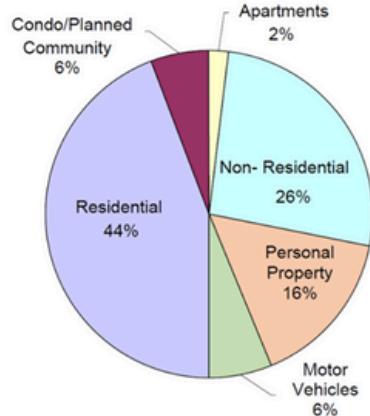
The October 1, 2024 net grand list, inclusive of the second year of revaluation phase in, is an increase of \$628.1 million or 27.7%. The primary driver of this change is the real estate component of the grand list, which increased \$566.1 million or 18.8%. The change is due mainly to the second year of revaluation phase-in along with economic development growth and the expiration of the three-year tax abatement agreement for the Amazon facility. Personal property saw an increase of \$61.8 million or 9.4%, due to significant investments at the Target distribution facility.

The table below illustrates the shift from commercial to residential in the grand list year before revaluation as compared to the current grand list:

10/1/22 Grand List - Net Assessments



10/1/24 Grand List - Net Assessments



## FY 26 Proposed Budget Summary

Overall, the General Fund budget for FY 2026 is proposed to increase \$8,906,630 or 6.21% over the adopted FY 2025 budget. Of the \$3,944,150 General Government increase, 26% is due to the tax transfer payment to the Great Pond Improvement District from new economic development. The Town's General Fund receives an equal amount. The General Government budget does not include any new full-time positions.

Budget Item	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 26 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	\$84,313,340	\$89,275,120	\$4,961,780	5.88%
Town Operating Budget	\$41,792,540	\$44,333,960	\$2,541,420	6.08%
Sewer Service (MDC)	\$4,771,220	\$4,801,200	\$29,980	0.63%
Debt Service	\$8,519,040	\$8,774,610	\$255,570	3.00%
Great Pond Improvement District	\$1,040,700	\$2,062,580	\$1,021,880	98.19%
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Contribution	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$0	0.00%
Capital Projects & Open Space	\$2,744,000	\$2,840,000	\$96,000	3.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$143,315,840</b>	<b>\$152,222,470</b>	<b>\$8,906,630</b>	<b>6.21%</b>

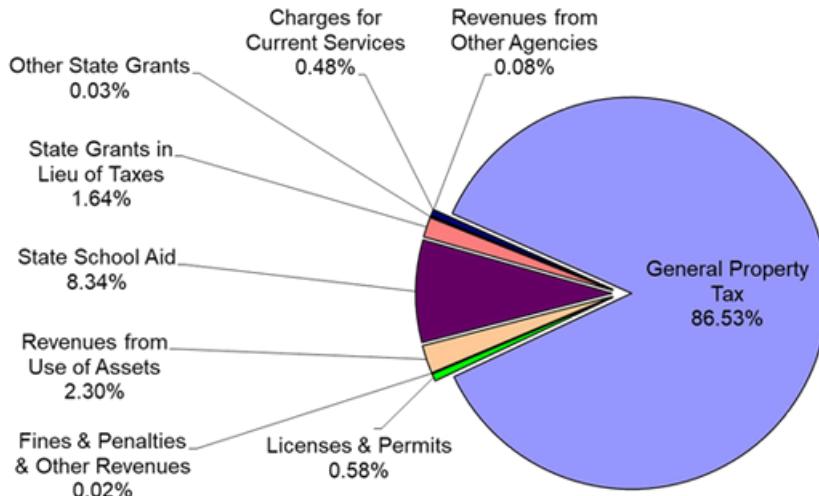




## Revenues

Proposed General Fund revenues for FY 2026 total \$152,222,470. Of this amount, \$129,569,010 will come from the current property tax and \$19,065,520 from other revenues. State aid is projected to decrease by \$341,000.

### FY 26 General Fund Revenues by Source



## Tax Rate & Impact

Based on the overall proposed expenditures and revenues, the mill rate is 28.92 mills. While this is a decrease of 4.6% from the FY 25 mill rate, it is not enough to counter the effects of the second year phase-in associated with revaluation. Please note the tax impact on individual properties will be dependent on how revaluation changed the value or assessment of that property. Below is an example residential property with the two year phase in of revaluation.

Revaluation effect on a single family home valued at \$213,000 on 10/1/2022

	10/1/2023	10/1/2024	Change
Market Value	\$267,315	\$321,630	\$54,315
Assessed Value @ 70%	\$187,121	\$225,141	\$38,021
Taxes at 30.32 Mills (FY 25 Current)	\$5,673		
Taxes at 28.92 (FY 26 TM Proposed Budget)		\$6,511	
<b>Tax Increase</b>	<b>\$838</b>		<b>14.76%</b>

FY 26 budgetary tax increase without reval	\$374
Tax increase due to reval	\$463
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$838</b>

# FY 26 Board of Education

## Major Priority Goals

- **Current Reality:** Keeping in mind that we are in year two of the town's two year phase-in of revaluation. The goal was to not cause further hardship to the community, while keeping in mind that we must continue to educate our students at the highest level possible.
- **Academics:** Use of research-based instructional practices to improve achievement of all students, ensuring students graduate on time and are college and career ready.
- **Climate:** Use of research-based practices to provide personalized learning experiences empowering students to be self-directed learners and increase student agency.
- **Talent:** Will recruit, hire, develop, and retain exemplary school leaders, teachers and support staff.
- **Systems:** Will improve outcomes for all students by enhancing Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and aligning the work of Professional Learning communities (PLCs) and data teams.

## Budget Challenges:

- Contractual Obligations & Employee Benefits – The increase is due to high insurance claim cost and contractual salary increases.
- Utility & Supply Costs – Inflation rates are at an all-time high.
- Student Transportation & Fuel
- Unfunded State Mandates – Elementary Reading Program.

## Efforts Funded:

- Maintain optimal class size throughout district
- Reductions were made as far from the direct teaching and learning process as possible.

## Learn More About This Budget

Visit us at [townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26/tax-calculator](http://townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26/tax-calculator), enter your address in the tax calculator and see the impact this proposed budget has on your property tax.

Go to [budget.windsorct.com](http://budget.windsorct.com) to simulate the town budget however you would like. This online tool allows you to redistribute funding to different areas, re-balance the budget and experiment with different ideas.

## Budget Referendum: Tuesday, May 13, 2025\*

***All polling locations open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM***

***\*Tentative until approved by Windsor Town Council***

View the entire FY 26 proposed budget at [townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26](http://townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy26). Copies are also available for viewing at the Windsor Library, the Wilson Library and the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall.

## Contact Us

Windsor Town Manager, Peter Souza at [townmanager@townofwindsorct.com](mailto:townmanager@townofwindsorct.com) or 860-285-1800.

Windsor Town Council at [budgetcomments@townofwindsorct.com](mailto:budgetcomments@townofwindsorct.com).

**Tax Relief for Seniors & Veterans:** Guidelines for additional tax relief for qualified Windsor seniors, disabled persons and Veterans are available at the Town Assessor's Office at 860-285-1816.