

# BUDGET IN BRIEF



**Fiscal Year 2018 Proposed Budget as amended by town council on May 15, 2017**

**Despite the state, it's time for Windsor to move forward. Council sets budget for vote.**

The town council has worked in a cooperative effort to present a budget that acknowledges the uncertainty of the state budget impact on cities and towns. They utilized the best information possible regarding the state budget to develop a proposed revenue and expenditure plan for fiscal year 2017-2018. The budget plan preserves education and general government services, assumes a \$1,000,000 or 6.6% reduction in state aid compared to the current year budget and eliminates the governor's proposal for the town to contribute funds toward the teacher's retirement liability expense. The council delayed the date of this year's referendum to June 6th, understanding that the Windsor Town Charter requires that a budget referendum be held each year prior to June 30th to provide spending authority.

*At their **May 15, 2017** meeting, the town council made changes that resulted in a total budget of \$111,917,080.*

*The changes are summarized below:*

Revenues	From	To	Change
<u>May 15, 2017 - General Property Tax</u> Decrease Current Levy revenue line	\$100,053,080	\$94,273,060	(\$5,780,020)
<u>May 15, 2017 - State School Aid</u> Increase State School Aid category	\$10,706,640	\$13,008,110	\$2,301,470
<u>May 15, 2017 - State Grants In Lieu Of Taxes</u> Increase State Grants In Lieu Of Taxes category	\$1,228,620	\$1,498,880	\$270,260
<b>Total Revenues - General Fund</b>	<b>\$115,125,370</b>	<b>\$111,917,080</b>	<b>(\$3,208,290)</b>

Expenditures	From	To	Change
<u>May 15, 2017 - Town Support for Education</u> Decrease \$3,208,290 for State Teachers' Retirement Plan	\$8,356,440	\$5,148,150	(\$3,208,290)
<b>Total Expenditures - General Fund</b>	<b>\$115,125,370</b>	<b>\$111,917,080</b>	<b>(\$3,208,290)</b>

**May 15, 2017 - General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance Appropriation:**

Appropriate \$106,838 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the Caring Connection Adult Day Care Enterprise Fund to provide funding necessary to cover the additional anticipated \$20,288 loss in FY17 and the \$86,550 projected loss in FY18.

Expenditures are increasing 0.95% over the current budget.

The total fiscal year 2018 amended budget results in a 4.22% increase over the current real estate and personal property tax rate.

**Budget Referendum - Tuesday, June 6, 2017**

**All seven Windsor polling locations will be open 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM**

## FY 2018 Proposed Budget Summary as amended by town council.

The FY 2018 town operating budget essentially maintains current service levels, including funding for public safety. There are no new proposed full-time positions within the general government, (town portion) of the budget. The budget continues pay-as-you-go capital funding for fleet and equipment replacement, street repaving, sidewalk repairs and dedicates funds toward long-term liabilities, (OPEB.)

Breakdown of the primary General Fund budget categories comprising the \$1.05 million increase:

Budget Component	FY 17 Adopted Budget	FY 18 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	67,471,330	68,298,120	826,790	1.23%
State Teachers Retirement Plan	0	0	0	0.00%
Town Operating Budget	29,759,530	30,625,480	865,950	2.91%
Sewer Service (MDC)	3,443,070	3,783,000	339,930	9.87%
Debt Service	6,768,060	6,971,100	203,040	3.00%
Great Pond Improvement District	91,000	94,380	3,380	3.71%
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	450,000	550,000	100,000	22.22%
Community Investment Initiatives	1,335,000	0	(1,335,000)	-100.00%
Capital Projects & Open Space	1,545,000	1,595,000	50,000	3.24%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$110,862,990</b>	<b>\$111,917,080</b>	<b>\$1,054,090</b>	<b>0.95%</b>

### Town of Windsor Tax History

Windsor's average annual tax increase = 1.12% over last 5 years

Fiscal Year	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Change	2.20%	0.00%	0.00%	1.48%	1.94%

Learn how this proposed budget impacts your tax bill with the **Online Tax Calculator** at [townofwindsorct.com/budget](http://townofwindsorct.com/budget).

While you're there, try your hand at the interactive **Build-a-Budget** simulator.

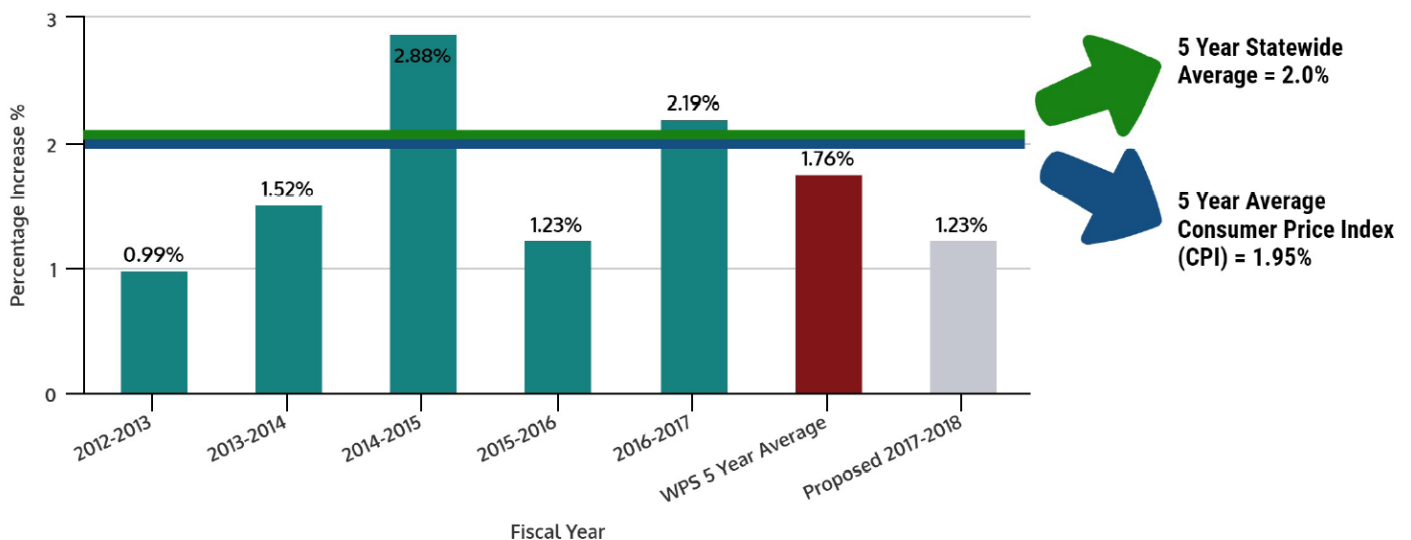
## FY 2018 Board of Education Budget Highlights

The adopted Board of Education budget is \$68,298,113 which represents a 1.23% increase. Some major highlights and facts about the BOE budget are listed below.

- Maintains optimal class size throughout the district.
- One new Technology Education teacher that will provide additional STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) classes including new robotics courses.
- One new teacher for the WPS Community Based Transition Academy which will allow continued programming for Windsor students at a significant cost avoidance.
- FY 2018 has no increase to the health insurance line item. This is the result of positive claim experience, negotiated contract savings and being self-insured. Remaining at current level for health insurance is a savings that ranges from \$300,000 - \$500,000.
- FY 2018 has no increase to the magnet school tuition line item. This is the result of students returning from magnet schools to Windsor Public Schools.
- The fuel cost will reflect a savings due to the implementation of more efficient bus routes and buses for a savings of \$48,000.
- Decreased staffing by 3.3 positions during FY 2017 and applies savings of \$191,000 to FY 2018.
- Past efforts reflected in increased 4-year graduation rate of 92.9% and 94% college and military acceptance rate including college acceptances at Babson, Berklee College of Music, Boston University, Brandeis, Carnegie Mellon, Clark Atlanta, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emory University, George Washington University, Harvard, Howard University, Johns Hopkins, McGill University, Monmouth University, Northeastern, Middlebury College, NYU, Ohio State, Penn State, US Military Academy/West Point, Vassar, Wesleyan, Williams College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

### Our schools historically strive to deliver the best educational experience to our students while being mindful of our citizens

Budget Increases - Past 5 Budget Cycles



## Revenues

The complexity of the governor's proposal relative to state aid has made forecasting revenues even more of a challenge than normal. At this point we are forecasting a net decrease of \$1.0 million in state aid when compared to the adopted FY 2017 budget. Below is a table that compares municipal aid categories between our adopted FY 2017 budget and the proposed FY 2018 budget.

State Aid	Windsor's FY 2017 Adopted	Town Council FY 2018 Proposed	Difference
Education Cost Sharing	11,447,660	5,961,960	(5,485,700)
Grants for Municipal Projects	1,321,000	0	(1,321,000)
Special Ed. - Excess Cost Grant	1,254,000	0	(1,254,000)
Municipal Revenue Sharing	854,000	854,940	940
Transportation Grant	253,070	0	(253,070)
Pequot-Mohegan Grant	72,030	68,450	(3,580)
Municipal Revenue Select Pilot	9,660	9,660	0
<b>Offset by:</b>			
Special Education - New	0	4,744,680	4,744,680
Town Council 5/15/17 Restoration	0	2,571,730	2,571,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,211,420</b>	<b>\$14,211,420</b>	<b>(\$1,000,000)</b>

In summary, the town's proposed General Fund revenues for FY 2018 total \$111,917,080. Of this amount, \$92,558,960 will come from the current property tax and motor vehicle levies, \$18,458,120 from other revenues, and \$900,000 from the town's savings account. The mill rate for motor vehicles for FY 2018 is capped by the state at 32.00 mills. The required tax levy for real estate and personal property will be 32.85 mills; or \$32.85 for each \$1,000 of assessed value. This is a 4.22% increase over the current mill rate. If state aid were to be level funded compared to FY 2017, the mill rate for real estate and personal property increases to 32.47 from 31.52 which is a 3.01% increase.

# Vote!

## Budget Referendum: June 6th

### 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM

To learn more about the FY 2018 proposed budget, view it in its entirety at [townofwindsorct.com](http://townofwindsorct.com). Copies also available for viewing at the Windsor Library, the Wilson Library and the Windsor Town Clerk's Office.

## Contact Us

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at:

**Windsor Town Manager** Peter Souza at [townmanager@townofwindsorct.com](mailto:townmanager@townofwindsorct.com)

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

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