

# BUDGET IN BRIEF

Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed Budget as approved by Windsor Town Council on April 23, 2018



## Budget Referendum - May 8th

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

To learn more about the FY 2019 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.

The FY 2019 proposed budget has fewer unknown challenges presented by the state budget than last year. Also in contrast to last year, we are fortunate to have grand list growth. This helped support the development of a proposed budget that maintains services, continues our efforts in reinvesting in a wide variety of assets and looks ahead to planning for future larger capital projects.

Past Windsor policy makers have been diligent in supporting financial plans that not only met the service needs of residents, but also invested for future generations. Their stewardship has resulted in a foundation that allows residents to enjoy a safe and solid quality of life in our community. As a result, Windsor has a lot to be proud of, including:

- A range of public and private sector services and amenities
- Diverse tax base with room to grow
- AAA credit rating
- Strong and stable General Fund reserves
- A Defined Benefit Pension Plan that is funded at 85.8%
- OPEB trust fund to meet long-term health insurance for retired employees
- Well positioned landfill reserve fund to meet long-term stewardship requirements.

This budget aims to carry on and strengthen that tradition of stewardship to proactively position the town to address future policy decisions in areas of capital reinvestment, funding for long-term liabilities, and providing the service levels expected by current and future generations.



*At their April 23, 2018 meeting, the Windsor Town Council unanimously approved a budget to send to referendum in the amount of \$115,219,930. If adopted by the voters, this budget would result in a 1.57% tax increase and a mill rate of 32.96.*



## FY 2019 Proposed Budget Summary

Below is a breakdown of the primary General Fund budget categories comprising the proposed \$4.3 million expenditure increase:

	FY 2018 Approved Budget	FY 2019 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	67,471,330	69,068,800	1,597,470	2.37%
Town Operating Budget	30,516,980	31,503,030	986,050	3.23%
Sewer Service (MDC)	3,783,000	4,173,800	390,800	10.33%
Debt Service	6,971,100	7,180,230	209,130	3.00%
Great Pond Improvement District	94,380	94,070	(310)	-0.33%
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	500,000	600,000	100,000	20.00%
Capital Projects & Open Space	1,526,200	2,600,000	1,073,800	70.36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$110,862,990</b>	<b>\$115,219,930</b>	<b>\$4,356,940</b>	<b>3.93%</b>

There was no increase to Operating Budget Expenditures from FY 2017.

The FY 2019 proposed budget aims to increase annual 'pay as you go' funding in areas such as:

- Pavement Management (increase of \$200,000)
- Sidewalks Repair and Replacement (increase of \$75,000)
- Technology Replacement and Upgrades for Schools (\$100,000 general fund appropriation)
- Fleet and Equipment Replacement (increase of \$30,000 for public works and general government)
- Town Center Parking and Pedestrian Improvements (dedicates \$150,000)
- Public Safety Equipment (dedicate \$500,000 to reduce long term borrowing and \$114,000 for police cruiser replacement)

In addition to increases in the capital expenditures outlined above the proposed budget includes key expense drivers such as Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Sewer Assessment (+10.33%), retirement benefits (+8.21%), health insurance (+3.37%), and salaries / wages (+1.22%). The Board of Education budget increased by 2.37%.



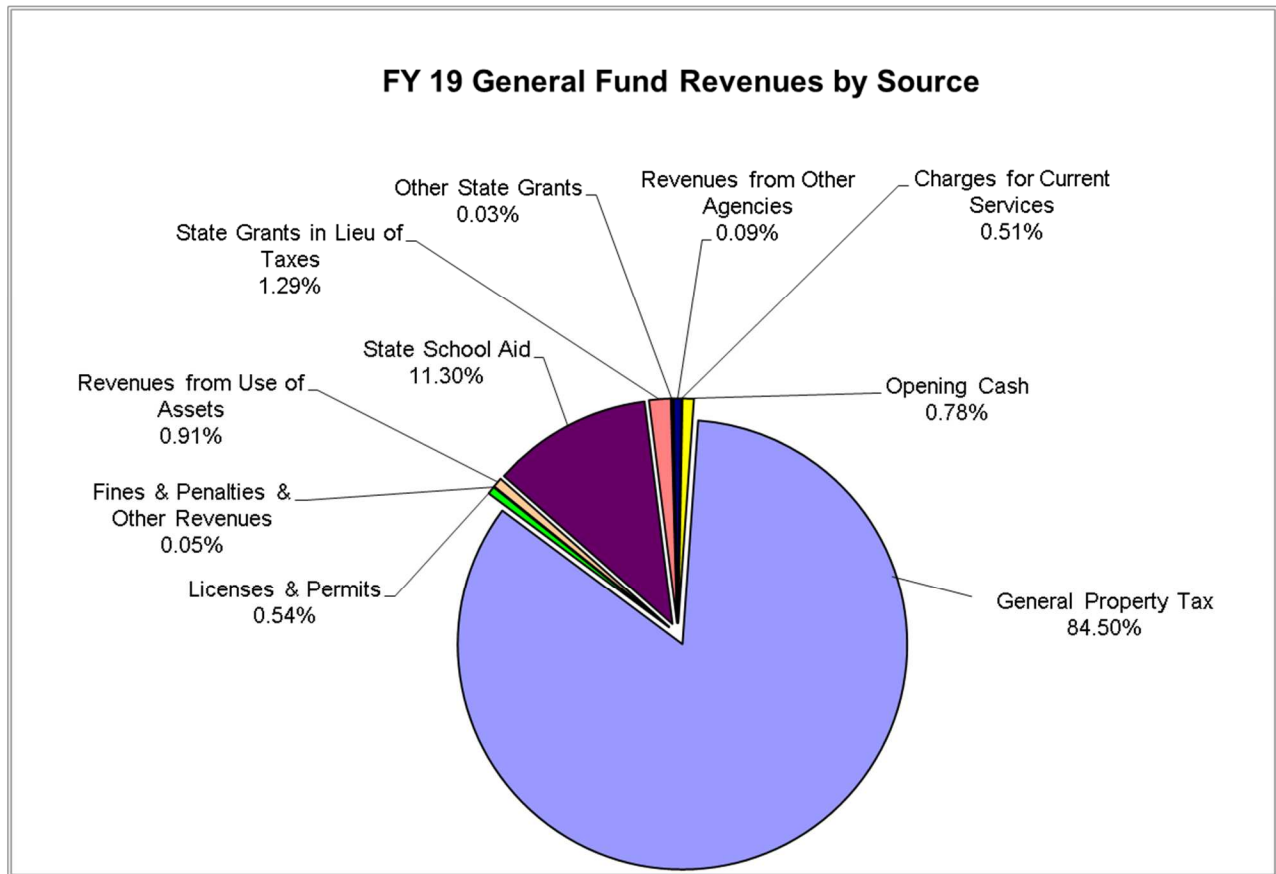
Learn how this proposed budget impacts your tax bill with the

**Online Tax Calculator**

at [townofwindsorct.com/budget](http://townofwindsorct.com/budget).

## Revenues

The Town of Windsor's proposed General Fund expenditures for FY 2019 total \$115,219,930. Of this amount, \$95,645,930 would come from the current property tax, \$18,674,000 from other revenues, and \$900,000 from opening cash. The total net taxable grand list for FY 2019 is estimated at \$2,942,989,000. The proposed collection rate is 98.80%. The required tax levy will be 32.96 mills; or \$32.96 for each \$1,000 of assessed



## Grand List

Grand List growth continues to fluctuate with a “see-saw” effect. The net October 2017 Grand List increased in value by 2.53% compared to October 2016. This increase is largely the result of a significant reinvestment in personal property by Amazon, expiration of the Dollar Tree tax agreement and incremental increases in Amazon and Windsor Station real estate values.

## Motor Vehicle Tax Cap

State law no longer caps the mill rate for motor vehicles at 32.00 mills. The new cap is 45.00 mills. Therefore we are not subject to the cap in FY 2019.

## Tax Rate

Based on overall projected expenditures and revenue (including an assumption General Fund State Aid will be level funded with FY 2018) the current mill rate of 32.45 mills would increase approximately 1.57% to 32.96 mills.

### Town of Windsor Tax History

Windsor's average annual tax increase = 1.43% over the last 6 years

Fiscal Year	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Change	2.20%	0.00%	0.00%	1.48%	1.94%	2.95%

## FY 2019 Board of Education Highlights

- Maintain Optimal Class Size throughout District
- Add 1.0 Math Teacher, WHS
- Floating Bus Monitors to Provide Additional Support on Buses
- Additional SAT and Advanced Placement Preparation
- Funding Chromebook Purchases
- Math Tutors – K-2 to Provide Supports for Students
- Expulsion Program Tutors (State Mandate)
- Assistant Athletic Coaches at Sage Park Middle School to Increase Student Membership on Teams
- Increased Curriculum Writing
- Summer Learning Opportunities for Regular Education Students



## BOE Cost Mitigation Efforts Include:

- No increase to health insurance for FY 2019. All employees in high-deductible health plan as of July 1, 2018. Positive claim experience. Annual avoided cost of \$300-\$500K
- No increase to the magnet school tuition for FY 2019. Students are returning to Windsor Public Schools. Savings range from \$30,000 - \$50,000
- Fuel Cost savings due to more efficient buses and bus routes. Saves approx. \$48,000
- Electricity Savings of \$49,000 due to LED lighting upgrades at Windsor High School
- Phone System savings of \$20,000 due to the district-wide upgrade
- Eligible to receive up to \$300,000 annually in Early Childhood Education grants
- Eligible to receive up to \$390,000 annually for 5 years in Family Community Partnership grant through the Hartford Foundation

# Vote! Budget Referendum: May 8th 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM

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## 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)

**Town Manager's Office** : 860-285-1800.

## Tax Relief for Seniors

Guidelines for additional tax relief for qualified Windsor seniors and disabled persons are available at the Town Assessor's Office at 860-285-1816. Application Deadline: *May 15, 2018*