

Fiscal Year 2024 Town Council Adopted Budget

Budget Referendum Tuesday, May 9th

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

Budget Introduction

During budget deliberations on April 26, 2023 the Windsor Town Council made amendments to the Town Manager's proposed budget amount, and maintained the proposed 1.0% tax increase. Changes include an increase in tax relief benefits for income qualified military Veterans that resulted in a \$23,100 current tax levy decrease, as well as a \$21,550 expenditure increase in Development Services to remain competitive with regional compensation levels. The General Fund contribution to the Housing Rehabilitation program in Community Development was reduced by \$44,650. Based on the aforementioned changes, the Town Council's approved General Fund budget for FY 24 is \$139,205,750, which yields a mill rate of 33.60, a 1% tax increase.

Proposed Actions

Along with continued funding for previously established initiatives in prior year budgets, the proposed FY 24 General Fund budget also includes additional funding for:

- volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention programs
- assistance to support emergency medical services
- housing rehabilitation program due to loss of grant funding
- reinvestment in capital assets
- elderly and workforce housing
- community investment initiatives to create future budget capacity. Projects include:
 - » Millbrook Open Space improvements of \$420,000
 - » Town Clerk facility improvements of \$75,000
 - » Senior Transportation mini bus purchase of \$65,700
 - » Food Bank improvements of \$60,000 and
 - » Goslee Pool repairs and improvements of \$60,000.

This budget also provides the organization with the ability to address increased service demands in several areas and initiate succession planning by adding staffing resources for the Police Department, Public Works, Information Services, Library, Health Department and Building and Fire Safety.

FY 24 Proposed Budget Summary

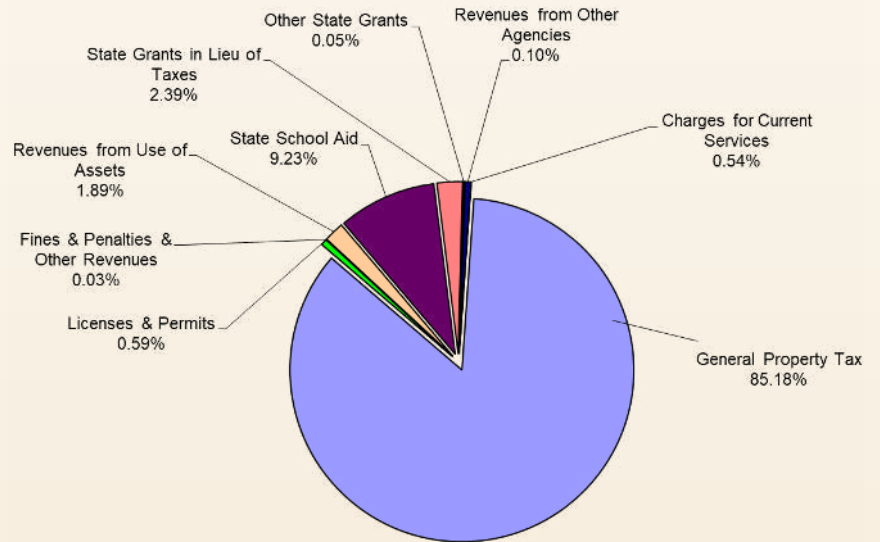
The overall General Fund budget for FY 24 is proposed to be \$139,205,750, an increase of \$9,311,450 or 7.17% over the adopted FY 23 budget. Below is a breakdown of the primary General Fund budget categories comprising the proposed expenditure increase:

	FY 2023 Adopted Budget	FY 2024 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	76,484,440	80,184,020	3,699,580	4.84%
Town Operating Budget	36,707,050	40,839,130	4,132,080	11.26%
Sewer Service (MDC)	4,772,150	4,720,080	(52,070)	-1.09%
Debt Service	8,081,410	8,324,320	242,910	3.01%
Great Pond Improvement District	488,250	623,500	135,250	27.70%
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	750,000	800,000	50,000	6.67%
Capital Projects & Open Space	2,611,000	3,714,700	1,103,700	42.27%
Total	\$129,894,300	\$139,205,750	\$9,311,450	7.17%

Revenues

Of the \$139,205,750 proposed General Fund revenues, \$116,722,980 will come from the current property tax levy and \$22,482,770 from other revenues including State Aid. The FY 24 budget proposal does not assume any funding to come from the Opening Cash category, as per Town Council direction.

FY 24 General Fund Revenues by Source



Grand List



The October 2022 assessor's net taxable grand list increased in value by \$246.3 million or 7.44% as compared to the October 2021 grand list. This increase in assessed value is largely the result of the Amazon facility and new commercial construction on Kennedy Road, Tradeport Drive and Baker Hollow Road. A significant investment in personal property that added over \$131 million in new value to the grand list was made by Amazon on Kennedy Road. Other investments in personal property resulted in a grand list increase of approximately \$137 million or 30.17%. The motor vehicle portion of the grand list increased by nearly \$16.2 million or 5.61% over the October 2021 grand list. The number of registered vehicles in town increased according to data received from the CT DMV, and assessments increased due to the higher sales values of both new and used vehicles as reflected in the JD Power pricing guide.

After accounting for other adjustments, such as elderly and Veteran exemptions and tax appeals to the Board of Assessment Appeals and the State of Connecticut Superior Court, the net change in assessed value used to calculate the mill rate is an increase of 7.27% or \$239 million as compared to FY 23. This increase in taxable assessed value provides approximately \$8 million in additional projected revenue.

October 2023 Revaluation



State-mandated property revaluation is currently underway and will go into effect October 1, 2023. Steps have been taken to create capacity in the proposed FY 24 budget to aid in mitigating the impact of revaluation in FY 25. Capitalizing on the sizable increase in grand list value to aid in funding one-time expenditures in FY 24, which, when removed from the FY 25 budget, would assist in moderating the potential FY 25 mill rate increase. Not only do these one-time expenditures provide this capacity, they also reduce the need for debt-financed capital. This allows for funds otherwise needed for debt service payments to be re-deployed in future years, as well as allow for capital reinvestment to take place sooner as opposed to delaying needed replacements and improvements into future years.

Tax Rate & Impact

Based on the overall expenditures and revenues, the proposed mill rate is 33.60. The budgetary tax increase is 1.00%.



FY 24 Board of Education



Current Reality: Keeping in mind that we are still realizing the aftermath of the pandemic and inflation rates are at an all-time high, the goal was to not cause further hardship to the community, while understanding 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: Recruit, hire, develop and retain exemplary school leaders, teachers and support staff.

Systems: 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.

The proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year is \$80,184,011, which represents an increase of 4.84% over the 2022-2023 budget.

Budget Challenges/Decreases:

- Contractual Obligations: \$2,463,303 increase
- Utility & Supply Costs: \$442,450 increase
- Magnet School Tuition: \$200,000 increase
- Special Education Tuition: \$1,194,246 increase
- Decreased 5.0 FTE positions to offset the fixed costs.

Efforts Funded:

- Maintain optimal class size throughout district
- Reduction in school buses needed to transport students to and from school.
- Increase to the Technology budget for the expansion of hardware & software systems
- Ensure well-maintained and secure buildings.

Learn More About This Budget

Visit us at townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy24/tax-calculator, enter your address in the tax calculator and you will see the dollar amount this proposed budget has on your property.

Go to 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.

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View the entire FY 24 proposed budget at townofwindsorct.com/finance/town-budget/fy24. 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 or 860-285-1800.

Windsor Town Council at 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.