



Annual Town Meeting

Fiscal Year 26/27 Budget

May 18, 2026 – 7:00PM



General Government Budget Process Overview

Sessions and Meetings

Date

Mayor submits budget to Town Council

March 2, 2026

Budget Work Sessions

March 5, 9, 12, 19, 2026

Finance Committee Approval

April 8, 2026

Town Council Approval

April 8, 2026

Public Hearing

April 21, 2026

Annual Town Meeting

May 18, 2026

Upcoming

Referendum Vote

May 19, 2026



Mayor's Budget Letter

- Revaluation year - Grand list increase of 42.21% after revaluation, primarily driven by residential real estate valuation increases.
- Equalized mill rate after revaluation is 25.78. Proposed mill rate for Mayor's budget is 26.67.
- Revenue challenges from exemptions and unfunded state mandates.
- Grand list lags behind neighboring towns as it has historically, even after revaluation.
- Debt service decreased by \$183,209 (4.8%).
- Town pension liability is funded at 90.7%, one of the highest in the state. Expected to be fully funded in the next 5-7 years.
- Road surface rating currently at 85.96.



Proposed Budget

FY26/27 proposed budget – \$73,555,506

- General Government – \$31,698,171 (including healthcare for Town/BOE) – 6% increase
- Board of Education – \$41,857,335 – 3.4% increase
- Total budget increase – 4.5%

Proposed mill rate – 25.78*

Additional state revenues are slated to reduce the mill rate to the adjusted mill rate of 25.78, and also reducing the use of the mill rate stabilization fund by ~\$750,000.



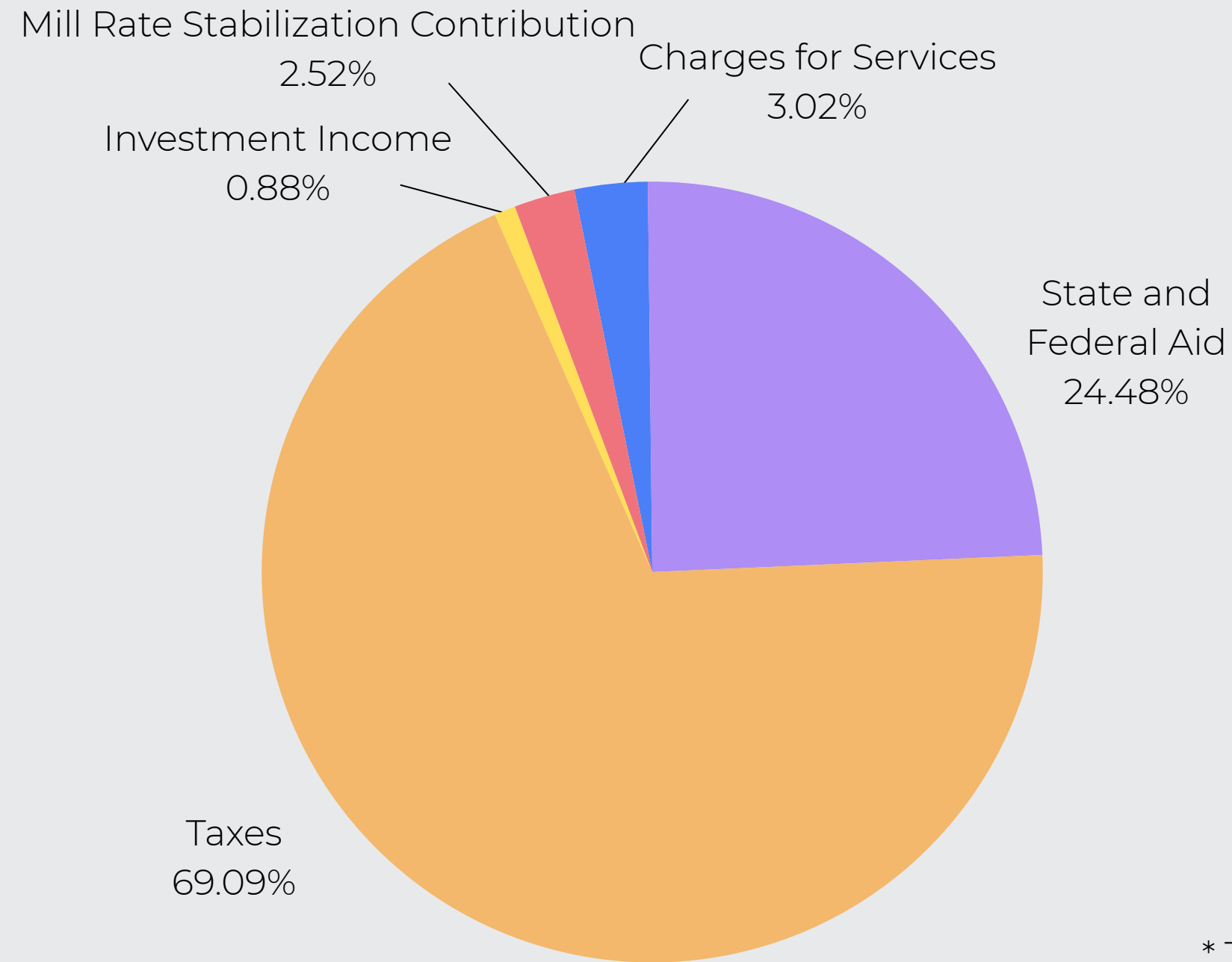
Proposed Budget

Key changes to Mayor's proposed budget:

- Reductions – \$266,360
 - adjust healthcare to reflect correct expense – \$80,000
 - reduce audit expense to align with RFP – \$14,860
 - reduce Board of Education operating – \$75,000
 - reduce capital projects funding to reflect need and alternate funding sources– \$96,500
- Additions – \$11,197
 - Mayoral asst. to reflect 3% wage adjustment– \$1,747
 - Mayor - employee reimbursement for mileage – \$1,000
 - EDC dues & fees adjustment – \$150
 - Ledyard Fire Company repairs – \$3,000
 - GFFC Repairs - \$2,000
 - Parks and Rec Contract Maintenance – \$300
 - Ethics Commission – \$3,000



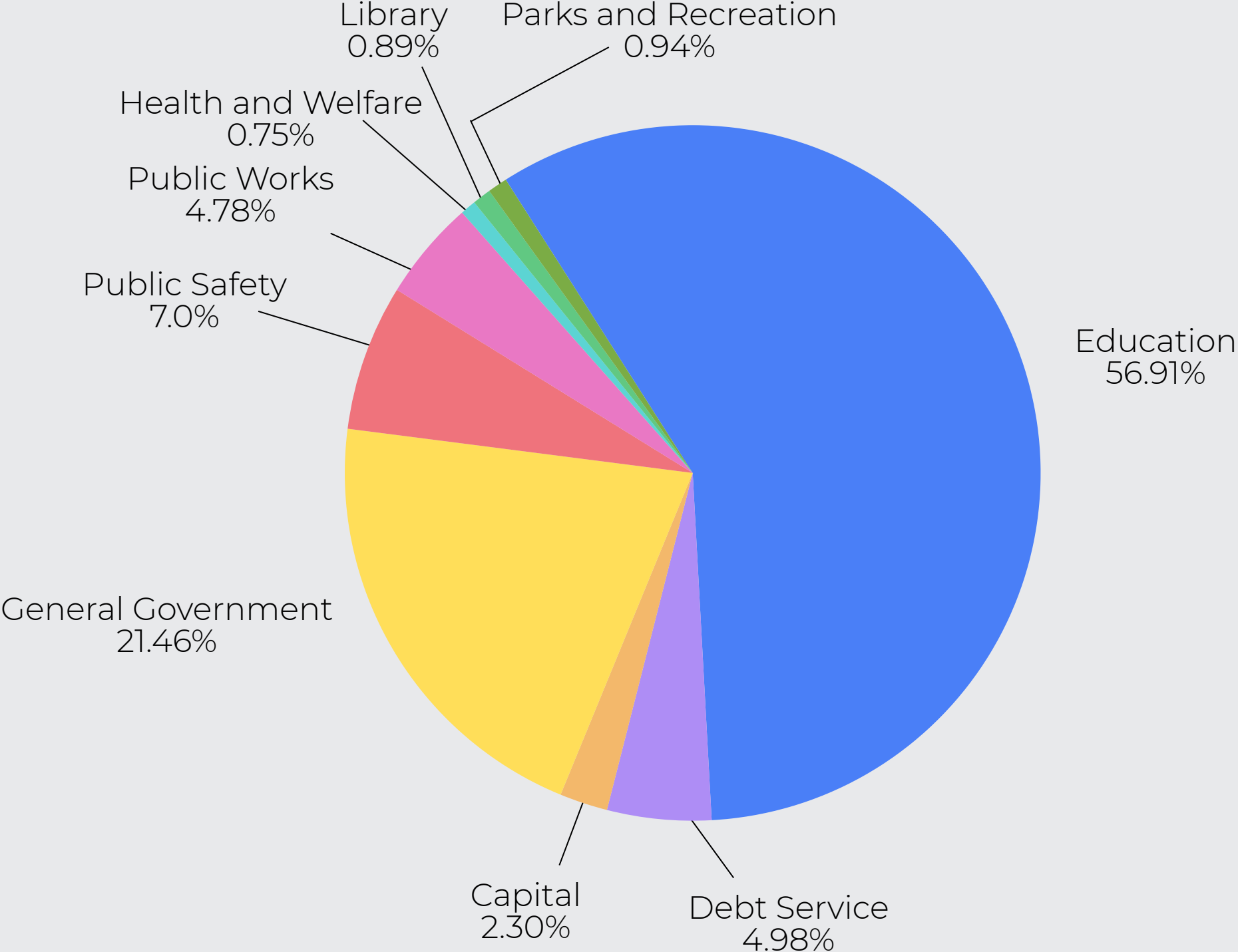
Proposed FY 26/27 Budgeted Revenues



* This graph does not reflect ~\$2.1 million in additional state revenue.



Proposed FY 26/27 Budgeted Expenditures





Capital Improvement Plan

Major Projects & Ongoing Capital Funding – Tax Levy

- Sawmill Dam Remediation - \$25,000
- MIS Computer & Server Reserve Fund - \$75,000
- Fire Apparatus Reserve - \$384,305
- Public Works Equipment Reserve - \$360,500
- Municipal Building Reserve - \$100,000
- JWL Classroom Renovations - \$140,000
- BOE Ongoing Operating Capital - \$156,500

Total Tax Levy Capital Projects: \$1,690,487



Grants and Other Capital Funding

- COPS Law Enforcement Technology Grant
 - The COPS Law Enforcement Technology Grant was awarded in FY 25/26 to purchase new computer aided dispatch and record management systems for LPD. Original funding requests were \$180,000 through tax levy. This grant is entirely funded with no match from tax levy.
 - In FY26/27, Council worked with Chief Rich and Capt. Creutz to apply for the COPS Law Enforcement Technology Grant again for in-car video cameras and body cameras. In realistic anticipation, capital funding was reduced by \$20,000 for FY 26/27.
- Land Use Property Sale Proceeds
 - A blighted property was recently sold; after legal fees to reimburse the Legal line for Land Use, \$73,000 was able to be allocated towards Land Use P&Z Document Updates instead of \$75,000 from tax levy.
- Whitford Brook Watershed
 - Grant awarded for \$2,800,000 toward replacement of the Lantern Hill Rd bridge over Whitford Brook. This grant is estimated to be 50% of the costs of replacing the bridge; a LOTCIP grant has been applied for as well for the other 50% of the cost.



Additional Considerations

- Motor Vehicle Mill Rate Maximum
 - This year, the mill rate will be below the maximum mill rate. In FY 27/28, we will not receive any reimbursement from the state. In FY 26/27, we are projected to receive ~\$741,000
- Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund Revenue
 - FY 26/27 has an increase of \$800,000 from the efforts of Sen. Osten. Current legislation is proposing significant increases to all allocations from the Fund.
 - Ledyard is receiving a likely one-time additional MMPF payment of ~\$1,700,000 in FY27.
- Veterans Exemptions
 - PA 24-46 provides an exemption for veterans with a service-connected permanent and total disability rating. As a town with a rich military history and population, this Act exempts over \$26m of dwellings and motor vehicles. Proposed HB 5407 would provide reimbursement from the State to cover lost revenue.



Questions?

