



2019 Proposed City Budget & Process

The Process

Through the spring and summer, City Staff and the City Council worked on developing a proposed budget for 2019. Using community and City Council's priorities, the proposed budget is developed to fund these priorities. During this process, the City Council holds public work sessions to discuss the priorities for the next year and to review the budget in detail. Following each work session, City Staff work to refine the budget per the direction given by the City Council.

The Priorities

Managing future increases in taxes and proper fund balance was a significant priority for the 2019 budget. For 2019, we anticipate lower building permit revenues. This is a result of lower available lot inventory, both commercially and residentially. The community has managed to use up the overstock of lot inventory following the 2010 recession.

To manage future significant increases, the proposed budget sets aside funds for projects like development and improvement to parks, sidewalks, trails, streetscape, and items like these, which are difficult for the City to finance.

The Preliminary Levy

On September 17, 2018, the City Council set a preliminary tax levy and budget. The preliminary tax levy increase was set at 7%. While the City Council has the authority to set a final tax levy and budget lower than the preliminary number, state law prohibits the City Council from setting a final levy that is higher than the preliminary budget. Within these parameters, the City Council and City Staff continue to discuss and refine the preliminary budget and tax levy throughout the fall.

At the same time, Carver County combines the City's preliminary levy, along with the levies set by the County and the School District to determine what the property taxes would be on each parcel of land in the City if the preliminary levies were to be adopted as the final levies. In mid-to-late November, property owners start receiving their Preliminary Property Tax Statements. These statements are intended to allow taxpayers to see the tax implications of the proposed budgets and how their taxes might change from the previous year.

As previously mentioned, the City of Waconia's preliminary tax levy increase has been set at 7%. This means that the City's total levy is preliminarily set at \$5,627,780. With this proposed levy, the City's 2019 tax rate slightly decreases from the 2018 rate—from 52.836% to 52.563%.

What Does this Mean for the Average Homeowner?

While the levy is proposed to increase 7%, the community's overall tax capacity (market values) have also increased 7%. This means that the City's property tax impact should match any increase in market value on the property and will likely not be 7%. We anticipate an average home will see a 3.58% tax increase, or \$48.11 for the year, due to the home value increasing. For values that change a different amount, the increase in the City's share of property tax should closely match that percentage increase.

The Next Steps

On December 3, the City Council will hold an information meeting on the proposed levy. This meeting is designed to provide an opportunity to learn about and comment on the City's proposed budget tax levy before it is finalized. The final approval of the levy is set to be considered on December 17. Property owners are encouraged to review the material online before the meeting or call with questions and comments. We welcome your participation at the meetings.

We realize that property taxes are complicated and welcome questions. For more information, please contact:

Susan Arntz, City Administrator
952-442-3100 or sarntz@waconia.org



November Compost Collection Schedule

Residents can bring grass clippings, garden waste, shrubs and branches no larger than 3" in diameter and 4' in length to Public Services at 310 East 10th Street.

Thursday, November 1
3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Saturday, November 10
Saturday, November 17
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Cost is \$1.00 per bag or \$10.00 per pick-up or trailer. A copy of the full schedule is available at www.waconia.org.

2018 Election Update

The 2018 General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ward I residents will vote at the Waconia Ice Arena (1250 Oak Avenue) and Ward II residents will vote at Trinity Church (601 2nd Street East). If you are unsure of your ward, maps can be found on the City's website.



Any eligible voter can vote early (with no excuse) by using an absentee ballot, instead of voting in person at the polling place on Election Day. Absentee voting for Waconia residents is currently happening at Waconia City Hall (201 South Vine Street) Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additionally, City Hall will be open on Saturday, November 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Monday, November 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you haven't already registered to vote, Minnesota allows individuals to register at the time of voting or on election day. If you need to register to vote, we will need to see a valid ID with your name and current address. If your ID does not have your current address, you will still need to bring your ID, along with a bill of some sort that has your name and current address on it. Finally, if you do not have anything with your name or current address on it, someone in your ward is eligible to "vouch" for you. Details on this process and what documents are accepted can be found on the ["Register to Vote" section of the City's website.](#)

For more information on the 2018 General Election, please visit the Elections section of the City's website at www.waconia.org. Here you can find a detailed election calendar, additional information regarding absentee voting, and details on how to register to vote.

Carver County Community Health Survey

The Carver County Public Health Department has begun work to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan for 2020-2024. In doing this, the County wants to better understand the health status of its residents as well as their health needs and concerns.

Over the next few weeks, a randomly selected group of 5,000 households will receive a community health survey that will help the County get a better picture of the current adult population's health status and understanding of how people maintain their health and receive their healthcare services.

If you are one of the households to receive this survey, please take a few minutes to fill it out and send it back to the County!

Residential Sewer Override

October was the last month for the sewer override! Any water use after October 22nd will be reflected on the November bill and will impact your summer 2019 sewer override amount.

Upcoming Holidays

City offices will be closed on Monday, November 12 in observance of the Veteran's Day holiday. Offices will reopen for regular business hours on Tuesday, November 13. Thank you to all who have served our Country!



City offices will also be closed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Offices will reopen for regular business hours on Monday, November 26. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING