

# **2026 Brandon Town Meeting**

## **FY27 Brandon Budget Proposal**

January 31, 2026 @ 11AM, Town Hall — “Pre-Town Meeting”  
March 2, 2026 @ 7PM, Town Hall — Annual Evening Town Meeting  
March 3, 2026, 7AM - 7PM @ American Legion — Town Meeting Day Voting

# **Dedication of the Town Report**

March 2, 2026 @ Town Hall

# Meeting Agenda

Thank you for Being Here!

- Introductions: Selectboard, Town Management Team
- This Year's Budget Building Process
- FY27 Budget Highlights
- FY27 Budget Resources & Tools
- Permanent Non-Budget Funding: 1% Local Option Tax
- Questions & Answers

# This Year's Budget-Building Process

Goal: A Process That Is Fair to All

- A Budget Advisory Committee was not seated this year; requires vote of the Town
- Selectboard led a series of bi-weekly public meetings
- Department heads worked with the Town Manager to prepare budgets for review
- A series of workshops reviewed the budget for each department line-by-line
- The Select Board developed the proposed budget using the input from all
- **The FY27 budget proposal was approved 5-0 by the Selectboard**
- Town report book; Pre-Town Meeting January 31st; Voter Consideration

# **FY27 Budget Highlights**

Doug Bailey, Selectboard Chair

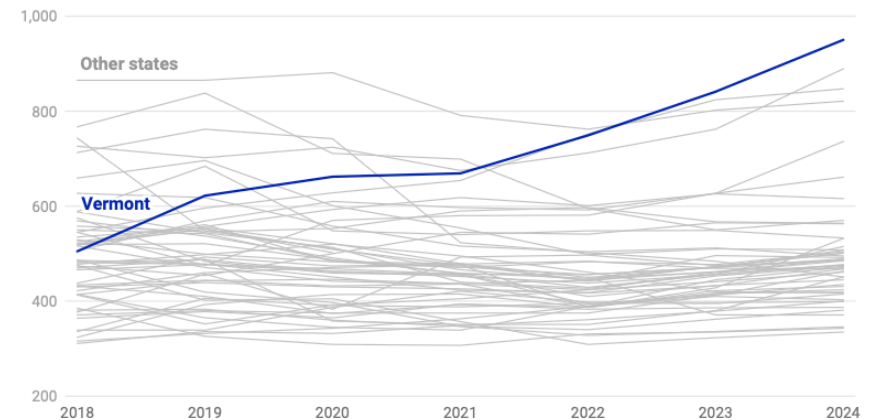
# What's Changed?

## Drivers of FY27 Budget Proposal

- Health Insurance headwind:  
Vermont is the most expensive state in the country to buy health insurance; the Town uses the less expensive of only two insurers in VT
- \$13,089 increase from 2025 to 2026

### How the sticker price of Vermont health insurance compares to other states

Monthly premiums by state and year for the "benchmark" insurance plan available through the federal and state-based individual Affordable Care Act marketplaces.



"Benchmark" premiums are the second-lowest silver premium for 40-year-old individuals on the health insurance marketplace.

Chart: Erin Petenko • Source: KFF • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

# **What's Changed?**

## **Drivers of FY27 Budget Proposal**

- Removed the bond payment for the Swifty Culvert and Stone Arch Bridge from the FY27 budget to the 1% local option tax fund (property tax relief ~ \$60,000)
- Selectboard not requesting a capital article this year (property tax relief = \$50,000)
- Cut a part-time position in the assessor's office (savings ~ \$10,000)

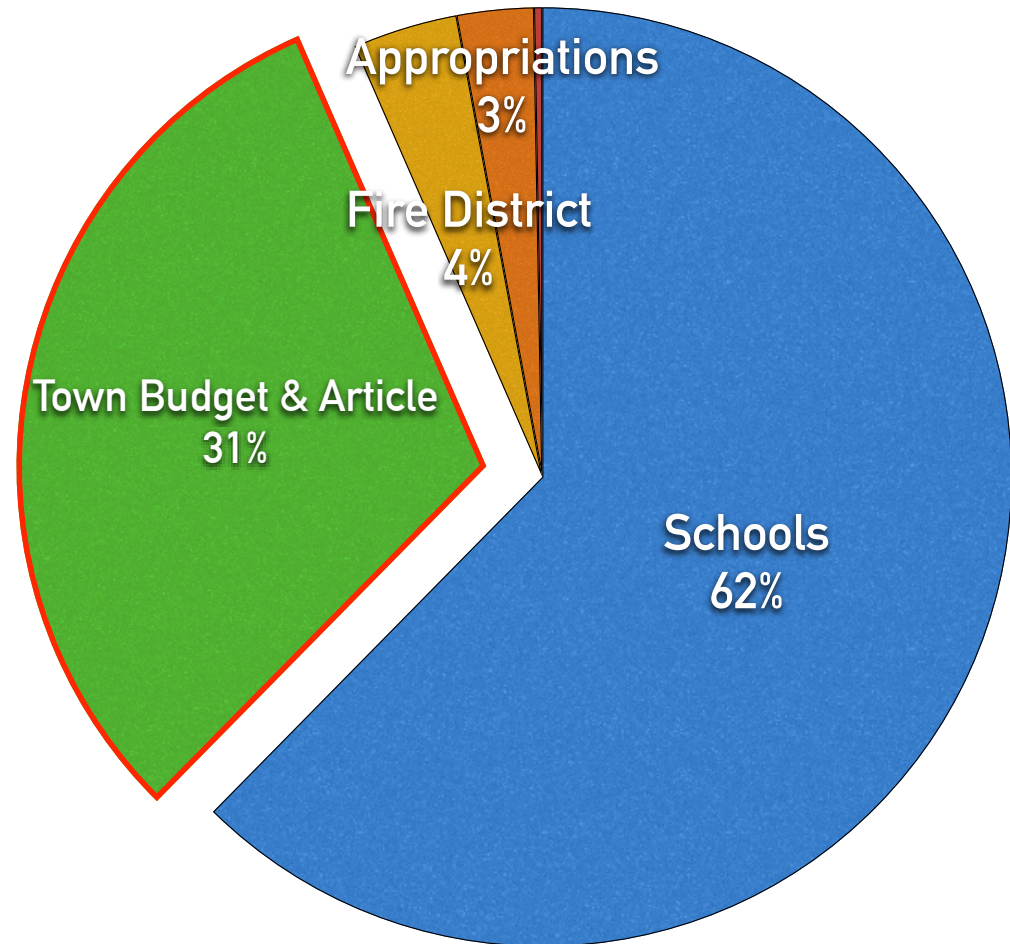
**$\frac{1}{2}$  of 1%**

**Bottom Line Up Front:**

**Increase to the Town portion of property tax from the Town budget & forgoing an Article**



FY26  
(current  
year)  
Residential  
Homestead  
Tax Bill by %,  
Rounded



**\$8.19 a year or  
68¢ a month**

**Increase to Town property tax on the average-assessed Brandon home**

## FY27 Forecast Tax Bill (\$5,091) on \$186,000 average valuation

Proposed FY27 Town budget spending is up 2.94% (or \$100,200), but the Article is down from \$50,000 to \$0.

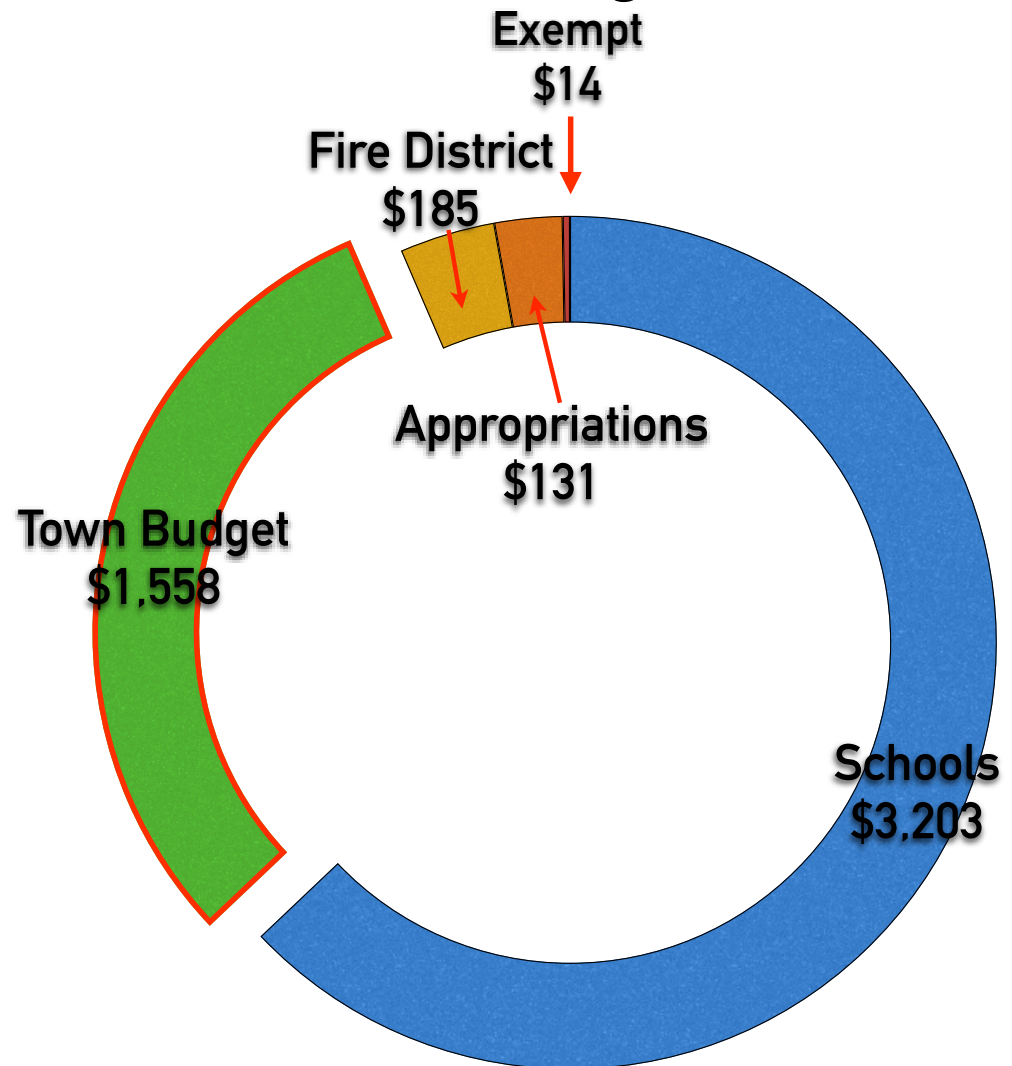
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**The net is an increase of 0.53% in the amount to be raised by taxes.**

**Half a percent.**

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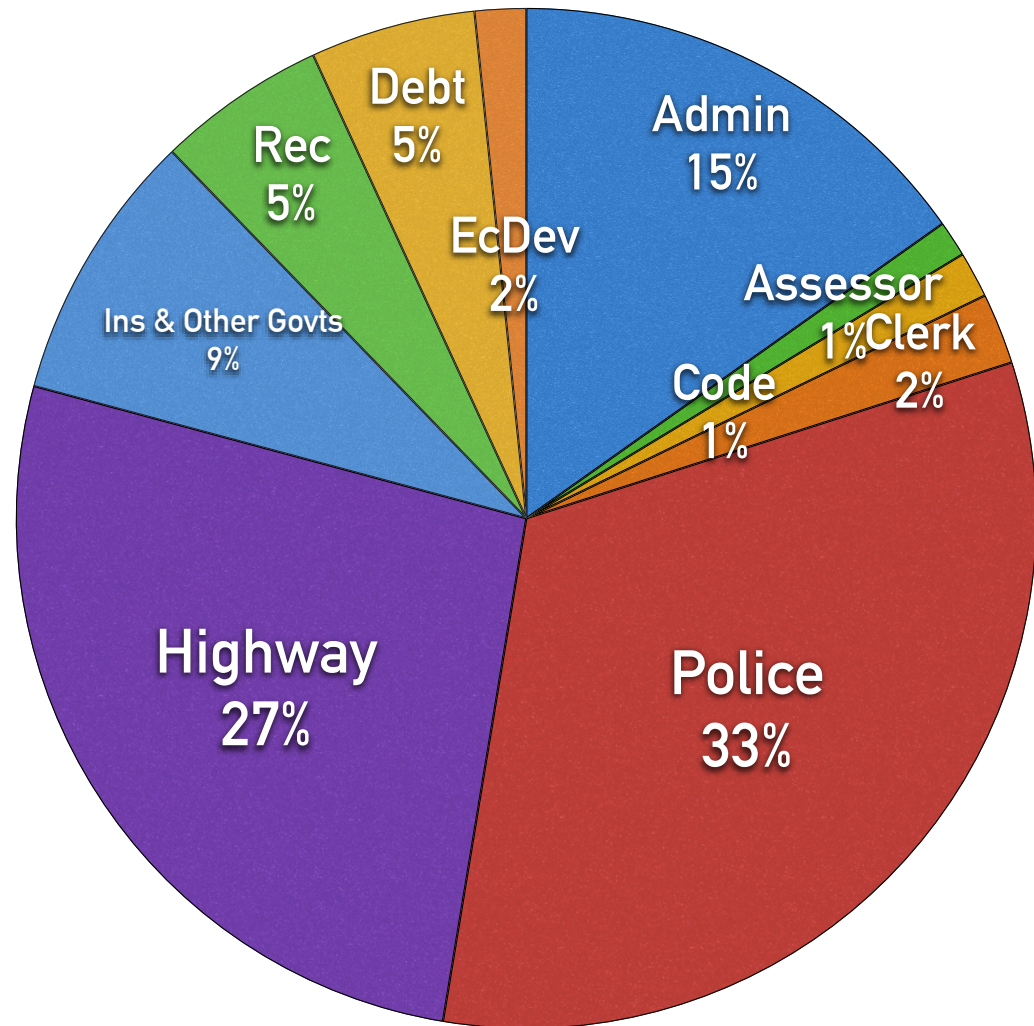
Town tax on a \$186,000 assessed home is up \$8.19 per year or 68¢ per month



# Highest Ever

**Spending Proposed for Policing in our Community  
\$986,505**

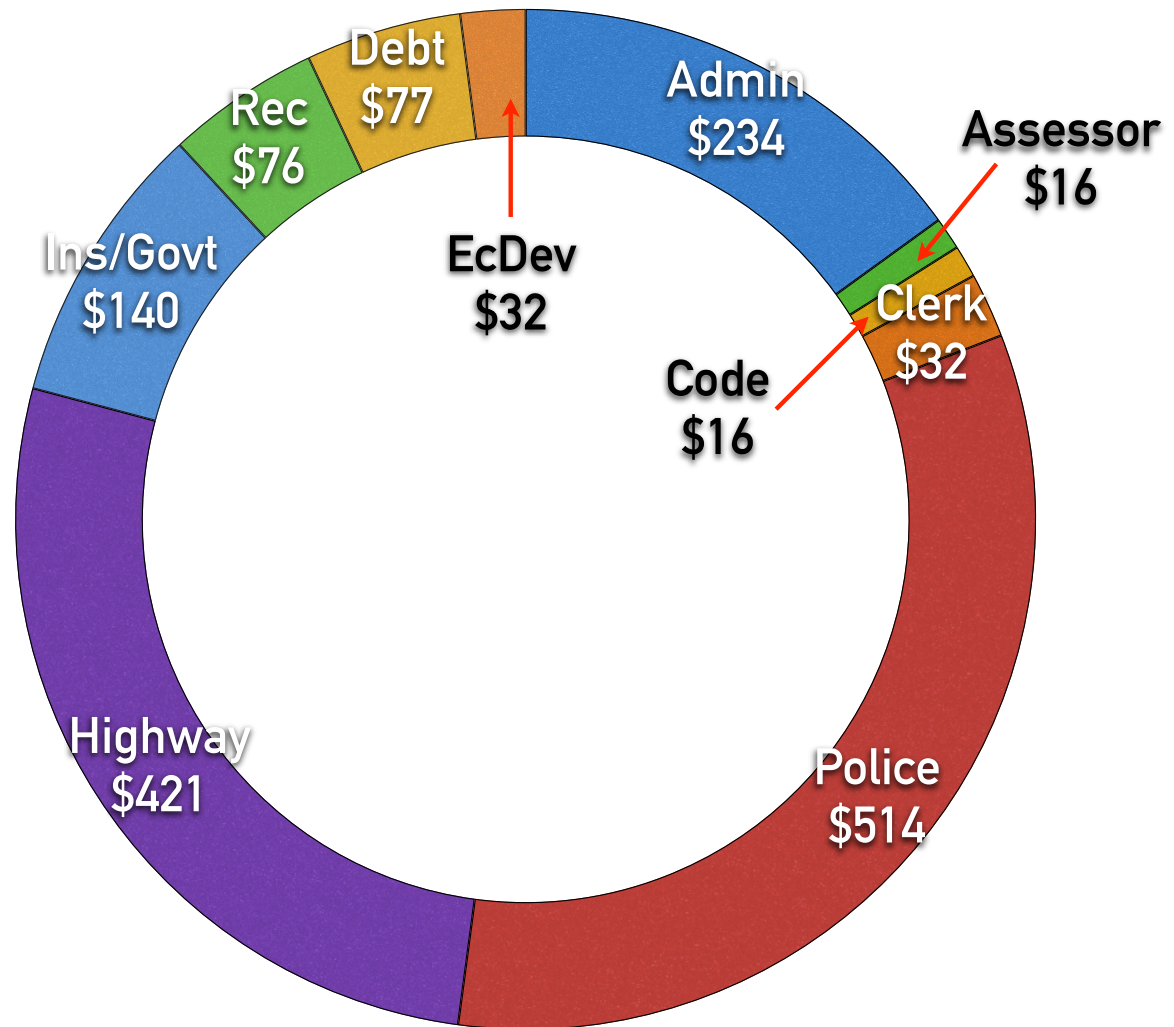
Proposed  
FY27 Town  
Operating  
Budget  
Department  
Nets  
by %



Town Budget Portion of  
Projected FY27 Tax Bill  
based on \$186,000  
Brandon house valuation  
at  
\$0.8191 Town tax rate  
(totals \$1,558).

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Capital fund article  
from current year (FY26)  
drops off, saving \$26.



**\$2,272,714**

Lowest assessed house value incurring a Town increase of \$100 per year or more

# **Budget Resources & Tools**

Doug Bailey, Selectboard Chair



# Resources to Aid in Understanding

## FY27 Town Budget

- Town Report Book
- Budget Summary
- Board & Management Reports
- Department Head Reports
- Line-by-Line Dept Budgets
- 2-page Summary on Website
- 24-page Line-by-Line Detail on Website
- Tax Estimator on Website
- Ask Selectboard & Management Team

[www.brandonvermont.gov](http://www.brandonvermont.gov)

# Appropriations

## Social Service Provider Requests

### FY27 Town Meeting Ballot Questions

FY 27 Article Requests				
#	Purpose	Request	Tax on Ave House	
2	Town Budget	\$ 2,942,153	\$ 1,572	
3	ARC Rutland	\$ 4,000	\$ 2	
4	Independence Day	\$ 7,000	\$ 4	
5	Legion	\$ 25,000	\$ 13	
6	Rescue Squad	\$ 82,580	\$ 44	
7	Library	\$ 92,000	\$ 49	
8	Brandon Museum	\$ 5,000	\$ 3	
9	Senior Center	\$ 15,500	\$ 8	
10	Open Door Clinic	\$ 1,000	\$ 1	
11	Humane Society	\$ 1,500	\$ 1	
12	SW Council on Aging	\$ 2,900	\$ 2	
13	VT Adult Learning	\$ 1,000	\$ 1	
14	VNA & Hospice	\$ 10,200	\$ 5	
AP	All Appropriation Requests 2-14	\$ 247,680	\$ 131	

# **Non-Budget Funding**

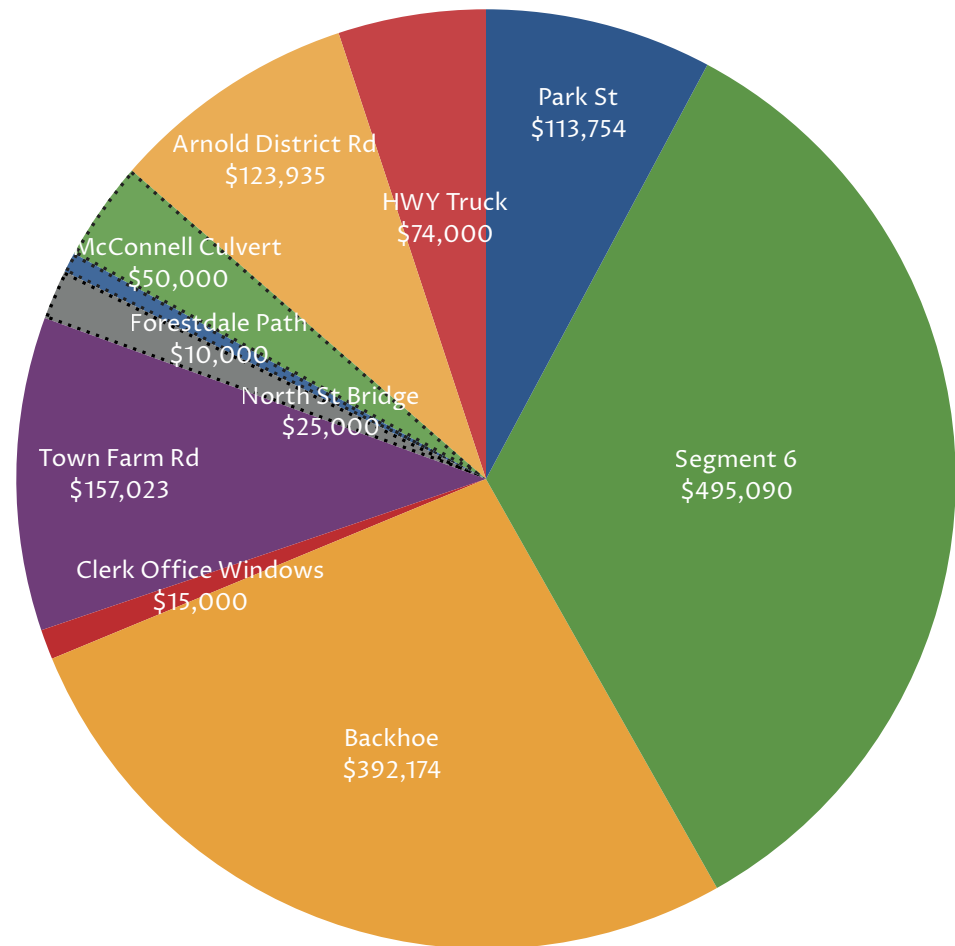
Doug Bailey, Selectboard Chair

# 100%

**of Local Option Tax Revenue Goes to Long-Lasting Capital Improvements**

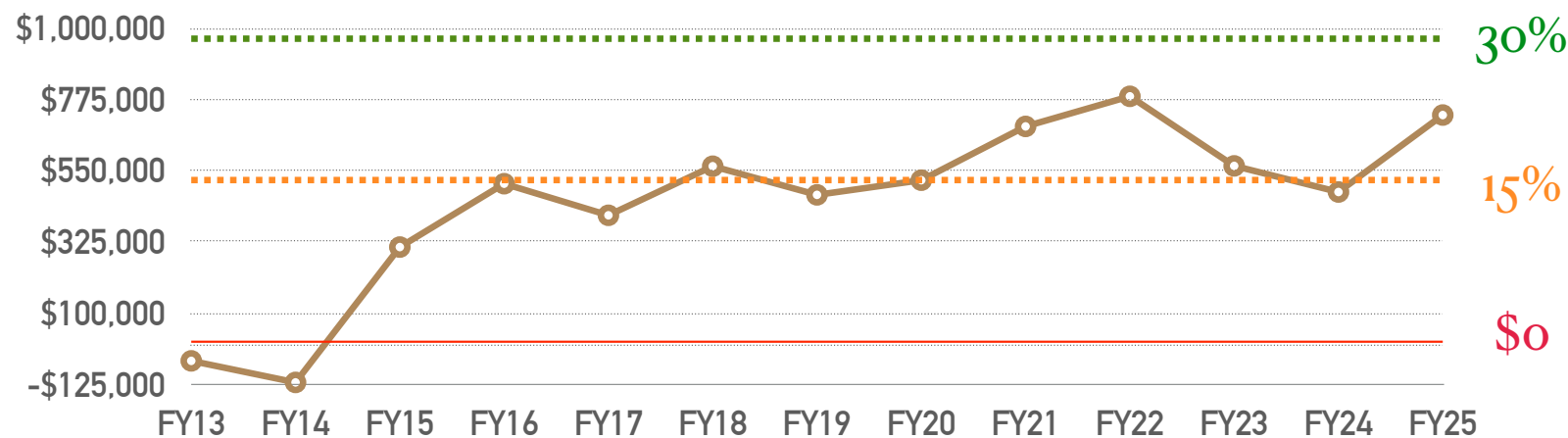
LOCAL OPTION  
TAX (1% Fund)  
As of 30 June 2025  
\$1.96M

Steady Annual  
Revenue Exceeds  
\$300,000



# UNRESTRICTED RESERVE FUND TREND

Selectboard Fund Balance Policy  
Maintain ready reserves of 15% - 30% of our budget  
~\$3.3M budget = \$495,000 - \$990,000



# Questions & Answers

Doug Bailey, Selectboard Chair