

PROPOSED ARTICLE 1

The proposed Article 1 asks if you approve a General Fund budget of \$12,925,259, with \$11,895,471 to be raised through property taxes.

FY 26 City Budget	Proposed FY27 City Budget	\$ Change from FY26	% Change from FY26
\$12,419,241	\$12,925,259	\$506,107	4.1%

FY26 Rate (General Fund + Tax Agreement + Economic Development)	Proposed FY27 Rate (General Fund + Tax Agreement + Economic Development)	\$ Change*	% Change
\$1.0202	\$1.0628	\$119	4.2%
*The estimated tax increase to a \$280k property in FY27 is an increase of \$119 per year over FY26			

	FY 26	FY 27	% Change	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)
Proposed Taxes on \$280,000 assessed value home	\$2,857	\$2,976	4.2%	\$119
Total Preliminary All Utility Rate Annual (residential property using 120 gallons/day)	\$813.26	\$887.68	9.2%	\$74
Preliminary Stormwater Utility (1ERU)	\$54.32	\$77.74	43.1 %	\$23
Total	\$3,724.58	\$3,941.42	5.8%	\$217

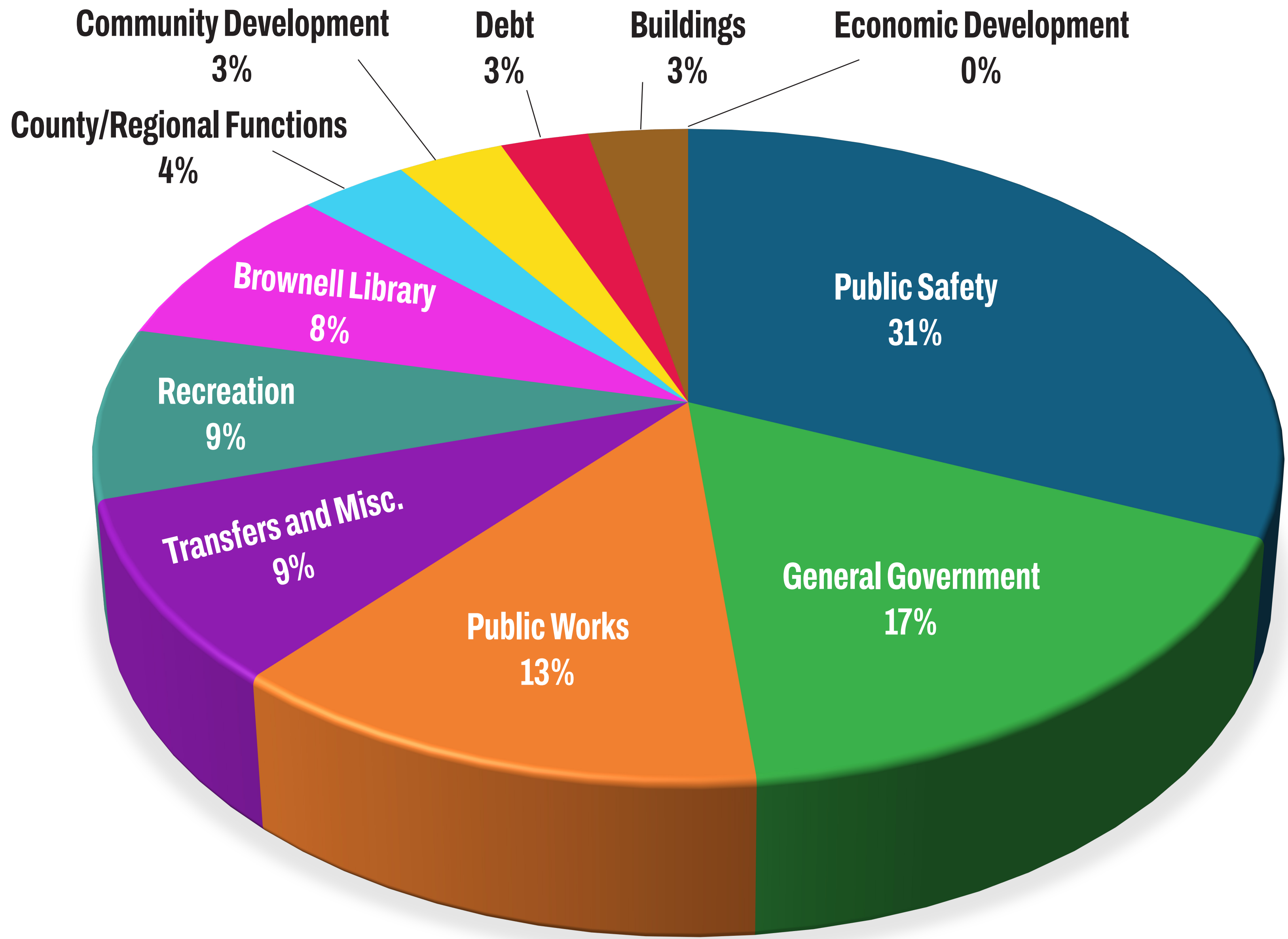
WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 1 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

NO

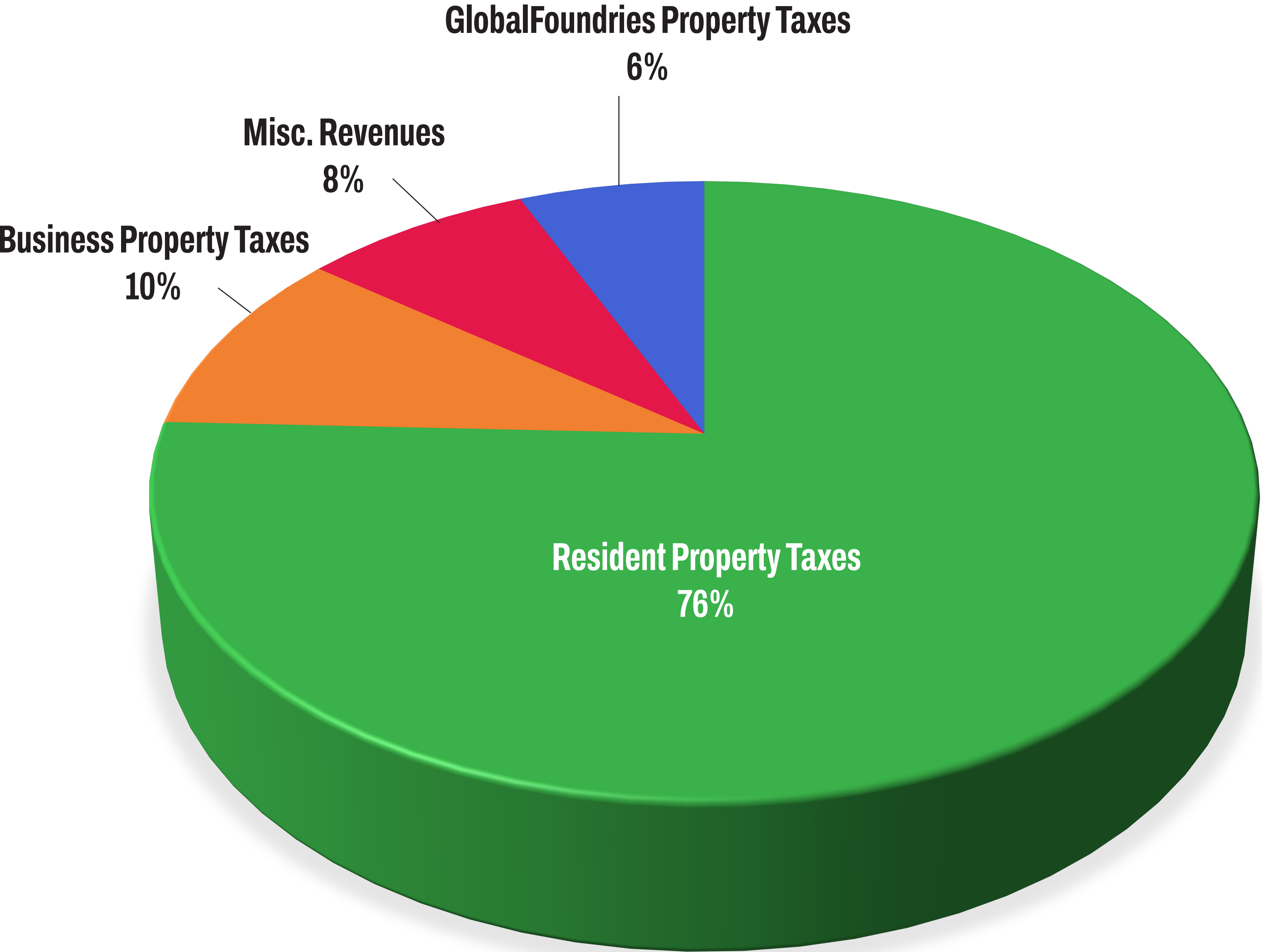
PROPOSED FY 27 EXPENDITURES



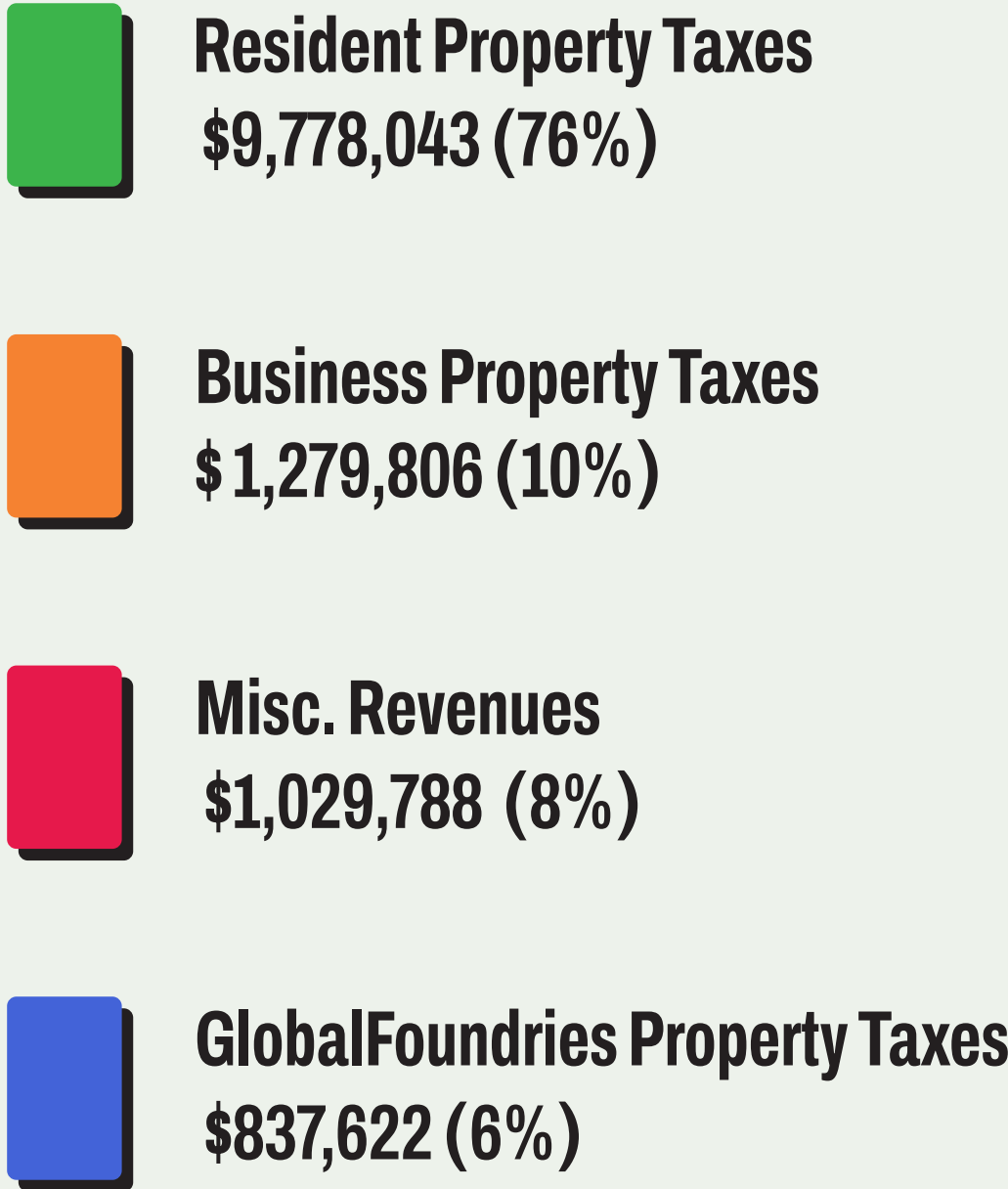
EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

<div></div>	Public Safety \$ 4,050,239 (31%)	Includes Fire, Police, & Rescue
<div></div>	General Government \$ 2,175,502 (17%)	Includes Administration, Legislative, Clerk, Finance, IT, & Assessing
<div></div>	Public Works \$ 1,653,741 (13%)	
<div></div>	Transfers and Misc. \$ 1,160,967 (9%)	Includes Transfers to Capital & General Reserves
<div></div>	Recreation \$ 1,095,086 (9%)	
<div></div>	Brownell Library \$ 1,082,917 (8%)	
<div></div>	County/Regional Functions \$ 446,718 (4%)	
<div></div>	Community Development \$ 438,750 (3%)	
<div></div>	Debt \$ 361,365 (3%)	
<div></div>	Buildings \$ 409,974 (3%)	
<div></div>	Economic Development \$ 30,000 (0%)	

PROPOSED FY 27 REVENUES



REVENUE BY CATEGORY



Please note: The City is currently undergoing a reappraisal, and with that comes uncertainty on the percentage breakdown between residential, commercial, and industrial valuations. If there is a shift that results in an increased burden on residential properties, it may result in a higher tax burden than we are currently estimating.

PROPOSED ARTICLE 2

The proposed Article 2 asks if you approve raising the City Council Member’s annual minimum pay from \$2,500 to \$3,600.



The Essex Junction Governance Committee recommended increasing the annual minimum pay due to the time, work, and responsibilities required of the Council. They also believe the increase could help more people consider running for office.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 2 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

NO

PROPOSED ARTICLE 3

The proposed Article 3 asks if you approve an amendment to Subchapter 2: Governance Structure, Section 205, Compensation, of the City Charter.



This amendment would add: “The President of the Council shall be paid an annual compensation that is twenty-five percent (25%) more than the annual compensation paid to the other Council members.”



The Essex Junction Governance Committee recommended this change because the Council President has additional duties and time commitments justifying a 25% higher stipend

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 3 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

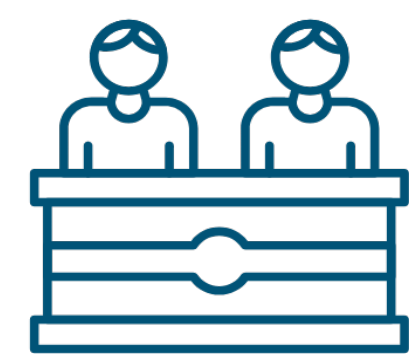
NO

PROPOSED ARTICLE 4

The proposed Article 4 asks if you approve an amendment to Subchapter 2: Governance Structure, Section 205, Compensation, of the City Charter.



Removing (strikethrough) and adding (underlined) the following text: “Compensation paid to the Council members shall be ~~set by the voters at the annual meeting,~~ adjusted annually, effective July 1 of each year, by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region, as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the most recent calendar year, with a minimum of ...”



The Essex Junction Governance Committee recommended this to remove the Council’s ability to raise its own stipends and to set a regular way to increase them.



Linking stipend increases to the Consumer Price Index makes the process consistent and keeps the decision separate from the Council.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 4 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

NO

PROPOSED ARTICLE 5

The proposed Article 5 asks if you approve an amendment to Subchapter 12: Amendment of Charter and Initiatives, Section 1202 Charter Review Committee, of the City Charter.



This amendment would add: “The City Council shall appoint a Charter Review Committee at least once every twelve (12) years for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of this charter. A majority of the Committee’s members shall be residents of the City who are not members of the City Council.”



The Essex Junction Governance Committee recommended this to ensure the City Charter is fully reviewed at least every 12 years.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 5 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

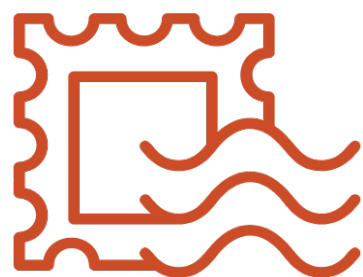
NO

PROPOSED ARTICLE 6

The proposed Article 6 asks if you approve of the City’s proposal to stop accepting postmarks as proof of on-time tax payment.



The City Charter does not specify how or when tax payments must be delivered. Because of this, the City follows state law 32 V.S.A. § 4773(b), which allows postmarks as proof of on-time payment.



Given operational changes at the US Postal Service, postmarks have become a less reliable indicator of an on time payment. Currently, the City does not accept postmarks as proof of on-time payment for utility bills.



The City is receiving payments weeks past the due date. Penalties and interest must be applied the day after payments are due. Accepting postmarked payments requires staff to manually reverse penalties or interest for each customer and apply the payment. These adjustments require documentation and supervisor verification for internal controls and audit.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 6 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

NO

PROPOSED ARTICLE 7

The proposed Article 7 asks if you approve issuing up to \$13,560,000 in general obligation bonds or notes to pay for a new Public Works facility.



The current buildings are beyond their serviceable life and no longer adequate to support the Public Works Department’s daily operations.

The main building, with parts dating back approximately 80 years, suffers from outdated construction materials and designs that fail to meet modern standards.



The current facility faces many deficiencies, including limited storage space for expensive and environmentally sensitive equipment, and inadequate heated storage, risking damage and delays - especially during winter emergencies. Additionally, there are operational inefficiencies caused by having functions spread across three separate buildings.



Staff facilities are also woefully inadequate, with combined bathroom and storage spaces, no dedicated locker or shower rooms, and a lack of break and training areas.



The main building’s low ceilings make it impossible to maintain larger vehicles properly, and the facility does not meet current life-safety or accessibility codes.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

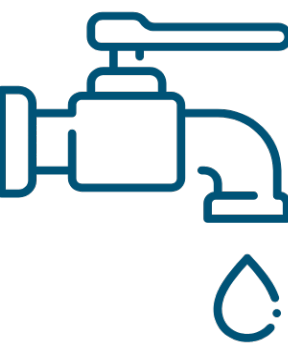
The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 7 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

NO

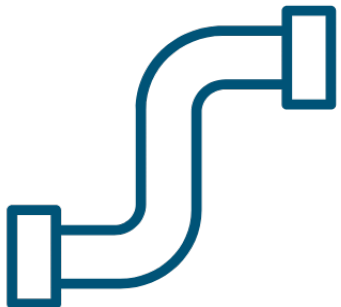
PROPOSED ARTICLE 8

The proposed Article 8 asks if you approve authorizing a planning loan through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for a Water Enterprise project. This loan would be used for service line material identification and non-lead service line validation as required by federal drinking water regulations. The loan amount would not exceed \$892,771 and would be financed for a period of up to ten years.



In 2023, voters authorized a loan for Essex Junction’s Lead Service Line inventory and replacement plan. The inventory and plan are complete and approved.

There are now new United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) lead and copper rules that require the City to conduct further investigation including service line material identification and non-lead service line validation by 2037.



The state has funding available now through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The City is eligible for partial loan forgiveness for this phase of the work. With loan forgiveness the expected repayment amount would be about \$400,000.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 8 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

NO

PROPOSED ARTICLE 9

The proposed Article 9 asks if you approve the creation of a Social Services Funding Program and a one-cent tax to support local social service organizations. The funding would be used for programs benefiting Essex Junction residents, addressing needs such as health, housing, and food security.



Before the City separated from the Town in 2022, Village taxpayers contributed to a similar social services program through the Town budget (dating back to 1987). Since separation, Essex Junction has not had a dedicated program or funding mechanism for social service appropriations.

The funds would support social, health, and human services organizations to benefit Essex Junction residents.



A one-cent tax would generate approximately \$113,000 (based on the FY26 grand list).

This question would be brought to the voters at each Annual Meeting for reconsideration.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

The City Council will finalize the Annual Meeting ballot on March 11. Before things are finalized, the Council would appreciate the community’s initial thoughts. If article 9 was on the ballot today, would you support it?

YES

NO