



# Town of Fairfield

Office of the First Selectman  
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

TO: Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, RTM, and Citizens of Fairfield

FROM: First Selectman Mike Tetreau

SUBJECT: 2018 - 2019 Budget Recommendation

## Overview

Please find attached my budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2019. I wish to express my gratitude for the exceptional work of our Town Department Managers, our School Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones, Chief Fiscal Officer Bob Mayer, Budget Director Linda Gardiner and their teams for their many hours and dedication in preparation of this budget.

There are some extraordinary challenges facing our town this budget year. Our town has seen very significant reductions in Municipal Aid from the State over the last 24 months. We have also lost the tax revenue from the GE headquarters facility due to the sale of this property to Sacred Heart University.

## Budget Details

On the town side, I am proposing a budget of \$131.3 million. This represents an increase of 1.22 percent over last year. The primary drivers of this increase are town pension costs, salaries and wages, health insurance and retiree benefits.

I am recommending a Board of Education budget of \$173.9 million. This represents a 3.10 percent increase over last year.

The combined budget increase for the Town and Board of Education is 2.28 percent. This year again is one of the lowest in the last twenty years. The projected mill rate for this budget is 26.46 or a 2.48 percent increase. The tax rate increase is more than the budget increase because of a reduction in state revenue. This budget maintains our Town's strong financial foundation. It funds all critical long-term obligations.

## In Summary

I know Town boards will carefully review these recommendations. There may be more updates from the State. Working together, we will keep Fairfield fiscally strong, maintain services and competitive value for our residents, and continue to grow our Grand List. Working together, we will continue to make Fairfield a valuable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you for your support.