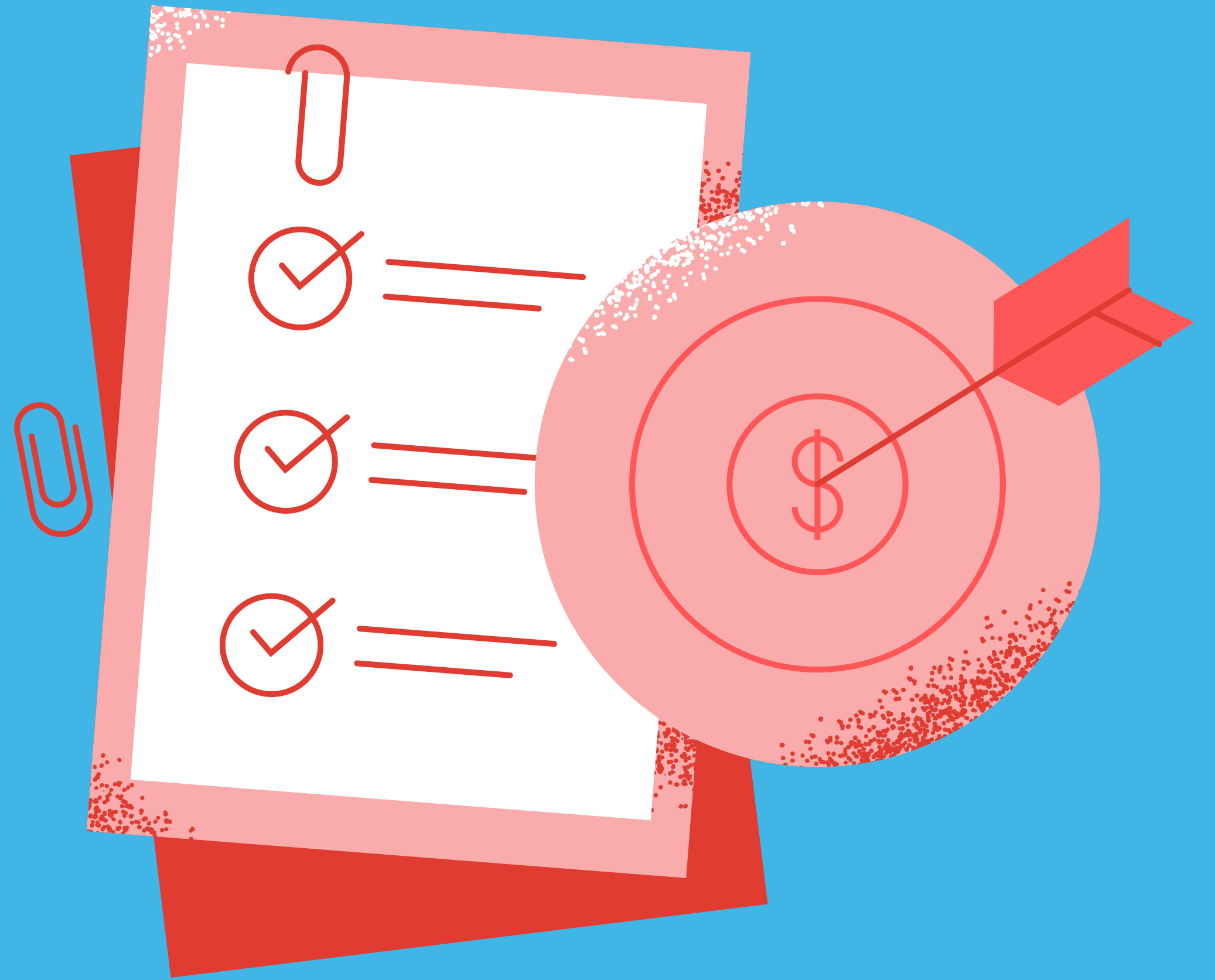
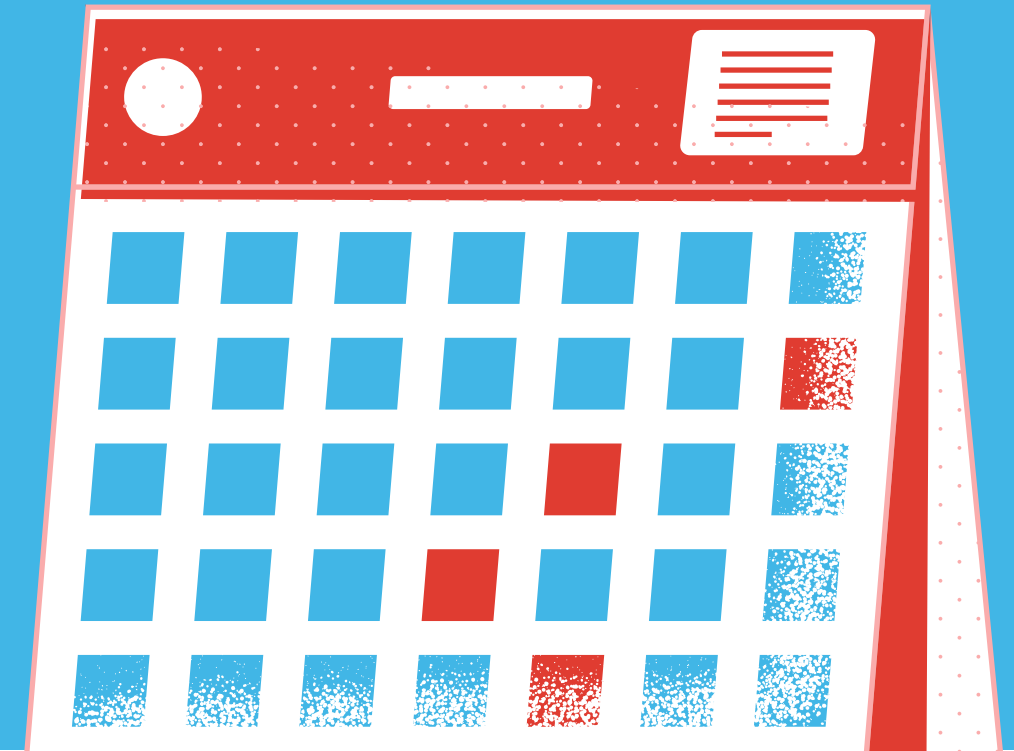


The City Budget



Priscilla
Kenzie
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8
Bok

IMPORTANT DATES



April 14

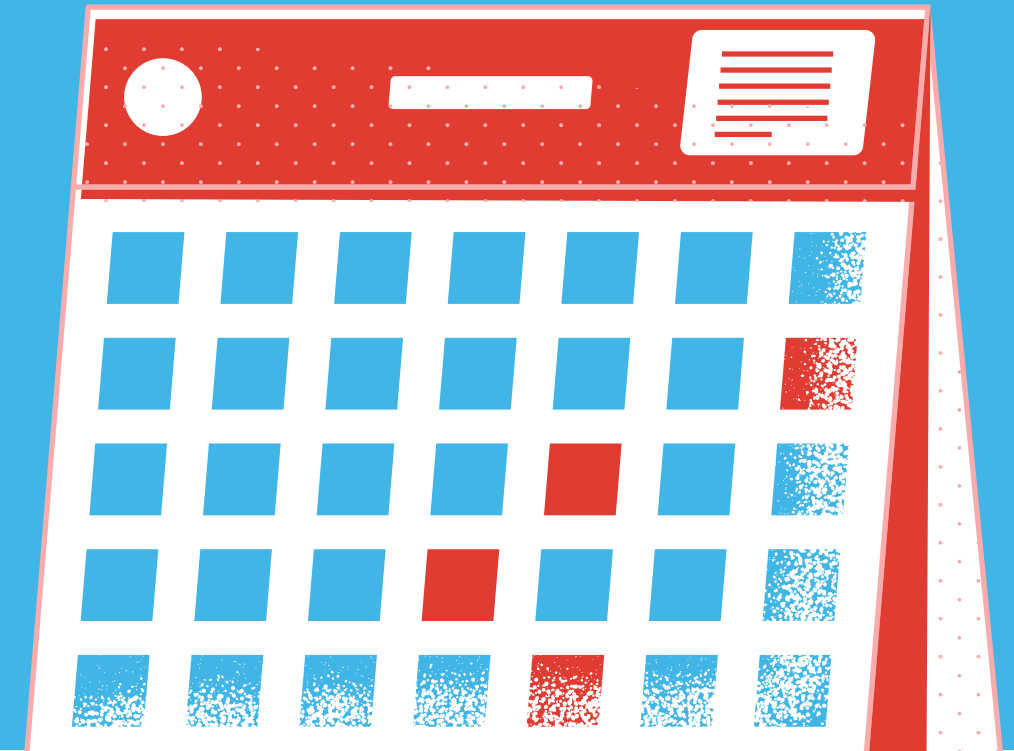
The budget is introduced before the City Council.

Mid April - Mid June

The Council holds working sessions and public hearings on the budget.

Mark your calendar: early in the process, we'll have a working session to answer your questions on **Monday, April 26 at 4PM**, and we'll have our first opportunity for public testimony on what you want to see funded as part of our recovery on **Wednesday, April 28 at 6PM**.

IMPORTANT DATES



June 9

The City Council votes to adopt, reject, or reduce the capital and operating budgets.

The Council may also pass limits on revolving funds.

June 16 or June 23

The Mayor resubmits the operating and/or capital budgets.

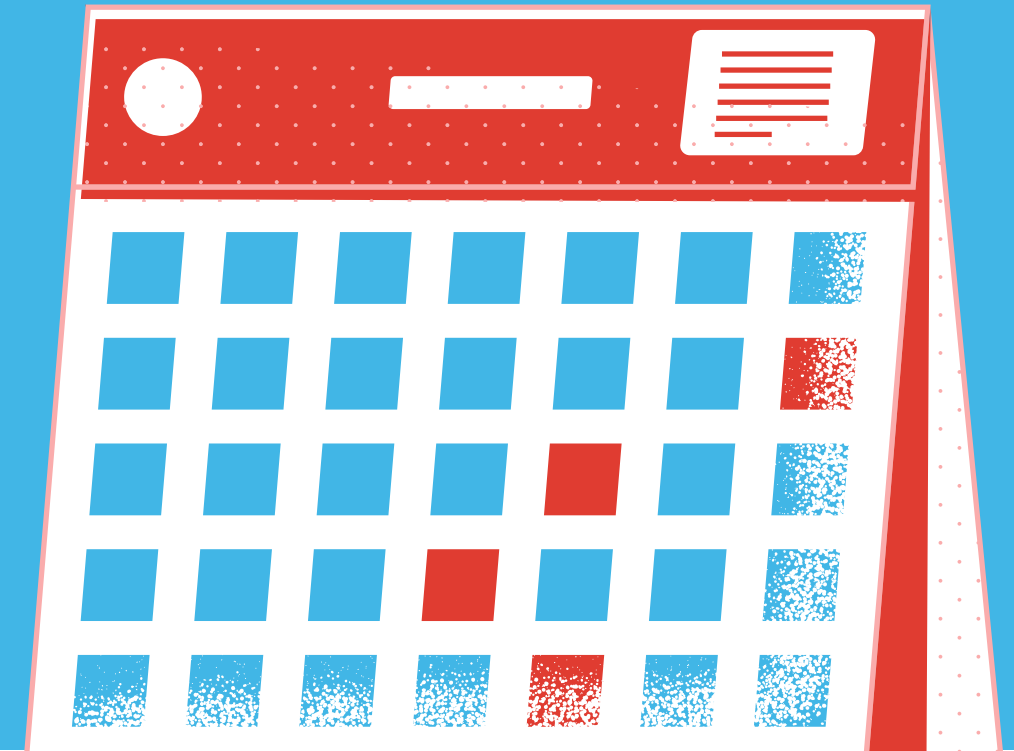
The Council may also pass limits on revolving funds.

June 30

The City Council votes to adopt, reject, or reduce the resubmitted capital and/or operating budgets

The Council may also pass limits on revolving funds.

IMPORTANT DATES



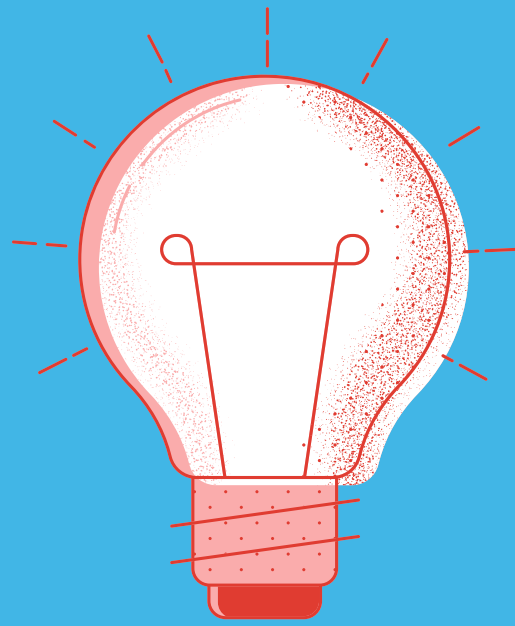
July 1

A new fiscal year begins.

CITY COUNCIL BUDGETARY POWERS

The City Council is able to accept, reject, or reduce the budget. The City Council is unable to increase funding or make changes to most department line items.





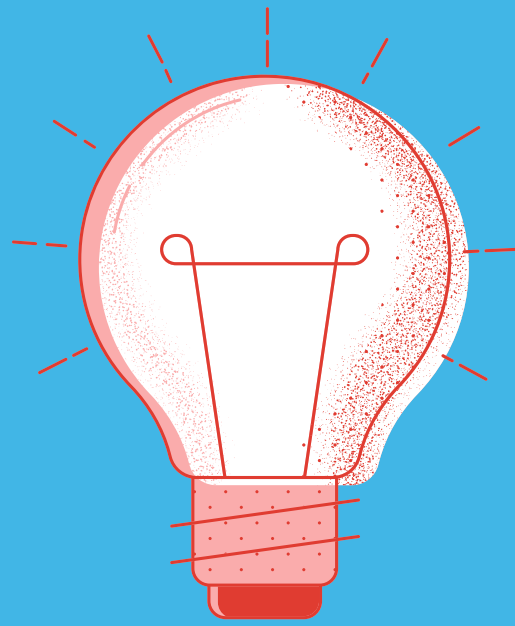
BUDGET VO CAB

Capital Budget

Funding for large projects or investments including in school buildings, community centers, parks, streets, and bridges

Debt Limit

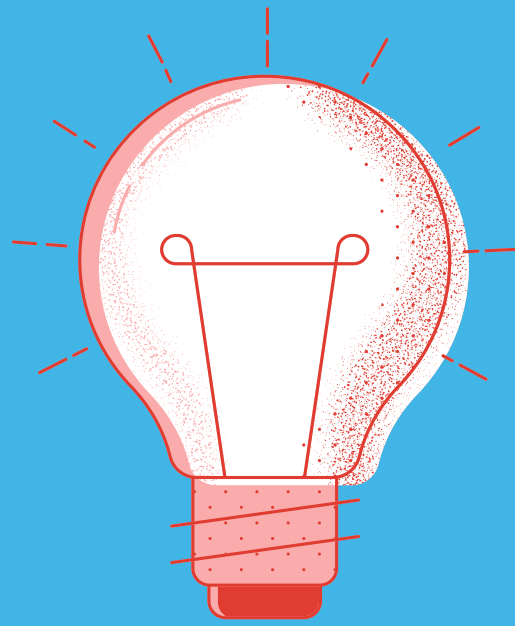
The amount of debt the city can incur. The city can legally incur a debt of 5% of the assessed value of taxable property without state approval, or 10% with state approval.



BUDGET VOCAB

Debt Policy Limit

Separately, the city has a debt policy limit of 7% – this means that the City budgets so that no more than 7% of its operating budget in any given year will be spent on covering the interest payments on its debt. This is judged to be, the ideal amount of funds to leverage to enable large capital spending while adequately funding departments and maintaining our overall financial standing.

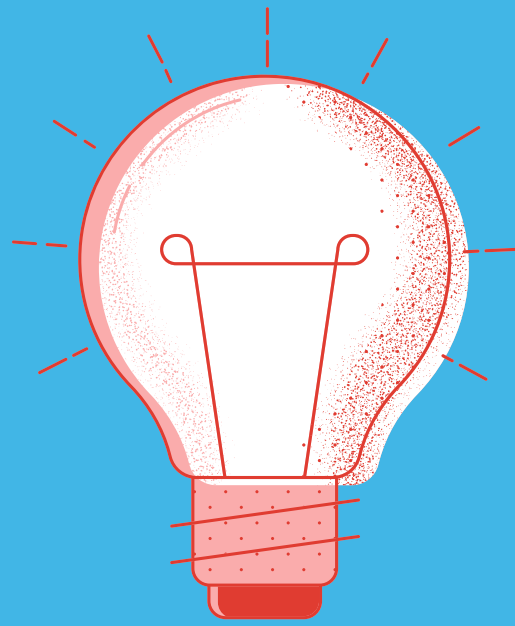


BUDGET VOCAB

Operating Budget

Covers day-to-day expenses for City Departments including staff, equipment, contractual services, supplies, and materials

Within the City operating budget, the Council traditionally votes on the Boston Public Schools budget separately, which is first approved by the School Committee.



BUDGET VOCAB

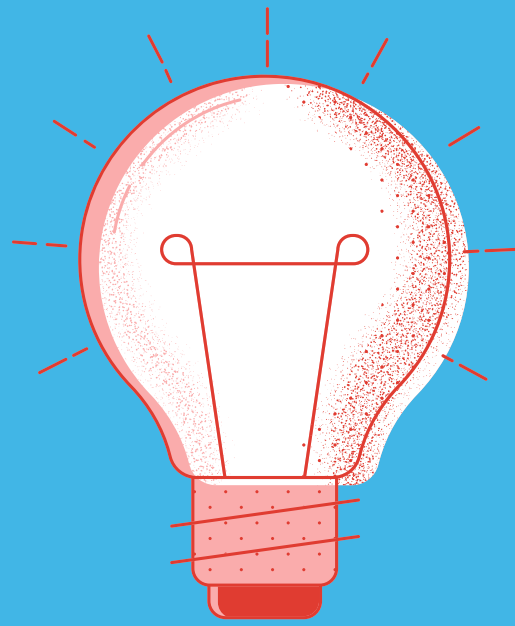
OPEB & Pensions

Each year the City Council allocates a certain amount of money to help fully fund the City's responsibility to pay pensions to its retired workers. Currently the City is on track to fully fund this responsibility before the end of the decade.

"Other Post Employment Benefits" are the benefits that City of Boston Employees receive upon retirement, other than their pension, such as healthcare and other fringe benefits.

The City has a significant unfunded responsibility in the OPEB area as well.

Any payments approved by the City Council to fund this responsibility are retained in an OPEB Liability Trust Fund, where they must remain.



BUDGET VOCAB

Revolving Funds

Funds from fees or charges associated with a program are then used to fund the costs of the same program. Council is tasked with reauthorizing revolving funds every year, including expense limits.

Revolving Funds are not taxpayer dollars and are therefore not technically part of the City Budget, but are voted on alongside the budget.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Testify Live Via Zoom

To testify live via Zoom, folks should utilize our City Council FY22 Budget Testimony Sign-up Sheet, which can be found at boston.gov/budget-testify

Testimony is limited to two minutes or less.

Testify By Uploading a Video

To testify by recorded video, folks should utilize the Boston City Council Video Testimony Form, which can be found at boston.gov/budget-testify

Required 48 hours or more before a hearing to have your video played during that hearing, otherwise they will be played at a general public testimony hearing.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Provide Written Testimony Via Email

Written testimony may be sent to the Committee or staff email (below) and will be made a part of the record and available to all Councilors.

ccc.wm@boston.gov

Staff email dependent on hearing.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Pro Tips for Getting Involved:

Check the budget calendar for schedule changes

To utilize the submit written testimony sign-up, you have to sign in with GMail.

- If you don't have one, you can create one for free.
- If you have trouble, you can contact your District City Councilor or an At-Large Councilor, and their staff will assist you.

LEARN MORE



Read the budget book.

Can be found at
boston.gov/budget

Review the budget calendar to learn when the Council is holding hearings that interest you.

boston.gov/council-budget

Follow #BosBudget on Twitter for updates.