

# **Town of Tolland Town Council's Annual Budget Presentation**

## **Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

**Presented by  
Steve Jones  
Chairperson, Tolland Town Council**

**April 19, 2023 – Town Council Chambers**

# Agenda and Purpose

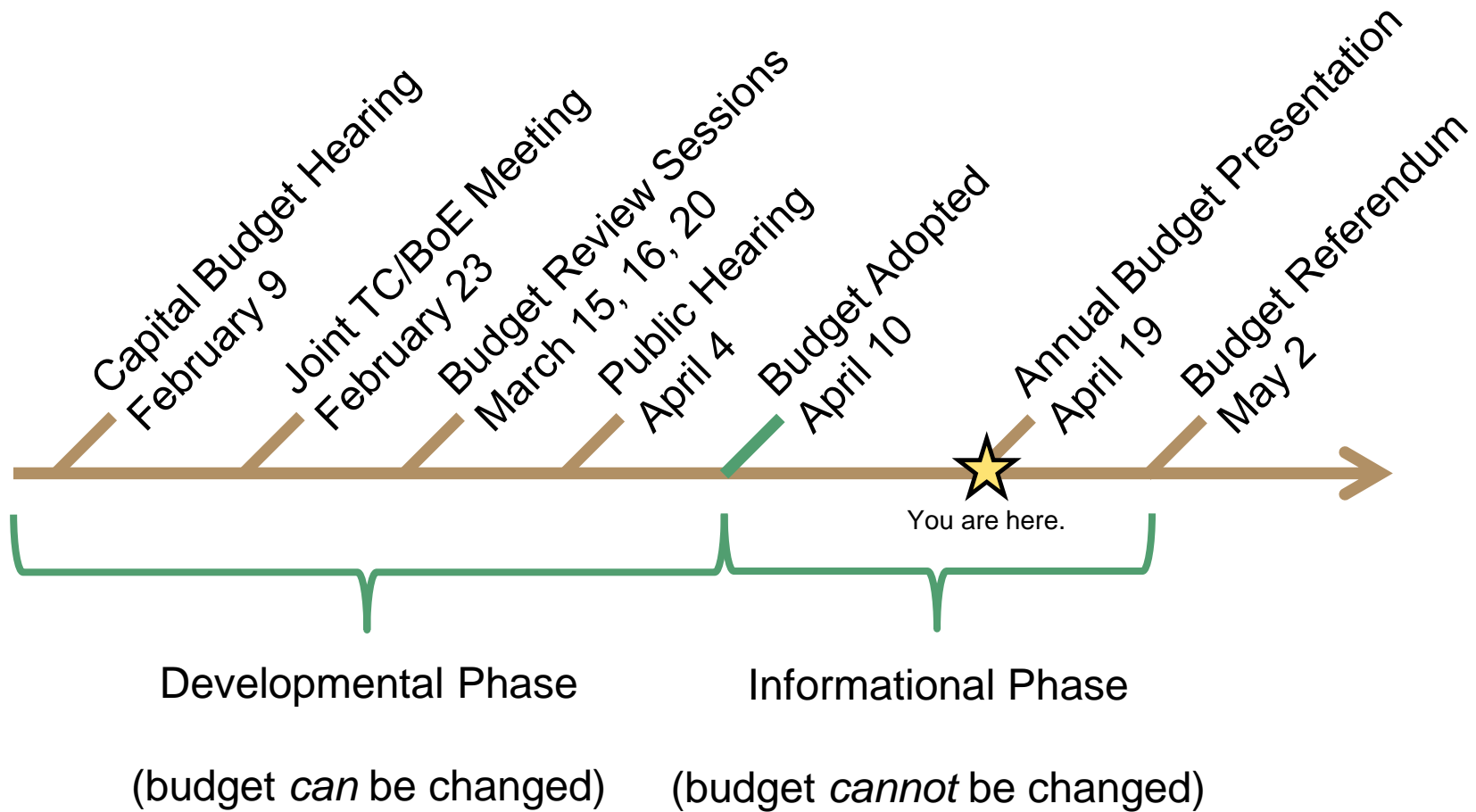
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## Overview of the Presentation Meeting

- High-level Review of the Budget and Community Planning Process
- Summary of Budgetary Expenditures
- Summary of Revenues
- Public Input and Questions

# Budget and Community Planning Timeline



# Budget and Community Planning Goals

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- Allocate funds for essential services.
- Alleviate employee burnout and improve retention through fair compensation.
- Minimize impacts on the mill rate.
- Maintain creditworthiness.

# Changes to Expenditures

By the numbers



Budget Area	Adopted Budget FY22-23	Proposed Budget FY23-24	Change
General Government (Town Operations)	\$13,017,396	\$13,542,051	\$524,655 +4.03%
Board of Education	\$41,737,723	\$42,989,855	\$1,252,132 +3%
Capital Improvements	\$255,880	\$319,451	\$63,571 +24.84%
Debt Service	\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000	\$0 0%
Total	\$59,710,999	\$61,551,357	\$1,840,358 +3.08%

# What does 4.03% do for Town Services?

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- Summary of driving costs.
  - Health Insurance & Other Benefits (\$111,576)
  - Inflationary Costs - Waste Management (\$108,179) and Road Treatments (\$129,263)
  - Negotiated contractual wage increases were \$244,273.
- New expenditures.
  - Additional funding for the Historic District Commission (+\$2k), new funding for the Veterans Recognition Commission (\$1k) and additional the Permanent Celebration Commission (\$1k) are included.

# What does 3% do for School Services?

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- Sustains the education value for the people of Tolland.
- Dr. Willett, Superintendent of Schools is present to discuss any details or commentary required.

# Significant Cost Drivers for the BOE Budget



- TPS teacher settlement for staff salaries for FY24 was below the average for 58 districts recorded as of last check about February. However, the contract settlements still have an impact on the increased funding requested in the budget.
- Health Insurance during this coming fiscal year has been discussed as one of the biggest drivers of this budget at about 1.2 million dollars; Health insurance tends to have fluctuations up every 3 to 4 years. The Town Council has provided \$200,000 in ARPA funds towards the BOE Health Insurance needs in order to alleviate the impact on their original budget increase for health insurance.
- Education transportation cost increased.



# Town Council Referendum - BOE Budget

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- The original Board of Education (BOE) budget request was for a 5.96% increase. The Town Manager proposed budget reduced that amount to a 3% increase or \$1,252,132. The Town Council held that increase in the adopted budget to be sent to referendum.
- The original BOE budget may be viewed at this link:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MrXlxJJP3wYlrOzYel7tXb5vg-H0hG3j/view>

# BOE Decisions - Forthcoming

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The BOE members are discussing options for the items that will need to be reduced from their original request to get down to the 3% increase.

Additional detail on the preliminary suggestions may be reviewed at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hv2TtSyOJDyJ2bO\\_LQqjLvz7QzN5PEi2/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hv2TtSyOJDyJ2bO_LQqjLvz7QzN5PEi2/view)

# Capital/Debt Services Summary

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- The General Fund portion of the Capital Improvements increased \$63,571.
- \$50,000 in savings were taken off the Town Manager's proposed budget for Debt Service, leaving the town flat at \$4,700,000. This is the result of the removal of a fire aerial truck in future years and the push out of the Education HVAC project (until grant funding can be obtained). A used aerial truck was recently purchased.

# Additional Budget Highlights

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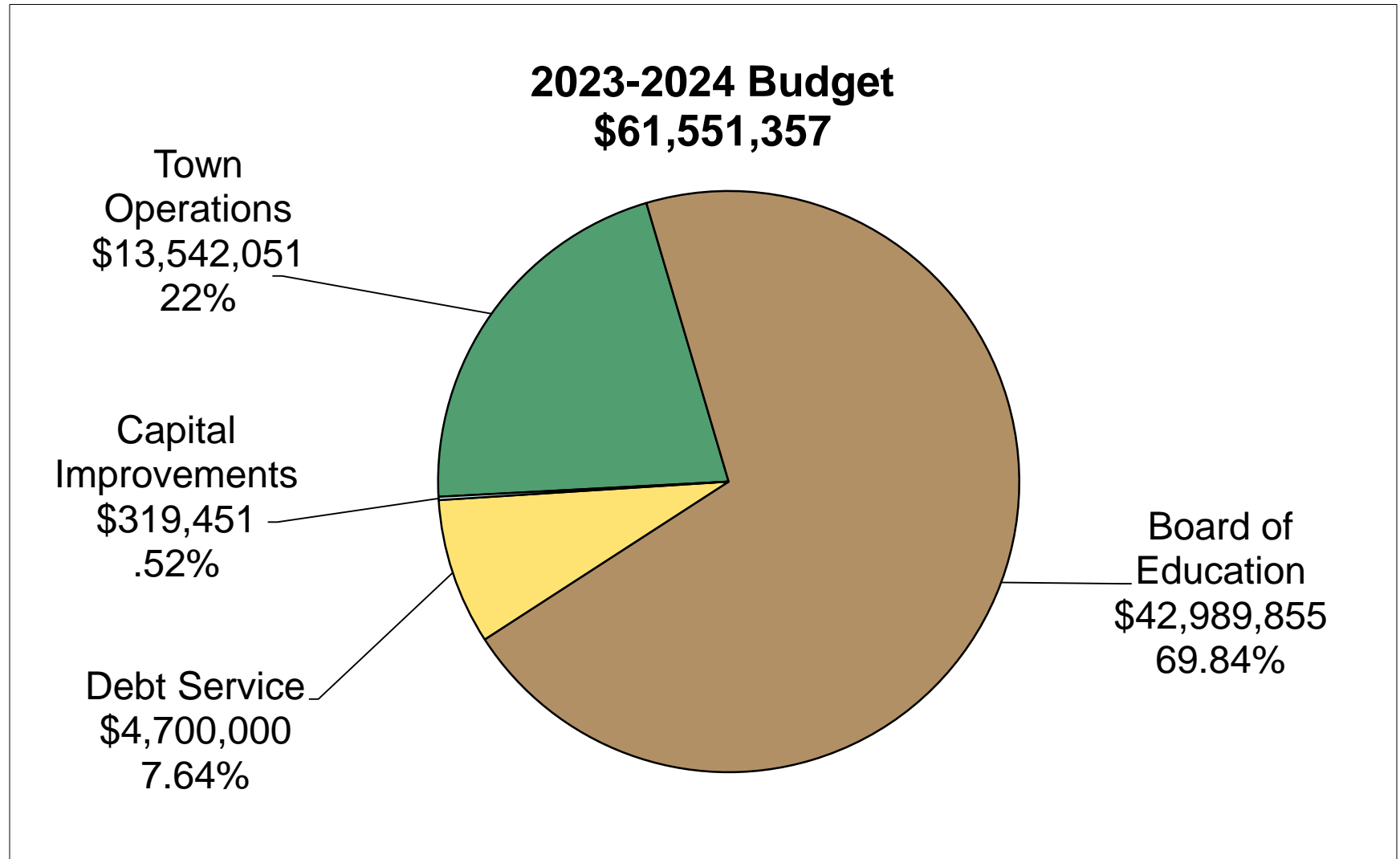


- Historical use of \$200,000 of fund balance maintained.

# The Budget: Expenditures



Controls levels of service and programs

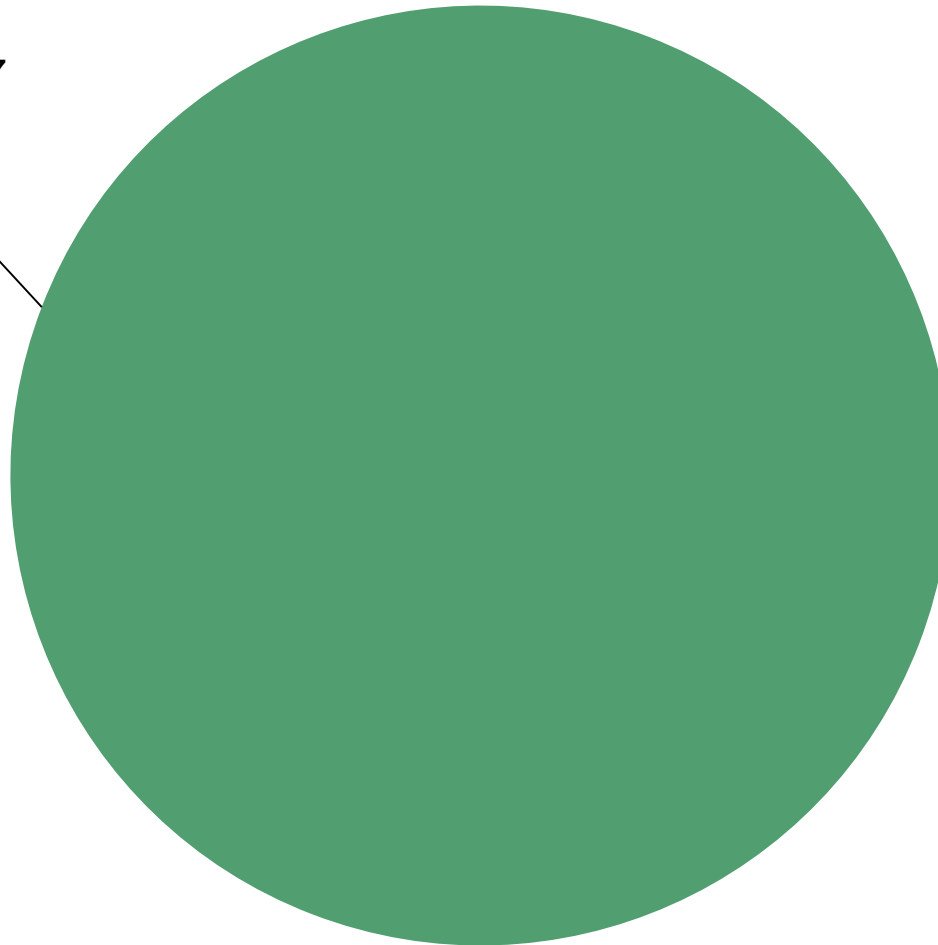


# The Budget: Revenues



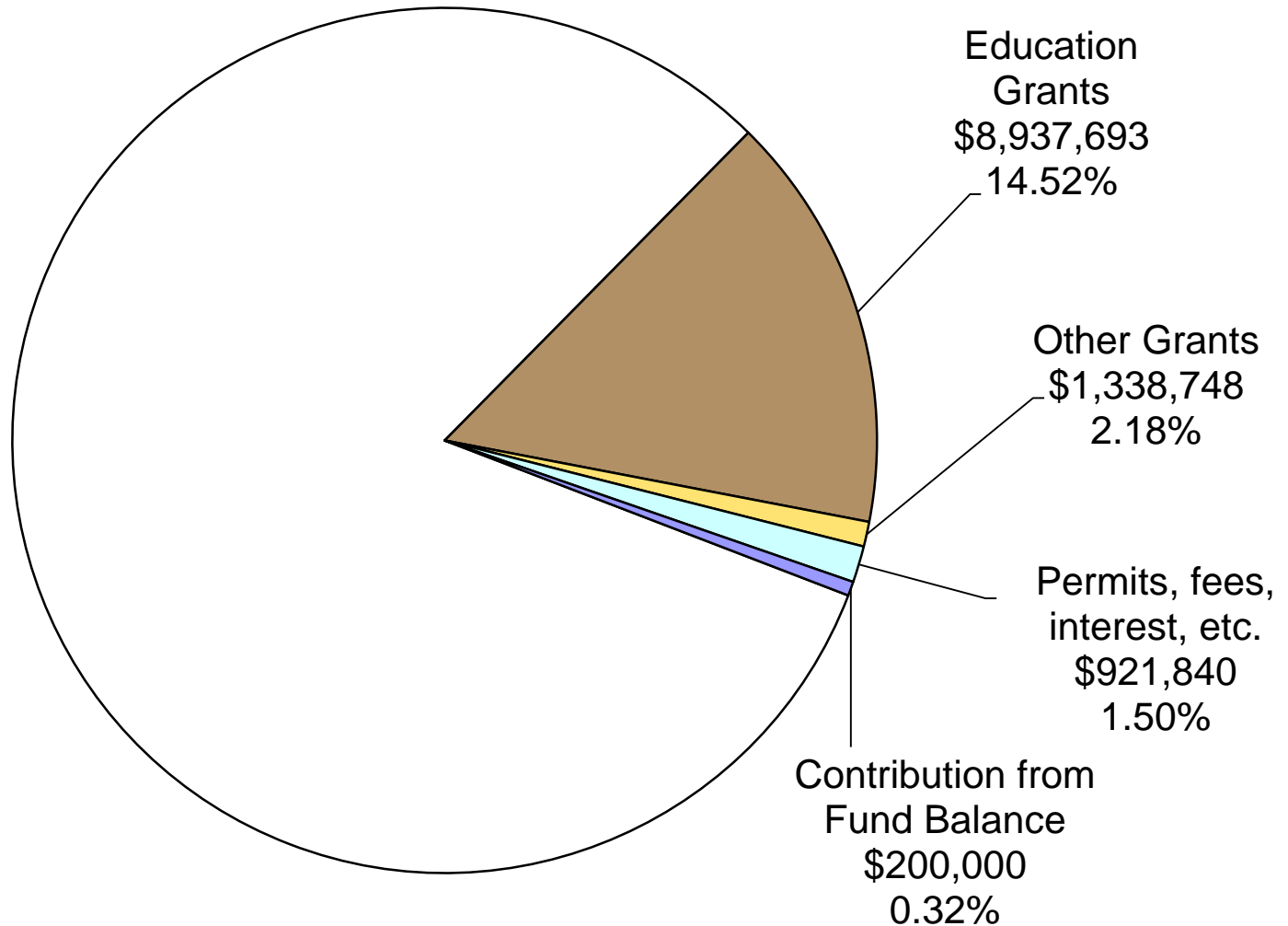
Start with the total need, \$61,551,357

Total need  
\$61,551,357  
100.00%



# The Budget: Revenues

Subtract permits, fees, grants, etc.

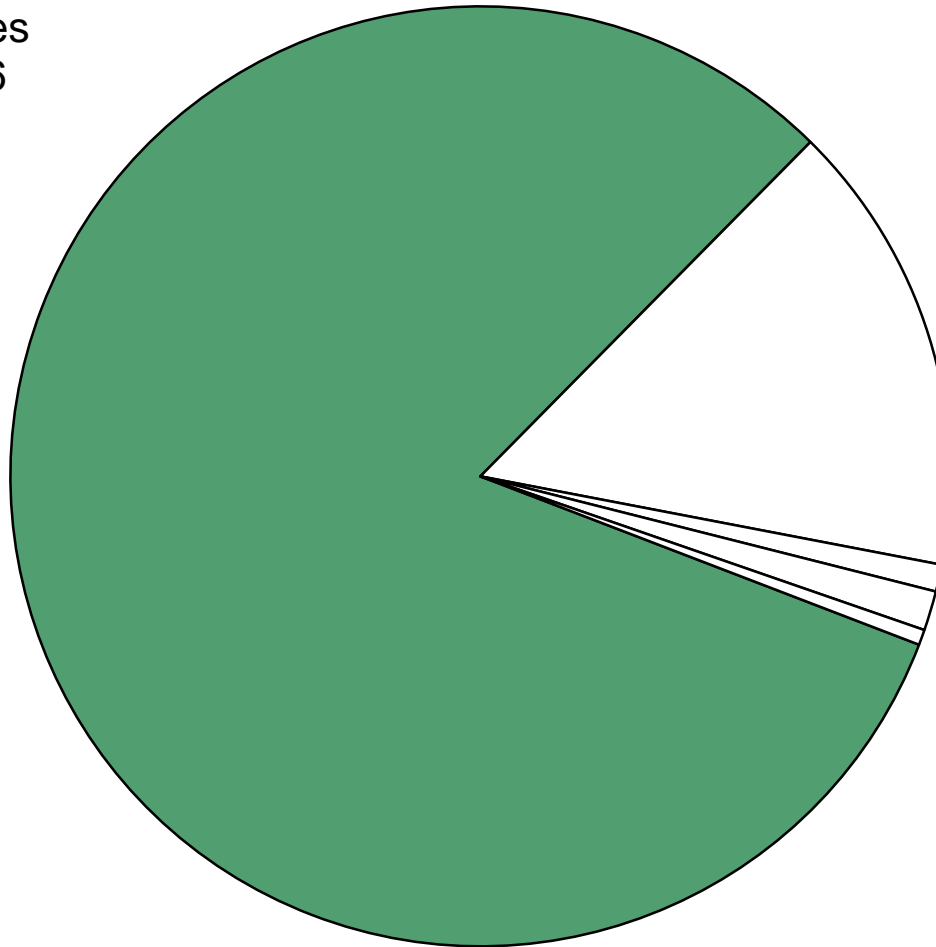


# The Budget: Revenues



What's left is property taxes, \$50,153,076

Property Taxes  
\$50,153,076  
81.48%





# Estimated Taxes—Residential & Commercial



2020 Assessment		Market Value	Taxes at	2022 Assessment	Market Value	Taxes at	Difference
			36.58			37.33	
			FY 22-23			FY 23-24	
<b>Residential:</b>							
<b>Low</b>	\$129,570	\$185,100	\$4,740	\$129,570	\$185,100	\$4,837	\$ 97
<b>Medium</b>	\$178,870	\$255,530	\$6,543	\$178,870	\$255,530	\$6,677	\$ 134
<b>High</b>	\$314,125	\$448,750	\$11,491	\$314,125	\$448,750	\$11,726	\$ 236
<b>Commercial:</b>							
<b>Low</b>	\$ 191,275	\$ 273,250	\$6,997	\$ 191,275	\$ 273,250	\$7,140	\$ 143
<b>Medium</b>	\$ 347,760	\$ 496,800	\$12,721	\$ 347,760	\$ 496,800	\$12,982	\$ 261
<b>High</b>	\$ 785,190	\$ 1,121,700	\$28,722	\$ 785,190	\$ 1,121,700	\$29,311	\$ 589

# Comparable Communities



What's reasonable?

Tolland is at +3.08%

Neighboring communities:

- Ellington: +6.64%
- Coventry: +3.15%
- Mansfield: +5.80%
- Vernon: +2.17%
- Willington: +2.70%

# Creditworthiness: Maintained

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- Last year (FY 22-23)
  - \$200,000 used for Fund Balance and \$68,000 used for committed Fund Balance for Debt Service
- This year
  - \$200,000 fund balance use
- The proposed use of Fund Balance is reasonable and responsible for this budget
  - to maintain an AAA credit rating
  - to maintain financial stability

# Budget Goals Scorecard

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- ✓ Allocate funds for essential services
- ✓ Alleviate employee burnout and support staff with fair compensation
- ✓ Provide minimal impact on Mill rate over a period of time
- ✓ Maintain Creditworthiness

# The Budget Referendum Question

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The budget referendum question:

**Referendum Question** – “Shall the Town of Tolland’s proposed 2023-2024 budget of \$61,551,357, reflecting a spending increase of \$1,840,358 or 3.08% which requires an estimated tax rate of 37.33 mills for an increase of .75 mills or 2.05% be adopted?” Yes/No”

# Where to vote and when

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*Where?*

**Library Program Room**

*When?*

**Tuesday, May 2, 6am-8pm**

# Online Resources

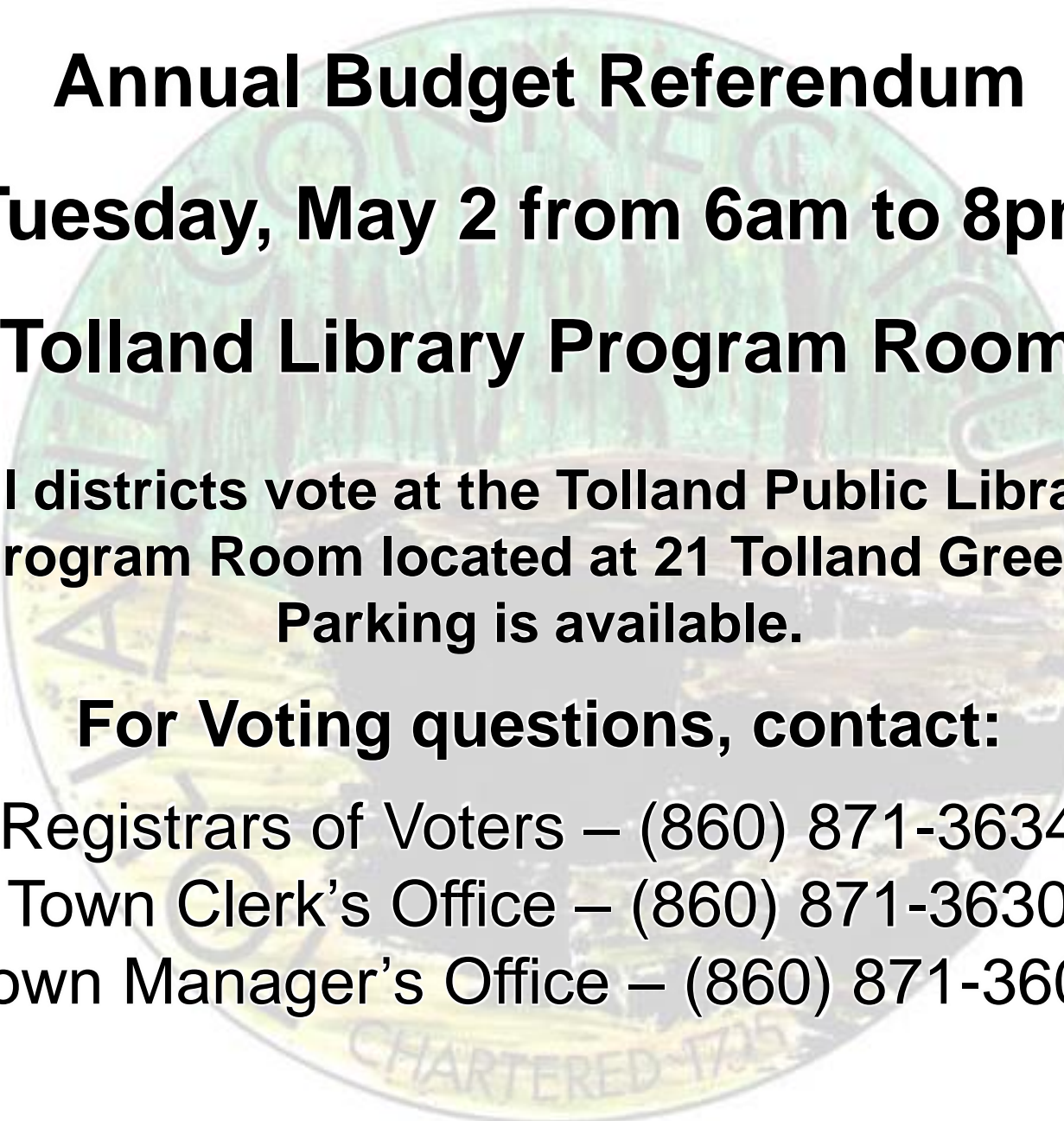
Tax Calculator, Budget Information



**To calculate your own estimated tax, please go to:**

<http://gis.vgsi.com/tollandct/> to obtain your home's assessed value. Your home's assessed value times .03733 will equal next year's estimated tax. To assist in this calculation you may go to the Town's website for the Tax Calculation Form:

[www.tolland.org/tax-department/pages/tax-calculation-form](http://www.tolland.org/tax-department/pages/tax-calculation-form)

The background of the slide features a large, faint watermark of the official seal of the Town of Tolland. The seal is circular and contains the text "TOWN OF TOLLAND" at the top and "CHARTERED 1735" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a landscape scene with a rising sun, a body of water, and a forested hill.

# **Annual Budget Referendum**

## **Tuesday, May 2 from 6am to 8pm**

### **Tolland Library Program Room**

**All districts vote at the Tolland Public Library  
Program Room located at 21 Tolland Green.  
Parking is available.**

**For Voting questions, contact:**

**Registrars of Voters – (860) 871-3634**

**Town Clerk's Office – (860) 871-3630**

**Town Manager's Office – (860) 871-3600**



