



City of Hamilton

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Members
City Council

Date: February 19, 2026

Report No: FCS26001(a)

Subject/Title: 2026 Proposed Tax Budget Update

Ward(s) Affected: (City Wide)

Information

This Memorandum provides an update on the current position of the proposed 2026 Tax Budget, following Council consideration of amendments to the budget at the February 6 and February 13 General Issues Committee – Budget meetings.

Appendix “A” to this memo provides a summary of the impact of each approved amendment resulting in an average residential tax increase of 3.87% or \$209, for an average assessed value of \$387,100.

As a result of these amendments below is a summary of the various components of the 2026 Tax levy

(a)

- (i) a net tax levy of \$783,529,104, representing an increase of \$39,988,974 over 2025 for City Departments;

- (ii) a Capital Levy of \$196,486,430, inclusive of the Area Rating Special Capital Re-Investment levy of \$13,428,870, representing an increase of \$6,000,540 over 2025;
- (iii) a net tax levy of \$83,565,445, representing an increase from 2025 of \$3,557,875 for Hamilton Public Library, Board of Health, Conservation Authorities, MPAC, Hamilton Beach Rescue, Royal Botanical Gardens, Farmers' Market and City Enrichment Fund;
- (iv) a net tax levy of \$240,893,620, representing an increase of \$16,139,200 over 2025 for Hamilton Police Services;
- (v) a net tax levy of \$5,285,360, representing an increase over 2025 of \$186,660 for Public-Safety Answering Point (9-1-1 service);
- (vi) a 2026 gross capital budget of \$621,689,022 and financing plan;

Budget Process – Next steps

The Mayor provided a proposed budget to Council for its consideration on January 20, 2026. City Council has had 30 days to review the Mayor's Proposed Tax Budget, propose amendments, deliberate, and vote on amendments.

If a resolution is passed, the Mayor has 10 calendar days following the expiration of the amendment period (February 19) to veto any budget amendments passed by Council. The Mayor can approve a shorter veto period if they choose to do so. If the Mayor does not veto any amendments, the budget is deemed to be adopted. If the Mayor vetoes any amendments, then within 15 days after the expiry of the veto period, Council may seek to override the veto by a two-thirds majority. If Council does not exercise an override of the Mayor's veto, the proposed budget is deemed adopted.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

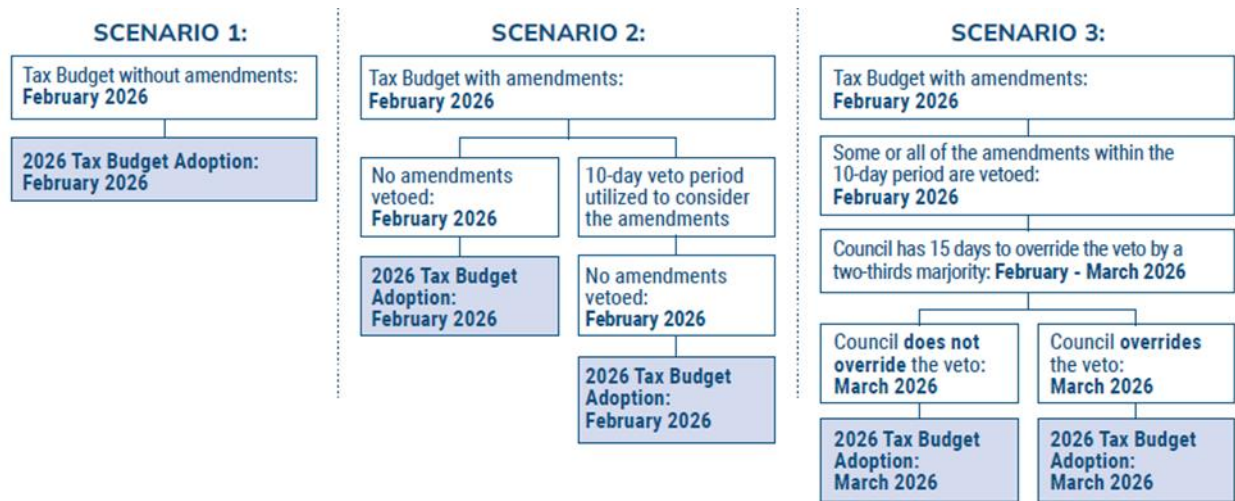
Figure 1 below summarizes the schedule for upcoming budget meetings for the General Issues Committee (GIC) and Council.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

FIGURE 1: 2026 Tax Supported Budget Consideration Timeline



Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix “A” to Report FCS26001(a): 2026 Tax Supported Budget – Amendments to the 2026 Proposed Budget

Prepared by:

Kirk Weaver, Acting Director Financial Planning, Administration and Policy, Corporate Services

Submitted and Recommended by:

Mike Zegarac, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.