



**League of Women Voters at Linden Ponds
2025 Annual Town Meeting
Warrant Overview**

*Hingham Advisory Committee
Tina Sherwood, Chair
March 31, 2025*

How is Hingham run?



A proud history of self governance

Elected Boards

Dedicated Professional Staff

Volunteer Committees

Town Meeting

Current Volunteer Committees, Commissions, Councils and Boards



- Accessory Dwelling Unit Study Committee
- Advisory Committee
- Affordable Housing Trust
- Audit Committee
- Bare Cove Park Committee
- Beautification Commission
- Board of Registrars
- Board of Water Commissioners
- Cable TV Advisory Committee
- Capital Outlay Committee
- Center for Active Living Building Committee
- Cleaner Greener Hingham Committee
- Climate Action Commission
- Commission on Disabilities
- Community Preservation Committee
- Comprehensive Trails Plan Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Council on Aging
- Country Club Management Committee
- Cultural Council
- Development & Industrial Commission
- Energy Action Committee
- Fourth of July Parade Committee
- GAR Hall Trustees
- Harbor Development Committee
- Historic Districts Commission
- Historical Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Lincoln Apartments, LLC
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Master Plan Implementation Committee
- Memorial Bell Tower Committee
- Naming By-Law Committee
- Open Space Acquisition Committee
- Personnel Board
- Public Safety Facility Building Committee
- Retirement Board
- Route 3A Task Force
- Scholarship Fund Committee
- School Building Committee
- Shade Tree Committee
- South Hingham Study Group
- Sustainable Budget Task Force
- Taxation Aid Committee
- Traffic Committee
- Tree Preservation Study Committee
- Trustees of the Bathing Beach
- Veterans' Council
- Water Company Acquisition Study Committee
- Water System Transition and Evaluation Committee
- Weir River Estuary Park Committee
- Weir River Water System Citizen Advisory Board
- Whistleblower Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals



Advisory Committee

- **15-Member volunteer committee appointed by the Moderator**
- **Can serve up to 2 three-year terms**
- **Serves as the Town's Finance Committee**
- **Reviews Town Budgets and Town Meeting Articles and recommends action to the Town**



2025 Warrant Overview Topics

- **Town Meeting Calendar**
- **Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**
- **2025 Warrant Articles**
- **Questions**



Town Meeting Calendar

- **Per the Town By-law:**

- **Town Meeting: 4th Monday in April (April 28, 2025)**
- **Notice (Warrant): Must be delivered to citizens at least 7 days before Town Meeting**

	Jul	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<u>Budget Schedule</u>		Budget assumptions	Budgets developed	Budget hearings	Budget hearings	Budget hearings	Budget hearings and votes
<u>Warrant Schedule</u>	Street acceptances due	CPC applications due		Zoning Articles due	Other Articles due	Article hearings and votes	Article hearings and votes



Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

- **Fiscal Year 2026 begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2026**
- **By law, the Town must adopt a balanced budget**
 - Revenues = Expenses
- **Article 6 includes all operating budgets**
 - 48 Municipal budgets
 - Education budget
 - Enterprise Funds (Water, Sewer, South Shore Country Club)
 - Capital Outlay budget (Municipal, Enterprise, Education)



Advisory Committee Budget Approach

- **Approach**
 - Understand departmental priorities and resulting service levels
 - Evaluate significant changes
 - Assess financial impact (current and future years)
 - Demonstrate fairness, balance, and equity

- **Resources**
 - Financial Policy
 - Five-Year Forecast
 - Capital Outlay Report
 - FY24 – FY28 Financial Management Plan
 - Fund Balance Memo
 - Sustainable Budget Task Force Report



FY24-FY28 Financial Management Plan

- **Commitment of the Select Board, School Committee, Advisory Committee, Town Administrator and the School Superintendent**
- **With passage of 2023 \$8MM override, municipal and school expenses will be held to 3.5% growth rate with no operational overrides until at least FY28**
 - **Growth rate based on Sustainable Budget Task Force recommendation**

Maximum Operating Budgets	2024	2025	2026	2027
Municipal Budget (3.5%)	\$ 34,731,577	\$ 35,947,182	\$ 37,205,334	\$ 38,507,520
OOD tuition and special education contracts (2% fixed annual growth rate - see Section 1d above)	\$ 3,194,702	\$ 3,258,596	\$ 3,323,768	\$ 3,390,243
Other School expenses	\$ 62,509,283	\$ 64,745,028	\$ 67,059,983	\$ 69,456,939
School Budget (3.5%)	\$ 65,703,985	\$ 68,003,624	\$ 70,383,751	\$ 72,847,183

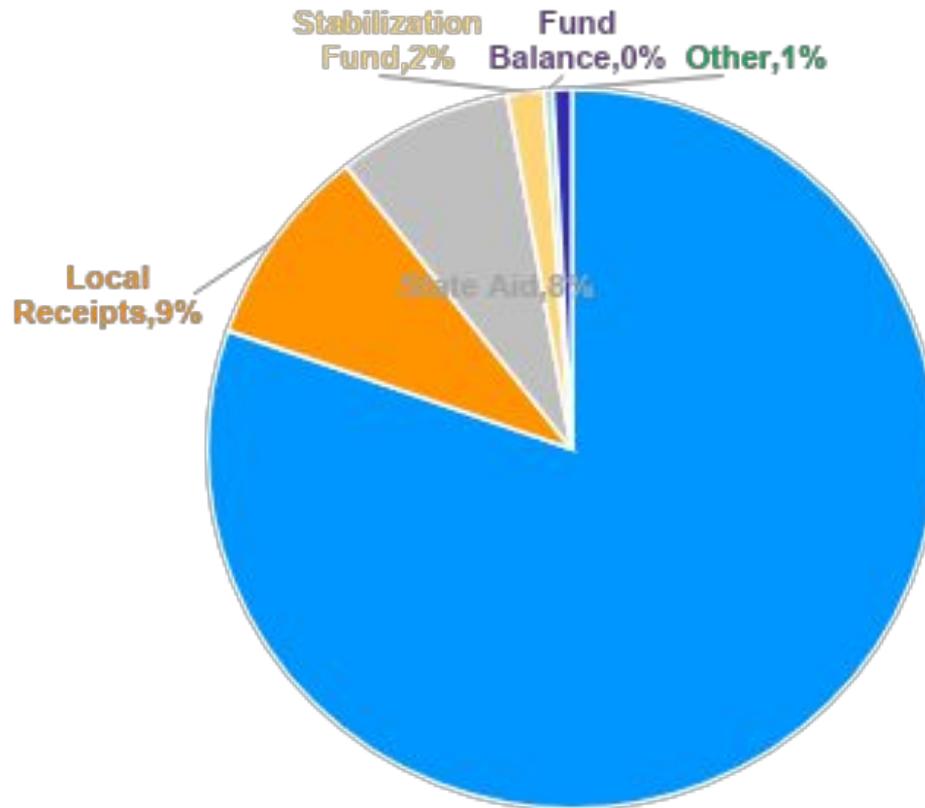
Five-Year Forecast (\$ millions)



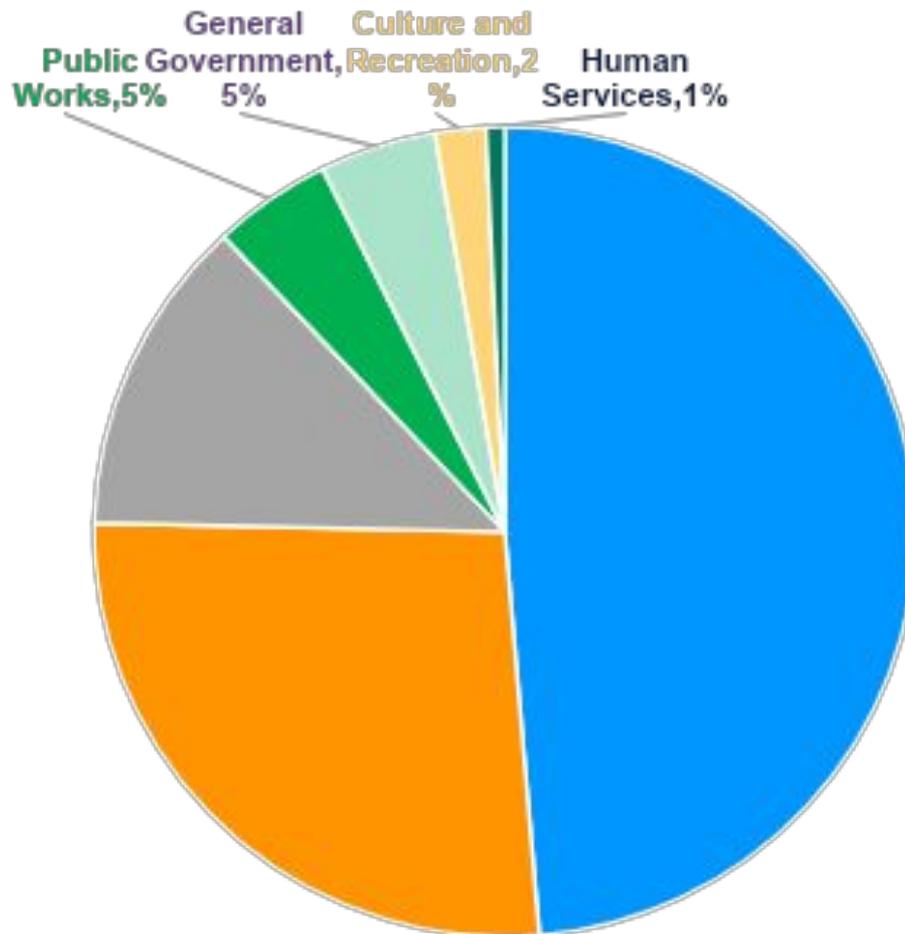
	Estimate FY25	Forecast FY26	Forecast FY27	Forecast FY28	Forecast FY29	Forecast FY30
Total Sources of Funds	\$163.7	\$169.3	\$173.0	\$177.0	\$180.0	\$184.0
Total Uses of Funds	\$163.4	\$169.3	\$174.8	\$180.4	\$184.8	\$191.0
Excess/ (Shortfall)	\$0.3	\$0	\$(1.8)	\$(3.4)	\$(4.8)	\$(7.0)

Forecast assumes 3.5% municipal and education budget growth each year

FY26 Sources of Revenue (excluding Enterprise Funds)



FY 2026 Proposed Article 6 Budget (excluding Enterprise Funds)



2024 Warrant Articles



- **46 proposed articles**
 - **13 Perennial Articles**
 - **1 Community Preservation Article with six projects (\$2.3mm)**
 - **13 New Business Articles that do not require funding**
 - **15 New Business and School Articles that require funding**
 - **\$7.5 million Unassigned Fund Balance**
 - **\$9.0 million Non-Excluded Debt**
 - **\$4.0 million Enterprise Funds (Water and Country Club)**
 - **\$2.2 million Capital Stabilization Fund**
 - **5 Zoning Articles**



Perennial Warrant Articles

- **Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund**
- **Assume Liability for Dept. of Conservation and Recreation**
- **Reports of Various Town Committees**
- **Report of the Personnel Board**
- **Salaries of Certain Town Officers**
- **Budgets**
- **Transfer from the Stabilization Fund**
- **Disbursement of Electric Light Department Receipts**
- **Building Department Revolving Fund**
- **Center for Active Living Revolving Fund**
- **Transfer Funds to the Reserve Fund**
- **Granting and Acceptance of Easements**
- **Transfer Harbor Revenues to Municipal Waterways Fund**

2025 Community Preservation Committee Projects



- **CPC Administrative Fund - \$40,000**
- **Payment of bonds or notes borrowed for Community Preservation:
Lehner Property - \$209,179**
- **Hingham Affordable Housing Trust Opportunity Fund - \$700,000**
- **Old Ordinary Campus Improvements - \$600,000**
- **Pickleball Courts - \$758,640 (Warrant article for remainder of project funding)**
- **Appropriation of proceeds from the sales of housing purchased with CPA Funds to Hingham Affordable Housing Trust Opportunity Fund**

2025 New Business Articles That Do Not Involve Funding



- **Specialized Energy Code**
- **Citizen Petition: Home Rule Petition: Liquor License to Hingham Gas**
- **Town Election Voting Hours**
- **Transfer of HMLP Parcel to Weir River Water System**
- **Acceptance of M.G.L. c.59 §5, clause 22I: Veterans Tax Exemptions**
- **Cell Tower Lease at Water Treatment Plant**
- **Home Rule Petition: Alternative methods for Publication of Legal Notices**
- **School Bus Leases**
- **School Bus Lease Terms**
- **School Building Committee**
- **Transfer of Tax Title Sale Proceeds into the Capital Stabilization Fund**
- **Recreation Department Revolving Fund**

2025 Town Articles that Involve Funding



Article	Amount	Source of funds
Transfer from the Capital Project Cost & Debt Service Stabilization Fund	\$2,200,000	Capital Project Cost & Debt Service Stabilization Fund
Recreation Commission New Pickleball Courts	\$1,278,010	Unassigned Fund Balance
Repair/Reconstruction of Town Pier Wharf and Inner Harbor Structures	\$5,650,000	Non-excluded Debt (previously approved – expanding scope)
Digitization of Town of Hingham Municipal Government Records	\$40,000	Unassigned Fund Balance
South Shore Country Club: Pool removal and Authorization to Borrow for Equipment and Renovations	\$450,000 \$957,887	Unassigned Fund Balance Country Club Revenues
Acceptance of M.G.L. c.40, §71: School Bus Cameras	TBD	Grant (if we move forward)
Authorization to Borrow for Water Capital Projects	\$3,000,000	Water Revenues
DPW Vehicles and Equipment	\$1,611,404	Unassigned Fund Balance



2025 School Articles Requiring Funding

- **High School Roof and HVAC Replacement Design with Solar - \$3,310,000 (Non-Excluded Debt)**
 - Cost to replace subject to approval from future Town Meeting
 - Estimated replacement cost (3/29/25) - \$40,994,00
- **Plymouth River School Roof Design - \$370,000 (Unassigned Fund Balance)**
 - Cost to replace subject to approval from future Town Meeting
 - Estimated replacement cost (3/29/25) - \$6,100,000
- **South School Roof Design - \$320,000 (Unassigned Fund Balance)**
 - Cost to replace subject to approval from future Town Meeting
 - Estimated replacement cost (3/29/25) - \$5,400,000
- **High School Turf Replacement - \$630,000 (Unassigned Fund Balance)**
- **School Extraordinary Repairs - \$309,198 (Unassigned Fund Balance)**



Center for Active Living

- **Design, Bid Documents and OPM Funds - \$2,500,000 million (Unassigned Fund Balance)**
- **Current Cost Estimate for future project - ~\$35,000,000**
- **Article 97 Legislation**





Zoning By-law Amendment Articles

- **Update to Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations**
- **Exemption for Lots or Structures Affected by Taking**
- **Signage Reference Correction**
- **Extension or Alteration of Nonconforming Uses and Structures**
- **Expiration of Cell Tower Special Permits**

our future. our choices.
OUR TOWN



Thank you for your interest!



Questions

