

# FY 2026–2027 GUILFORD TOWN BUDGET

Budget Referendum • May 19, 2026 • A thorough, transparent, community-focused guide

## WHAT IS THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET?

The Annual Town Budget covers all proposed revenues and expenditures for the Town of Guilford and the Board of Education for FY July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. In Guilford, voters have the final say on the budget — including both Town services and the schools — through the annual referendum.

## KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

<p><b>4.98%</b></p> <p><b>Combined Budget Increase</b> Year-over-year, after all reductions</p>	<p><b>3.44%</b></p> <p><b>Projected Mill Rate Increase</b> 27.65 → 28.60 mills</p>	<p><b>\$32/mo</b></p> <p><b>Typical Home Impact</b> For a home assessed at \$400K</p>	<p><b>\$4.05M</b></p> <p><b>Total Budget Reductions</b> Dept. cuts + two BOF rounds</p>
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OF NOTE

The State may send Guilford additional school funding, which could bring your tax increase below the 3.44% shown here. For context: everyday prices have risen 3.3% over the past year — Guilford's tax increases have actually stayed below that benchmark every year from 2020-2025.

## A BUDGET BUILT ON FISCAL DISCIPLINE

Before reaching the Board of Finance, departments and boards had already cut \$2.55 million from their own requests. The BOF then reduced the budget twice — \$750K in March and \$750K on April 27 — for \$1.5M in BOF reductions. In total, more than \$4 million was cut from what departments originally requested.

BOE	BOS	BOF	BOF
Reduced School Dept. Requests	Reduced Town Dept. Requests	Round 1 Cut March 2026	Round 2 Cut April 27, 2026
<b>\$1.22M</b>	<b>\$1.33M</b>	<b>\$750K</b>	<b>\$750K</b>

Total reductions: **\$4.05 million** cut from original department requests — before a single vote was cast.

## WHY DID COSTS INCREASE?

The same forces driving up every household's budget are driving up the cost of Town services — these are market realities, not discretionary choices (bullets following page):

- **Medical insurance:** Substantial increase for a second consecutive year. The \$750K of fund balance used to offset last year's increase is now exhausted. BOS, BOE, and BOF have formed a task force to evaluate alternatives.
- **Non-discretionary costs:** Fuel, electricity, supplies, and contracted services all reflect broad market increases.
- **Cumulative pressure:** Last year's \$925K in BOF reductions required this year's budget to absorb two years of compounding increases.
- **Schools:** Enrollment declines allowed staffing reductions. Contractual obligations retain Guilford's high-quality teaching staff.
- **Town services:** Health/Building, Public Works, and Fire added staffing to maintain service levels, implement efficiencies, and generate revenue.

**BUDGET PROCESS: OCTOBER 2025 – MAY 2026**

<b>Oct 2025–Feb 2026</b>	Departments submitted requests. BOS & BOE held public meetings and workshops. Superintendent/BOE cut \$1.22M; BOS cut \$1.33M — \$2.55M in departmental reductions before the BOF reviewed a single page.
<b>Early Mar 2026</b>	Board of Finance conducted public hearings; reduced combined budget \$750K (\$450K Town / \$300K BOE).
<b>April 21, 2026</b>	First Referendum narrowly failed. BOF convened a special meeting six days later.
<b>April 27, 2026</b>	BOF reduced combined budget an additional \$750K (\$225K Town / \$525K BOE) — bringing total BOF reductions to \$1.5M.
<b>May 19, 2026</b>	Second Referendum. Polls open 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Your vote counts.

**YOUR VOTE — MAY 19, 2026**

**Polling Locations** — Polls open 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Find your district below.

<p><b>District 1</b>  <b>Calvin Leete School</b>                  280 South Union St.</p>	<p><b>District 2</b>  <b>Abraham Baldwin Middle School</b>                  68 Bullard Dr.</p>
<p><b>District 3</b>  <b>Guilford Fire Dept. HQ</b>                  390 Church St.</p>	<p><b>District 4</b>  <b>Melissa Jones School</b>                  181 Ledge Hill Rd.</p>
<p><b>District 5</b>  <b>A.W. Cox School</b>                  143 Three Mile Course</p>	<p><b>VOTE YES — MAY 19</b>                  Polls Open 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM                  Reviewed, revised, and reduced at every level. Vote YES for the services and schools Guilford families depend on.</p>