

November 30, 2024



WeVoters Newsletter

Happy Holidays! Quincy issues are being spawned at a horrific rate and we all need to pay attention. And we need to act.

The issues:

Property Taxes. This year, Quincy residential property taxes will likely increase, including the equally likely adjustment for increased property values. (Yes, we have heard many times that we should be grateful that the value of our houses is going up. But not for those of us who want to continue to live here). Our property taxes account for 75.64% (2025 Adopted Budget) of the total city budget. It is interesting that from '24 to '25, the % of tax revenues from commercial properties decreased. In case you want to read the proposed budget.

<https://cms7files1.revize.com/quincyma2024/Fiscal%20Year%202025%20Proposed%20Budget.pdf> On page 9, you might notice that the cost of debt service is more than the cost of infrastructure management.

It is our right and responsibility to speak out about property taxes and how our taxes are being spent. **December 2, Public Hearing at 6:45PM at Quincy City Hall, 1305 Hancock Street.**

What are the issues underlying increased property taxes? It is **spending**---just like for our own budgets. When you spend more than you earn---you are in debt, as well as you need to increase revenue, i.e. property taxes!

Quincy is in about \$1.5 billion in debt. About \$475 million was to make up for a pension shortfall (how was the pension so mismanaged?). But then \$3.5 million was stolen from the pension fund and Quincy didn't know for several months. There are more issues around Quincy management of money. The former department head of Quincy Elder Services is under federal investigation for financial irregularities. Quincy wants to provide a 50-year lease extension for public land (Quincy Hills Associates, golf course), with lucrative terms for the operator/developer, but not the public. Quincy has spent 10s of millions of dollars acquiring property in Quincy. The latest proposed acquisition is Acapulcos in Quincy Center. They want to replace a tax paying business with a pocket park. The Mayor has proposed taking over State-owned (DCR) for which we are already paying State taxes. (Will our State taxes go down if Quincy takes over State-owned property?)

You can see how much debt Quincy is here [https://cms7files1.revize.com/quincyma2024/24-06-30%20Quincy%20Debt%20Book%20\(Projected\).pdf](https://cms7files1.revize.com/quincyma2024/24-06-30%20Quincy%20Debt%20Book%20(Projected).pdf) .

Money spent on education, public safety, and infrastructure (our streets and sidewalks) is money well spent. But money spent to buy statues, over support developers, and invest in vanity projects is not money well spent.

For all this, the mayor wanted to reward himself with a **79%** raise in salary and the city council, **50%**. The State Ethics Committee influenced the deferral of those raises, but Quincy property tax payers will still see the bill, because the deferral didn't include repealing the raises. The money goes into a fund. And you might think about the fact that the State Ethics Committee influenced the Mayor, but Quincy taxpayers did not.



Below are some of the activities we are working on right now. These activities are aimed at regaining control of our city—we love Quincy. That is why we are still here despite the fact that we have a local government that just won't listen to the public. Can you help out? Let us know by replying to this email, if you have the time, interest and enthusiasm to help with any or all of the activities below.

QATV series about our local government, including interviews with future candidates for the City Council (in 2025, we have an opportunity to replace those city councilors that are neither transparent nor accountable).

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote Working with the communities with low turnouts.

Creating a list of State and Federal Agencies and Elected Officials to ask for help.

Creating a Civics 101/Civil Disobedience Training Program for the Under 30 Demographic

Survey to Assess What People want to know about our city government

Organizing a Ballot Question on the Raises for 2025. We will be lending support to this important effort. It will require collecting signatures and will provide an opportunity to talk with people about voting, potential city council candidates, and issues we would like to see corrected.

As previously emailed, we also need to stop another bad deal for Quincy, namely the 50 year lease extension for the Granite Links Golf Course.

- **December 3rd, Community Meeting** conducted by QHA and Councilor Campbell.
(5:30pm, Granite Links Golf Club 100 Quarry Hills Drive)
- **December 9th, Public Hearing through Ordinance Committee** (6:35 PM in in the Great Hall at Historic City Hall 1305 Hancock Street) (Potential deliberation and vote out of Committee)
- **December 16th, City Council Meeting**, (Potential Final Vote)

Enjoy the next month! It is joyous, regardless of politics.

Kathy and Susan

