

# Finance Committee

Summary of Report

Annual Town Meeting

April 29, 2024

# Finance Committee

Primary Responsibility:

To make recommendations and set budget guidelines to help Concord maintain and strengthen its long-term financial health.

# Finance Committee Objectives

- ✓ Maintain excess levy limit capacity to avoid general overrides
- ✓ Maintain adequate free cash balance
- ✓ Continue investing in ongoing capital needs
- ✓ Avoid burdening taxpayers beyond projected growth in income
- ✓ Maintain the Town's character, including economic diversity of residents

# Expect Substantial Property Tax Increases...

- Expenses growing faster than non-property tax revenue

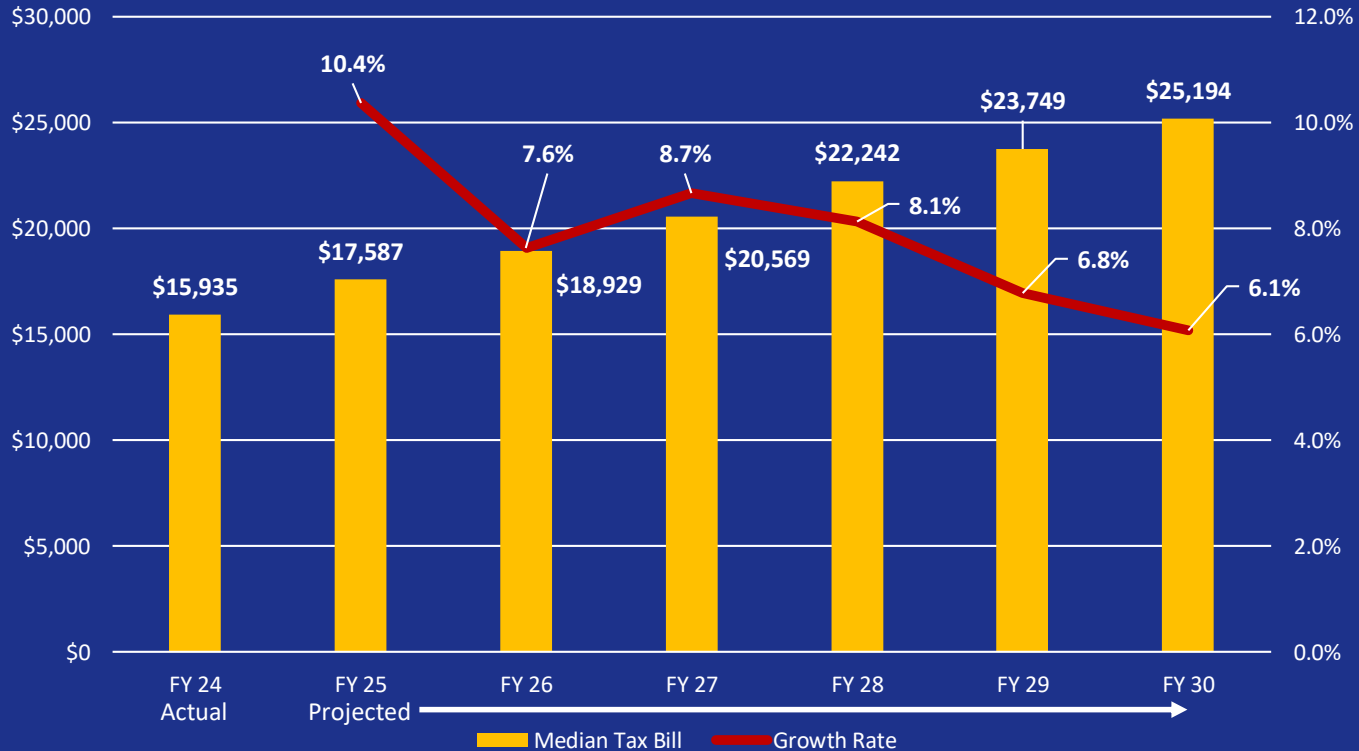
	FY 2018-2023	FY 2024-2029
Expenses	3.0%	4.2%
Non-property tax revenue	2.4%	2.9%

- Difference must be made up by increasing property taxes
- 93% of property tax revenue from residential properties

Table shows compound annual growth rates.

# Projected 7.9% Annual Increases in Median Tax Bill

Median Tax Bill, FY 24 – FY 30



## ...Not Counting Impact of Future Projects...

- Future projects will add additional costs:
  - \$75+ million for public works, public safety buildings
  - \$4 million per year for road maintenance
  - \$XX million? 2229 Main Street
  - \$XX million? MCI
  - \$1-2 million restroom building at CCRSD
  - \$X million for Thoreau
  - \$X million for track and field at CCRSD

## ...Nor Potential Increases in Fees/Rates

- Future projects will add additional costs:
  - \$XX million for Nagog Pond and forever chemicals mitigation
  - \$XX million for Stormwater Fund

# To Lower Property Taxes, Changes Are Needed

## **Town and School Leaders should:**

- Develop strategic plan to prioritize competing demand for resources
- Moderate Town and schools' spending growth
- Develop integrated capital plan for Town and School capital projects

## **Residents will have to:**

- Make difficult choices among competing needs
- Make your voices heard
- Vote
- Attend Annual Town Meetings