







BUDGET 2026

INVESTING IN THE SERVICES YOU DEPEND ON

APPROVED

burlington.ca/budget

CITY OF Burlington

Table of Contents

Budget Summary

A Message from Mayor Meed Ward 3
Burlington City Council 4
A Message from CAO Curt Benson 5
Budget Process 6
Budget Principles 7
Services You Depend on
- Welcoming Parks and Community Centres 8
- Resilient Infrastructure 9
- Swift Emergency Response 10
- Reliable Transit 11
- Flood Protection 12
- Safe Streets 13

Factors that Impact the City Budget 14
Managing Burlington's Infrastructure Assets 15
Budget Efficiencies and Savings 16
2026 Budgeted Revenue 18
Where Your Tax Dollars Go 19
2026 Budget Key Operating Investments 20
2026 Budget Key Capital Investments 21
Major Drivers of the Budget Increase 22
Proposed 2026 Budget 23
Property Tax Impact 24
2026 Budget and Your Property Taxes 26
Tax Breakdown 27
Municipal Comparators 28
Grants and Assistance 2026 29
Engagement Opportunities 30

Operating Details

Operating Budget Financial Summary 33
Key Performance Indicators 40
Urban / Rural Tax Rate Calculation 48

Key Investment

Summary of 2026 Key Investments 55
Engagement Enhancements 56
Cyber Security Enhancements 58
Senior Environmental Planner - Ecology 60
Transit Mechanic 62
Urban Forestry Master Plan Implementation 65
Waste Management in Parks 68
Windrow Removal Program 70
Library Service and New Appleby Branch 72
Portfolio Manager 76

Development and Growth Management

Divisional Budget Summary 81
Departmental Overview
- Development and Growth Management Admin 82
- By-law Compliance 84
- Building 87
- Community Planning 93

Community Services

Divisional Budget Summary 99
Departmental Overview
Community Services Admin 100
Transit 102
Recreation, Community and Culture 107
Fire 114
Customer Experience 122

Public Works

Divisional Budget Summary 129
Departmental Overview
Public Works Admin 130
Engineering Services 133
Transportation Services 138
Roads, Parks and Forestry 145

Legal and Legislative Services

Divisional Budget Summary 151
Departmental Overview
Legal and Legislative Services Admin 152
Corporate Legal and Halton Court Services 154
Legislative Services 159
Mayor and Council 162

Enabling Services

Divisional Budget Summary 169
Departmental Overview
Corporate Affairs 170
Burlington Digital Services 175
Finance 181
Human Resources 184
Transformation Office 188

Local Boards

Divisional Budget Summary 195
Departmental Overview
Art Gallery of Burlington 196
Burlington Public Library 205
Burlington Museums 210
Burlington Economic Development and Tourism 215
Burlington Performing Arts Centre 222

Corporate Expenditures and Revenues

Corporate Expenditures and Revenues – Summary 229

Capital Details

Capital Budget Financial Summary 233
Capital 4 Year Project Listing and Maps
Facilities and Buildings 243
Information Technology 281
Parks and Open Space 305
Roadways 385
Stormwater Management 479
Studies 521
Vehicles and Equipment 529

2026 Approved Budget

2026 Operating and Capital Budgets

2027–2035 Capital Forecast



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Throughout the budget process, City Council focused on accounting for inflation and investing in infrastructure and services residents told us matter most.

The 2026 City budget represents a true community, staff, and Council effort. With economic pressures impacting everyone in our community, City Council focused on accounting for inflation and investing in infrastructure and services residents told us matter most.

The approved budget balances fiscal responsibility with ensuring a state of good repair and planning for our future. Every item was carefully reviewed by Council, with non-priority items cut to add funds for stormwater management and infrastructure. Residents should see their investments in action already, and throughout this year in parks, roads, and community amenities.

I thank Council for their hard work and dedication throughout this process. Most importantly, thank you to our community. Your feedback, ideas, and input helped shape this budget. The result is a budget that reflects the voices of our community.

Marianne Meed Ward
Mayor, City of Burlington

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

City Council plays a vital role in guiding the direction of Burlington. As your elected representatives, councillors are responsible for determining the services the city provides, developing and evaluating municipal policies and programs, and ensuring that proper administrative practices are in place to implement decisions effectively.

Council members are also tasked with maintaining the accountability, transparency, and financial integrity of the city's operations. In fulfilling these duties, they work to ensure that Burlington remains a vibrant, well-functioning community that meets the needs of residents today and in the years to come.



Mayor Marianne Meed-Ward



Ward 1
Councillor Kelvin Galbraith

Deputy Mayor for Business and Red Tape Reduction



Ward 2
Councillor Lisa Kearns

Deputy Mayor for Community Engagement and Partnerships



Ward 3
Councillor Rory Nisan

Deputy Mayor for the Environment



Ward 4
Councillor Shawna Stolte

Deputy Mayor for Housing



Ward 5
Councillor Paul Sharman

Deputy Mayor for Strategy and Budgets



Ward 6
Councillor Angelo Bentivegna

Deputy Mayor for Recreation and Community Services



In the face of rising costs, this budget holds firm on the essentials: safe streets and sidewalks, responsive emergency and fire services, reliable transit, maintaining parks and recreation, and strong community centres. These are the investments you see and feel in daily life.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Burlington's approved 2026 Budget is built around preserving the core of what makes Burlington a place people are proud to live and work, while also navigating the fiscal reality we face together.

In the face of rising costs, this budget holds firm on the essentials: safe streets and sidewalks, responsive emergency and fire services, reliable transit, and thriving parks, recreation, and community centres. These are the investments residents see, feel and depend on every day.

As our city grows and faces ongoing climate challenges, we are investing in infrastructure built to last. We are directing resources to stormwater systems, flood mitigation, road repair, and asset renewal to reduce future repair burdens.

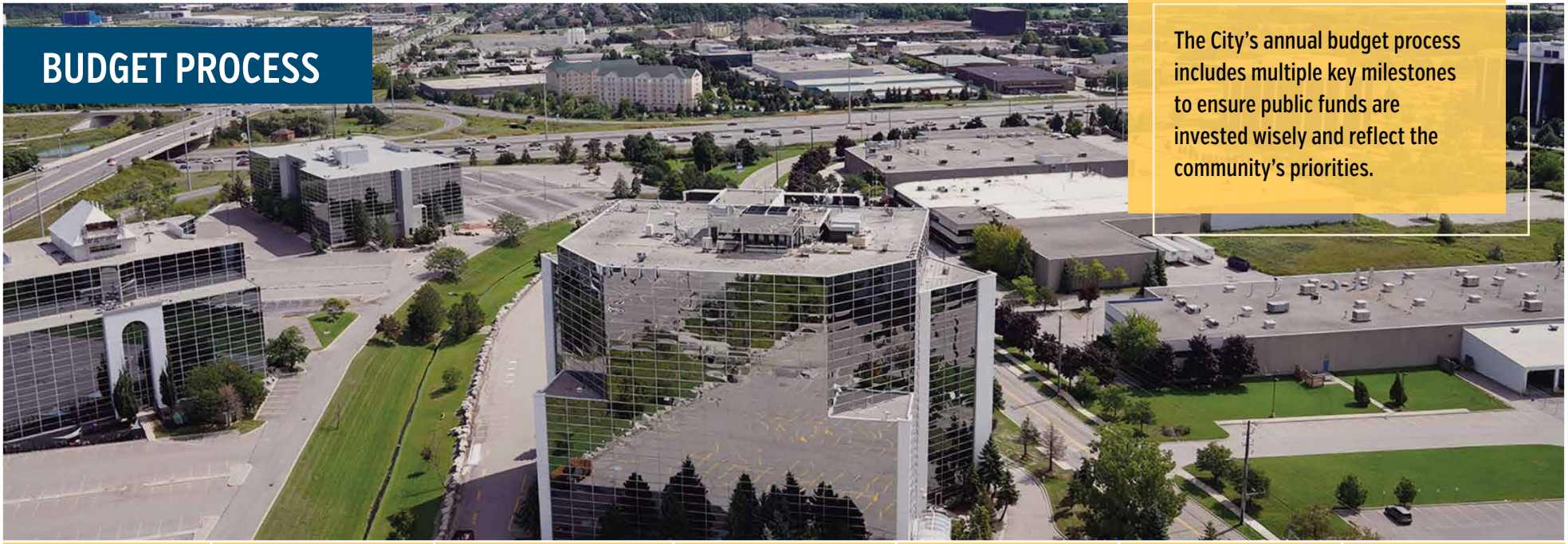
We know every tax dollar counts. That's why this budget protects and, where possible strengthens, programs such as property tax relief, low-income fee subsidies, and targeted transit support. At the same time, we are working to grow non-tax revenues and identify efficiency gains across departments by aligning resources, using technology more effectively, and finding operational savings where we can.

Amid continued economic pressures like inflation, interest rates, and higher material costs affecting municipalities, this budget makes disciplined choices to keep services reliable and the City of Burlington strong. It sets clear priorities, protects Burlington's long-term stability, and reinforces our commitment to transparency: ensuring residents can see where their tax dollars go and the value they deliver every day.

I want to thank our staff for their thoughtful work in developing the 2026 Budget, and Council for their continued focus on community priorities and fiscal responsibility. To Burlington residents, thank you for your engagement throughout the budget process. Your thoughts and feedback are vital as we continue to navigate the pressures facing our City.

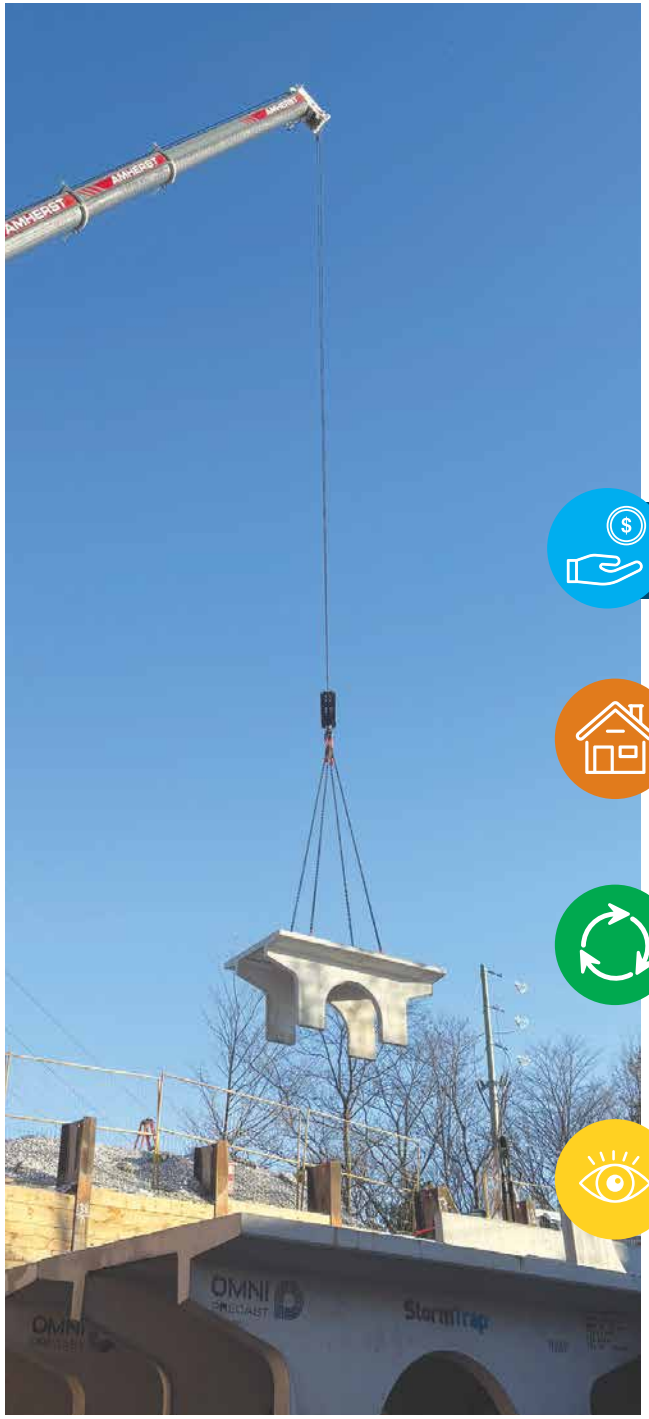
Curt Benson
Chief Administrative Officer

BUDGET PROCESS



The City's annual budget process includes multiple key milestones to ensure public funds are invested wisely and reflect the community's priorities.

JULY 15	AUGUST TO NOVEMBER	OCT. 24	NOV. 3	NOV. 13	NOV. 24	DEC. 2
2026 Financial Forecast report approved by Burlington City Council.	Opportunities for public engagement, including in-person Budget Town Hall meetings, led by Mayor Meed Ward and participating Ward Councillors, and a 2026 Budget Telephone Town Hall on Nov. 5, from 7–8:30 p.m.	Proposed 2026 Budget posted to City's website, **burlington.ca/budget** and **getinvolvedburlington.ca/2026budget**.	Proposed 2026 Budget presented to City Council at Committee of the Whole meeting, 1 p.m. at City Hall, 426 Brant St. or livestream at **burlington.ca/calendar**. Delegations were welcomed.	A presentation from each Division of the City at Budget Committee meeting, 1 p.m. at City Hall, 426 Brant St. or livestream at **burlington.ca/calendar**.	Review of the proposed 2026 Budget, including any amendments put forward by City Council members, at Budget Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m. at City Hall, 426 Brant St. or livestream at **burlington.ca/calendar**. Delegations were welcomed.	Special Council meeting to finalize 2026 Budget, 9:30 a.m. at City Hall, 426 Brant St. or livestream at **burlington.ca/calendar**. Delegations were welcomed.



BUDGET PRINCIPLES

All new investments in the 2026 Budget were considered based on how they satisfy the four main budget principles – affordability, livability, sustainability and transparency.

As economic pressures make life harder for everyone in our community, the 2026 Budget focuses on affordability and keeping services strong amid global uncertainty.

AFFORDABILITY

A focus on affordability means offering programs like low-income tax relief, free transit, and fee subsidies; limiting tax increases to essential, community-identified needs; finding efficiencies and non-tax revenue sources; and fostering a competitive business environment to grow the tax base and ease the burden on residents.

LIVABILITY

Making sure the quality of life for the residents of Burlington is upheld and the services you depend on are enhanced, especially as we continue to grow by over 40 per cent in the next 25 years.

SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure a sustainable financial future, City budgets need to prepare for growing resident needs. This includes a 2% levy to invest in aging infrastructure, aligning rates and fees with inflation and market trends, and strengthening the City's financial health through reserves, non-tax revenues, and advocating for funding from other levels of government.

TRANSPARENCY

Residents have told us you want a simple, clear way to follow the budget process and understand how it affects your property taxes.

This document is designed to give you a summary of the budget – using visuals and plain language whenever possible.

SERVICES YOU DEPEND ON

WELCOMING PARKS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES



Burlington's parks and community centres offer programs, sports, and activities that bring people together and make Burlington a great place to call home.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS



The City is excited to open two new community facilities this fall – Skyway Community Centre and Park (129 Kenwood Ave.) and Robert Bateman Community Centre (5151 New St.). As our community grows, these investments ensure our city continues to have inviting spaces where people of all ages can come together to connect, stay active, and thrive.

Skyway features a 47,000 square-foot community space, NHL-sized ice pad, and energy efficient systems like geothermal heating.

Robert Bateman is home to the New Appleby Branch of the Burlington Public Library and Brock University classes starting in September 2025.

STATISTICS

9	COMMUNITY CENTRES, ATTRACTING AN AVERAGE OF 153,357 PARTICIPANTS EACH MONTH DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2025
236	COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS
125	PLAYGROUNDS
111	SPORTS FIELDS

UPCOMING INVESTMENTS

$180K to support the operation of Burlington Public Library's New Appleby Branch.

$41K for more frequent waste management in parks, for cleaner parks and public spaces.



SERVICES YOU DEPEND ON

RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE



The City of Burlington's $7.1 billion in infrastructure assets support a range of municipal services that enable residents, businesses and other Burlington stakeholders to live, work and play in our city.

Burlington's population is expected to grow by over 40 per cent in the next 25 years. To ensure a sustainable financial future, City budgets need to prepare for growing resident needs. Burlington's budget includes a dedicated levy of 2% to invest in the renewal of our aging infrastructure.

STATISTICS

33	YEARS: AVERAGE AGE OF CITY ASSETS
$2.73B	TRANSPORTATION ASSETS
$1.49B	STORMWATER ASSETS
$1.15B	RECREATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE ASSETS

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

Construction underway on sections of Lakeshore Road and Prospect Street are helping to enhance the safety, appearance and long-term health of the City's roadways.

The Lakeshore Road Resurfacing project involves repaving this heavily used commuter route, new pedestrian crossings and upgraded street lighting.

In partnership with Halton Region, the Prospect Street Area Minor Reconstruction project includes the installation of new water and wastewater mains, the addition of protected bike lanes, asphalt resurfacing, and sidewalk replacement.

UPCOMING INVESTMENTS

$10.9M to renew Walkers Line, between Lakeshore Road and Dundas Street.

$8.4M to renew Fairview Street, between Walkers Line and Appleby Line.



SERVICES YOU DEPEND ON

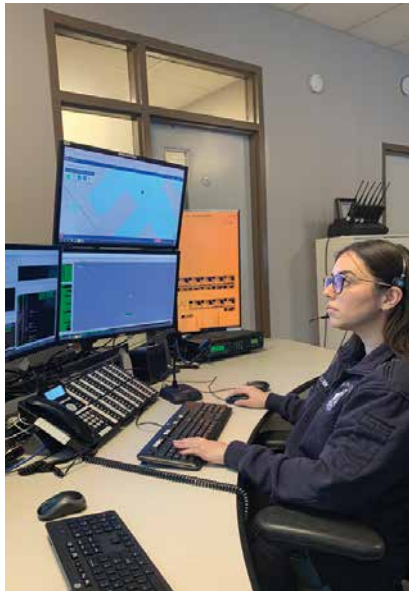
SWIFT EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Burlington Fire's all-hazards emergency response is dedicated to protecting the lives, property, and environment of Burlington's residents, businesses, and visitors.

RECENT IMPROVEMENT

In 2025, the Burlington Fire Department successfully launched new Simultaneous Notification Technology in the Burlington Fire Communications Centre. This innovative software links provincial and municipal dispatch systems to enable real-time, automated dispatch of fire departments for critical medical emergencies, significantly reducing manual call transfer delays and enhancing emergency response times.



STATISTICS

90.84%	OF 9-1-1 CALLS ANSWERED WITHIN 60 SECONDS
11, 976	EMERGENCY INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO IN 2024
12,380	PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
1,047	BUILDING FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS ACROSS THE CITY

UPCOMING INVESTMENTS

$1.6M to replace Fire fleet, including one large rescue truck and two support vehicles.

$450K for the renewal of emergency response radios and pagers.



SERVICES YOU DEPEND ON

RELIABLE TRANSIT



Burlington's transit service provides riders with a reliable, sustainable, and convenient way to reach their destinations.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

Over the past five years, the City of Burlington has invested in the expansion of transit service in the city. This includes an investment in vehicles and staffing resources to deliver an expanded and more frequent transit network.

Since 2024, Burlington Transit operates six routes that provide 15-minute service or better. The expansion and frequency of service is a proven technique that encourages transit use and increases ridership. Aligned schedules with GO transit support strong regional connections and make transit a viable and convenient transportation choice.



STATISTICS

3.6M	COMPLETED TRANSIT TRIPS IN 2024
74	CONVENTIONAL BUSES
16	SPECIALIZED TRANSIT BUSES

UPCOMING INVESTMENTS

$100K for transit maintenance to reduce service disruptions.

$4.2M to replace aging transit fleet with hybrid-electric vehicles.

$404K for an additional specialized transit vehicle to support growth in this service.



SERVICES YOU DEPEND ON

FLOOD PROTECTION



With climate change driving increasingly severe weather, Burlington is stepping up efforts to address the growing risks of flooding.

STATISTICS

47	BRIDGES
851	KILOMETRES OF STORM SEWER PIPES
30	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PONDS

UPCOMING INVESTMENTS

$8.0M towards stormwater management capital projects in 2026.



RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

In 2025, the City is investing over $12 million in stormwater management projects to reduce flooding in target areas. This includes work to replace the New Street Bridge at Tuck Creek. This major construction project will widen the bridge to accommodate intense, heavy rainfall, reduce erosion, improve water flow, and protect nearby homes and natural areas.

Between 2015 and 2025, the City has invested $90 million in stormwater management infrastructure.



SERVICES YOU DEPEND ON

SAFE STREETS



The City of Burlington provides a safe, effective and connected transportation system that allows for a range of accessible options for getting around Burlington as our city grows.

RECENT IMPROVEMENT



In 2025, the City completed the third phase of the Burlington Downtown Parking Plan. The Strategic Plan for Parking Operations and Management describes strategies that will form the foundation for future parking management practices in Downtown Burlington. As Burlington evolves from a suburban community to a city, more residents and businesses are moving to Burlington, impacting how we choose to get around, especially in the downtown.

Parking plays a crucial role in this. Where you can park, for how long and the cost determines if you walk, cycle, take transit, drive or ride share.

STATISTICS

1,600	LANE KILOMETRES OF ROADWAYS
26,000	STREETLIGHTS
63	PUBLIC EV CHARGING SPOTS
48	KILOMETRES OF BIKE LANES

UPCOMING INVESTMENT

$675K for traffic management technology that enhances the movement of fire emergency vehicles and transit buses through signalized intersections to improve schedule and response times.



FACTORS THAT IMPACT THE CITY BUDGET



CLIMATE CHANGE AND MITIGATING FLOOD RISK

Additional investments in ditch, culvert, and creek maintenance to reduce future flooding risks.

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Major infrastructure projects are needed to ensure our assets do not deteriorate further. Additional funding for infrastructure renewal is 2% of the City's budget increase.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Investments to improve services, including the new library branch at Bateman, transit maintenance, and the implementation of the Urban Forestry Master Plan for improved air quality and vibrant outdoor spaces.



INCREASING COST PRESSURES

Cost escalations such as inflation, tariff pressures, supply chain issues, increasing costs in construction pricing and automotive parts.

MULTI-YEAR INVESTMENTS

To support the operation of new infrastructure investments made in previous budget years.

HISTORICALLY UNDERFUNDED CITY OF BURLINGTON BUDGETS

Zero per cent tax increases in the 1990s deferred necessary investments and created long-term funding challenges.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO BURLINGTON FROM OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

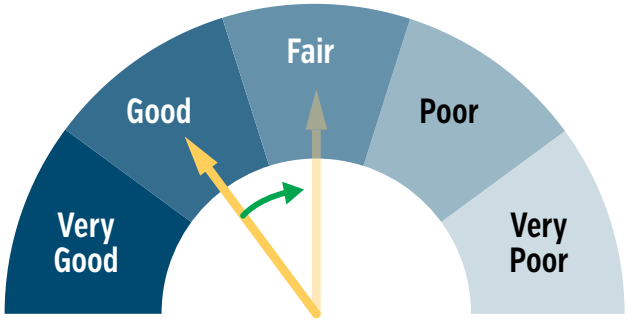
MANAGING BURLINGTON'S INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS



The City of Burlington's Asset Management Plan is a strategy for managing the infrastructure residents rely on every day. The plan guides the long-term maintenance, renewal and replacement of our roads, bridges, community centres and more to ensure they can continue to be enjoyed by residents for years to come.

BURLINGTON HAS $7.1B IN CITY ASSETS

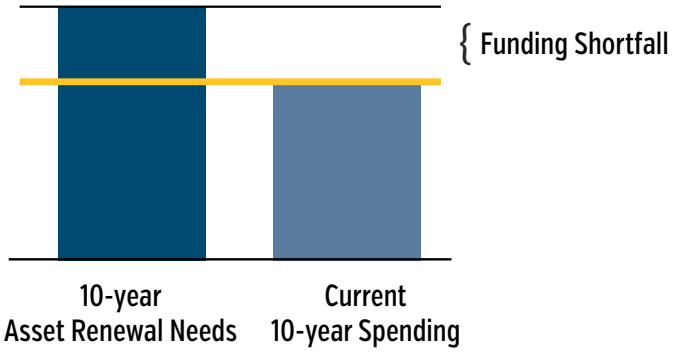
Currently they are in **Good** condition but trending to **Fair**.



Average Asset Condition

To ensure our assets do not deteriorate further, the City needs to **invest $1.22B** over the next 10 years in infrastructure renewal. Currently we are spending $868M over 10 years.

THIS LEAVES A GAP OF $350M.



TO HELP ADDRESS THIS FUNDING SHORTFALL, THE CITY HAS A 2% INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY.

EFFICIENCIES AND SAVINGS

Every year, as part of the budget process, the City does a comprehensive review to identify efficiencies and reduce its operational costs. This includes streamlining services, leveraging technology, reallocating resources, and minimizing new staffing requests. Some examples for the 2026 budget include:

WORKFORCE OPTIMIZATION

- Several existing staff positions were reallocated to better align with operational needs and minimize new staffing requests in the 2026 budget. This resulted in a **cost avoidance of close to $1.2M**.
- The implementation of an on-call program in Forestry has reduced reliance on emergency contractors, leading to **cost savings in urgent response work**.
- Switching road patrols from 12-hour to 8-hour shifts increased daily resource availability and **cut overtime costs by approximately $29,000**.

CONTRACT RENEWALS

- In 2025, the City achieved **over $1.3M in cost savings** through the strategic renewal of its insurance coverage by negotiating more favorable terms.

FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

- The transition to using green small tools and equipment in Fleet has improved sustainability and **saved an initial $2,000 in operating costs.**

With the addition of an electric Zamboni, 60% of the ice resurfacing fleet at recreation facilities is electrified, **reducing fuel and maintenance costs** while supporting sustainability goals.



FACILITY UTILIZATION

- Underutilized municipal spaces were repurposed during low-demand periods. A new pay-what-you-can model generated modest revenue and **resulted in 330 bookings at no additional programming cost,** improving community access.

Sewer abatements were completed at seven City facilities in 2024 resulting in a **cost avoidance of approximately $100K** in sewer charges.



UTILITY/EQUIPMENT SAVINGS

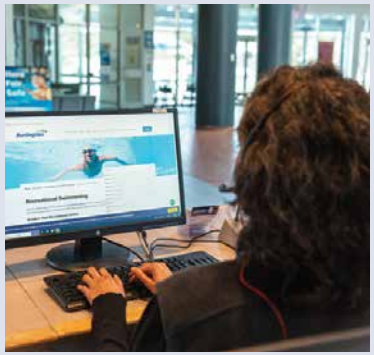
- Burlington Transit repurposed four Roads, Parks and Forestry fleet vehicles for transit operator shuttles between Transit headquarters and GO stations, **resulting in significant cost and time savings**.
- Damaged bus stops are now replaced with lighter, lower-cost Telespar poles. These poles are standard for street signage and **provide a less expensive option**.
- The Fire Department introduced standardized criteria for purchasing fire apparatus. This helps **improve efficiency** by ensuring consistent equipment across stations, reduce parts inventory, **lower maintenance costs**, and enhance lifecycle predictability, replacement planning, and resale value.

EFFICIENCIES AND SAVINGS (CONTINUED)

STREAMLINING SERVICES

- Through a review, over 25 software applications were retired or consolidated, leading to a **$150K reduction in licensing and support costs**.
- A review to optimize cloud infrastructure and licenses achieved and **estimated annual savings of $45,000.**
- Improved procurement practices in Forestry have delivered cost savings through a new rural mowing contract, bulk contracting for tree removals, and a competitive tender for tree and shrub stock that **lowered unit costs**.
- Automated park washroom locks have improved efficiency by removing the need for manual locking, **saving $3,000 annually** in overtime.
- In 2025, the City centralized Engineering customer inquiries through Service Burlington. The change **streamlined the intake process, eliminated two administrative roles, and improved coordination** of service delivery.
- A new internal health and safety training program for leaders was introduced in 2025. The in-house program replaces one previously delivered by a third party, helping to improve compliance and prevention while **saving $5,000 annually**.
- In 2025, the City developed an internally delivered program for legislated Respect in the Workplace training. The in-house program ensures alignment with organizational priorities and **saves an estimated $27,000.**

An update to the City's registration system for recreation programming introduced automated credit card expiry notifications for recreation users. **The update led to a 34% drop in declined transactions**, improving customer experience and reducing staff time on follow-ups and receivables.



The City's Digital Services team built a secure, scalable cloud foundation with Microsoft Power Platform which has enabled the in-house development of digital tools. This shift has reduced reliance on external vendors, improved turnaround times, and **saved over $100K** in costs while delivering measurable service improvements.



LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

- The City is realizing benefits from its new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, including **streamlined processes, reduced manual tasks, fewer errors, and faster workflows**, allowing staff to focus on higher-value activities.
- The new ERP system has also improved audit efficiency by centralizing supporting documents for invoices, receipts, and transactions. This **reduces time spent searching for records, speeds up the resolution of any discrepancies, and enhances compliance with audit requirements.**
- Through the new ERP system, annual compensation statements for non-union City employees are now automated, replacing the manual process of printing and mailing over 1200 letters. **The new process saves time, reduces costs**, and gives employees on-demand access to documents.
- Two independent cybersecurity audits rated the City of Burlington as high maturity, **reducing the need for costly reactive and high mitigation measures**. Proactive investments in cyber security have also helped to optimize insurance premiums.

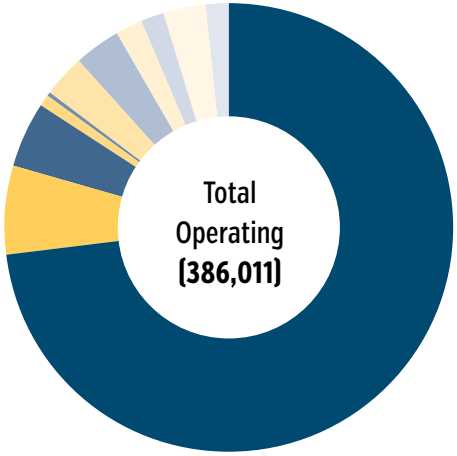
2026 BUDGETED REVENUES

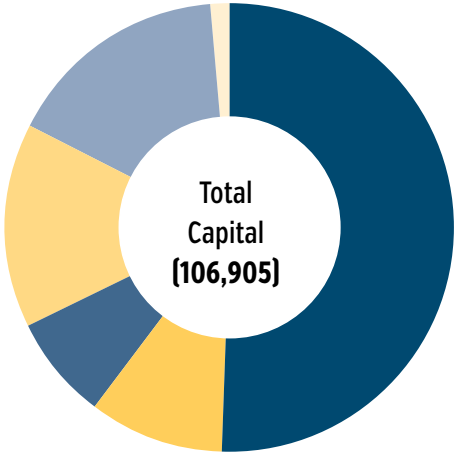


The City's budget includes both capital and operating expenditures. The City relies on a number of revenue sources to fund the budget. Property tax revenue accounts for 72% of revenues. The capital budget is funded from a variety of sources, including reserves, development charges and upper-level government funding. From the property taxes collected in the operating budget, $53.9 million fund the capital program.

OPERATING BUDGET $386.0M

Property Taxes - City **(280,849)**
User Fees and Service Charges **(25,892)**
Licenses, Permits, Rents **(18,142)**
Fines and Penalties **(2,807)**
Other Miscellaneous Revenue **(928)**
Senior Government Grants **(12,484)**
Internal Recovery **(12,944)**
External Recovery **(6,601)**
Transfer from Reserve Funds **(8,180)**
Financing Revenues **(11,364)**
Other Tax Related Revenues **(5,822)**





CAPITAL BUDGET $106.9M

Funding from Operating **(53,904)**
Debt **(10,350)**
Gas Taxes **(7,917)**
Development Charges **(15,641)**
Other Reserve Funds **(17,798)**
External **(1,295)**

TOTAL BUDGET $492.9M

Note: Numbers are in $ thousands and may not add due to rounding

WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO

The City provides a number of services and programs. Whether it's road plowing, using a park, or cooling off in a pool, your tax dollars are at work. The City of Burlington has a variety of local boards and services that also support local community matters and priorities.

DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT - $6.3M

Development and Growth Management Administration, Bylaw Compliance, Building, Community Planning





ENABLING SERVICES - $33.3M

Corporate Affairs, Burlington Digital Services, Finance, Human Resources, Transformation Office

COMMUNITY SERVICES - $92.9M

Community Services Administration, Transit, Recreation, Community and Culture, Fire, Customer Experience





CORPORATE EXPENDITURES - $85.2M

Funding for Capital Program, Provisions to Corporate, Reserve Funds, Grants and Assistance, Financial Expenses

PUBLIC WORKS - $52.6M

Public Works Administration, Engineering Services, Transportation Services, Roads, Park and Forestry





CORPORATE REVENUES - $13.8M

Earnings on Investments, Taxation Revenues

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES - $6.7M

Legal and Legislative Services Administration, Legal and Halton Court Services, Legislative Services, Mayor and Council





LOCAL BOARDS - $17.8M

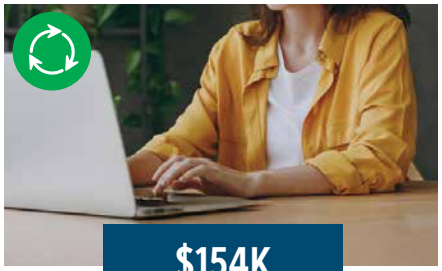
Art Gallery of Burlington, Burlington Public Library, Museums of Burlington, Burlington Economic Development and Tourism, Burlington Performing Arts Centre

2026 BUDGET KEY OPERATING INVESTMENTS



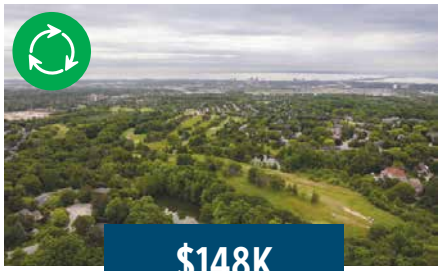
$180K

to support the operation of the of Burlington Public Library's New Appleby Branch



$154K

for enhanced Cyber security protection



$148K

for protection of natural environment in development applications



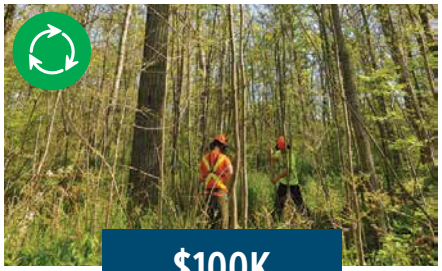
$114K

for expansion of the windrow removal program to support accessibility and community well-being



$111K

for transit maintenance to reduce service disruptions



$100K

towards Urban Forestry Master Plan Implementation for improved air quality and vibrant outdoor recreational spaces



$41K

for more frequent waste management in parks, for cleaner parks and public spaces



$20K

for public engagement enhancements



$0*

for a dedicated resource to oversee the City's investment portfolio and support revenue growth

**cost of position offset from additional investment income*

AFFORDABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY

LIVABILITY

TRANSPARENCY

2026 CAPITAL KEY INVESTMENTS

Burlington's population is expected to grow by over 40 per cent in the next 25 years. To ensure a sustainable financial future, City budgets need to prepare for growing resident needs. This includes investing in more infrastructure for long-term community benefits.

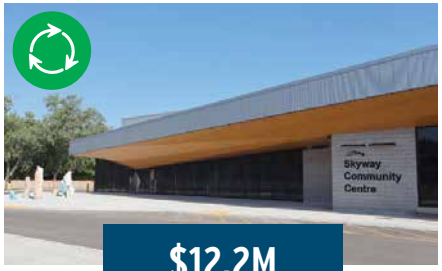
There are capital projects totaling $106.9 million planned for 2026. Every ward in Burlington will benefit from these investments.

Some of the largest investments include:



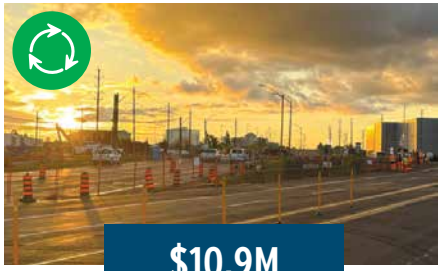
$12.2M

for investments in city parks



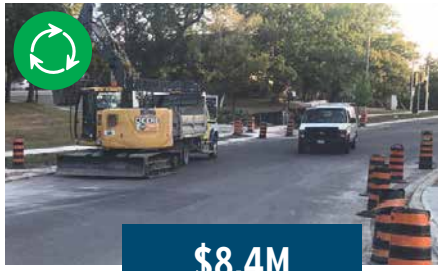
$12.2M

towards the repair and renewal of city facilities



$10.9M

to renew Walkers Line, between Lakeshore Road and Dundas Street



$8.4M

to renew Fairview Street, between Walkers Line and Appleby Line



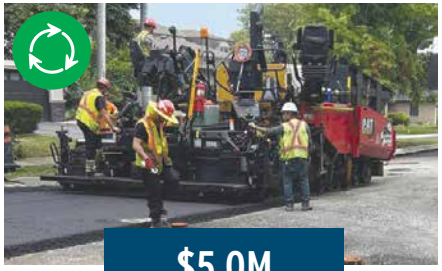
$8.0M

towards stormwater management projects



$5.7M

to renew Upper Middle Road



$5.0M

to renew Snake Road, between Old York Road to the City limit



$4.0M

to renew the Spruce Avenue and Goodram Drive area

$106.9M IN CAPITAL INVESTMENTS THROUGHOUT 2026

AFFORDABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY

LIVABILITY

TRANSPARENCY

MAJOR DRIVERS OF THE BUDGET INCREASE



KEY INVESTMENTS

0.33% e.g. Funding to support the operation of the New Appleby Library Branch

ADDITIONAL PRESSURES

1.47% e.g. Maintenance services for new Alton West neighbourhood; operating costs for transit service expansion

INFRASTRUCTURE

2% e.g. Dedicated infrastructure renewal levy to invest in aging infrastructure

INFLATION

2% e.g. Increasing costs in construction pricing and automotive parts

Budget Increase
5.81%

Overall Property Tax Impact
4.50%



2026 BUDGET

$281M
TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES REQUIRED

2.98%
CITY OF BURLINGTON'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL TAX INCREASE

4.50%
TOTAL TAX INCREASE

$43.71
THE INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF TAXES YOU WILL PAY FROM 2025 TO 2026
(per $100,000 of residential current value assessment)

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

OPERATING BUDGET FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Municipalities are required by provincial law to balance their annual budget such that revenues match the expenditures for the current year.

The net tax levy is the amount of property taxes required to support city services after consideration of user fees and other corporate revenues.

For 2026, the net tax levy consists of a base amount of $279,981,597 plus key investments of $867,799 for a total approved net tax levy of $280,849,396.

2026 TAX SUMMARY

The following table provides a breakdown of Burlington's budget change which results in this overall tax increase:

	2026 BUDGET CHANGE	2026 BUDGET CHANGE
Base Budget Impact including Assessment Growth @ 0.27%	**$ 7,746,466**	**2.65%**
Infrastructure Renewal Levy	$5,677,000	2.14%
Cumulative Impact including Infrastructure Levy	**$ 13,423,466**	**4.79%**
Additional Budget Pressures		
Operating Impacts of New Infrastructure	$1,484,286	0.56%
Operational and Financial Sustainability	$100,000	0.04%
Multi-Year Community Investment Plan	$250,000	0.09%
Cumulative Impact	**$ 15,257,752**	**5.48%**
Key investments		
Livability	$335,385	0.13%
Sustainability	$512,414	0.19%
Transparency	$20,000	0.01%
Affordability	$0	0.00%
Grand Total City	**$ 16,125,551**	**5.81%**
Overall Tax Increase (City, Region, Education)		**4.50%**

2026 OVERALL TAX IMPACT

The investments in existing and expanded service delivery result in a City budget increase of 5.81%, or a 2.98% property tax increase for Burlington's portion of the overall tax bill. When combined with the increase for the Region of Halton and the Boards of Education, the overall tax increase is 4.50% equivalent to $43.71 per $100,000 of residential current value assessment (CVA).

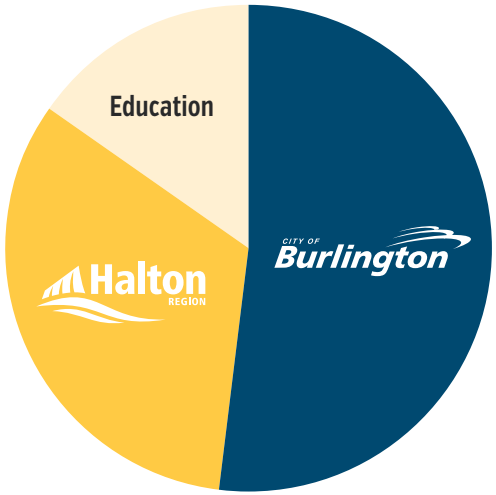
This table outlines the resulting figures:

PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

	2025 SHARE OF TAX BILL	2026 SHARE OF TAX BILL	2025 TAXES*	2026 BUDGET CHANGE	2026 TAXES*	$ TAX INCREASE*	% TAX INCREASE
Burlington	51.37%	52.02%	$499.11	5.81%	$528.11	$29.00	2.98%
Halton	32.88%	32.91%	$319.47	4.60%	$334.18	$14.71	1.51%
Education	15.75%	15.07%	$153.00	0.00%	$153.00	$-	0.00%
Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**$971.58**	**4.50%**	**$1,015.29**	**$43.71**	**4.50%**

*per $100K of residential current value assessment

PROPERTY TAXES



EDUCATION – 15%

- School boards

HALTON REGION SERVICES – 33%

- Waste pick up
- Police & Paramedic services
- Regional roads
- Social Services
- Public Health

BURLINGTON SERVICES – 52%

- Fire and protection services
- Recreation, community and culture facilities & programs
- Roads, parks and forestry maintenance
- Burlington Transit
- Burlington Public Library
- Leaf collection
- Winter maintenance
- Civic administration
- Stormwater pond maintenance
- Growth management planning
- Streetlighting

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes remain the largest and most important revenue source for municipalities. The two components required for determining property taxes are:

- The current assessed value of the property
- The tax rate applied to the property class

ASSESSMENT

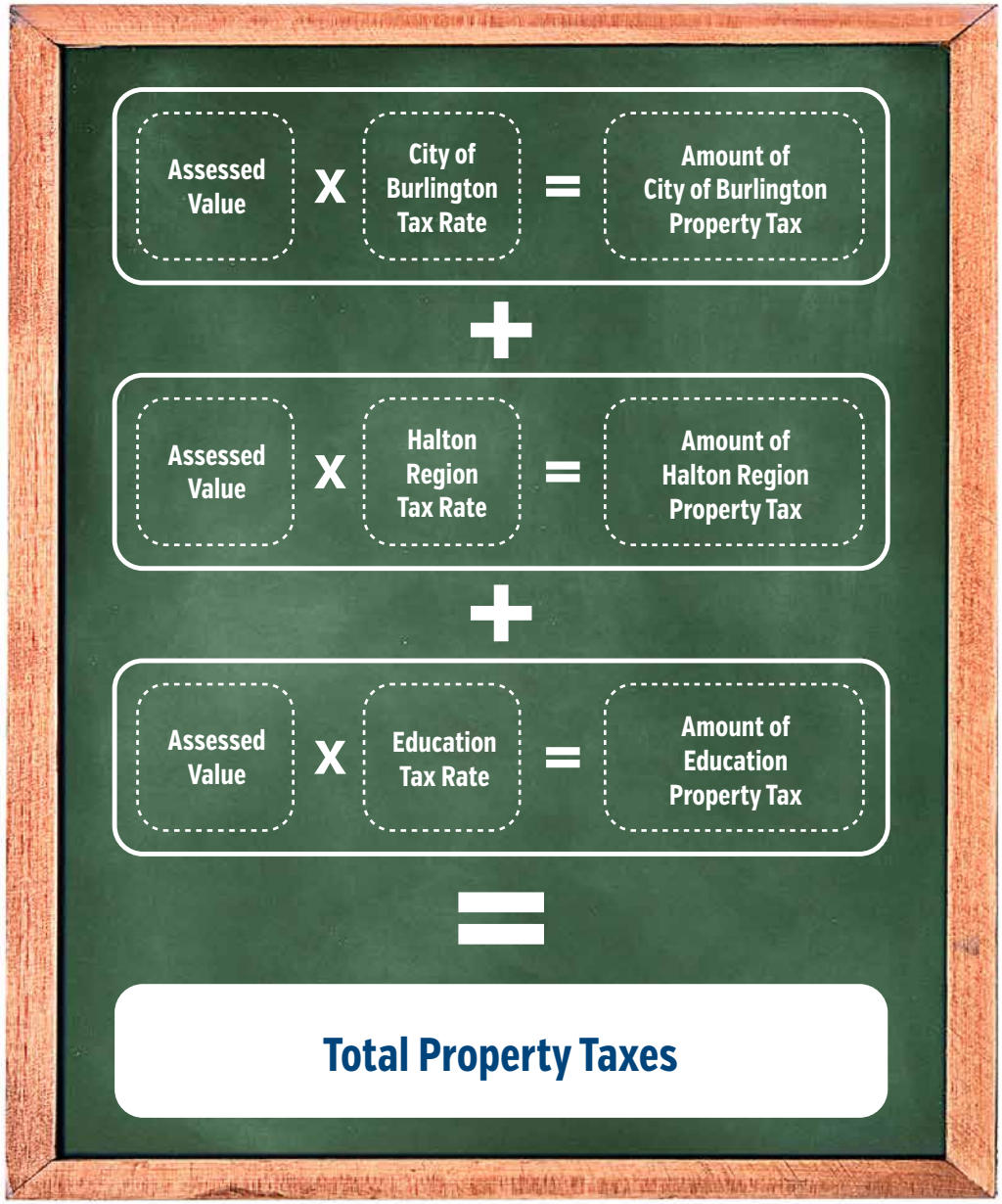
Current value assessment is the amount of money that a property would sell for, if sold at arm's length, by a willing seller to a willing buyer. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for setting assessment values for all properties in Ontario.

RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE

The tax rate consists of three components: The City of Burlington, Halton Region and The Halton Boards of Education. The city and regional portions are based on budgetary needs while the education portion is based on the provincial education funding requirements. The residential tax rate is determined by dividing the budgetary needs by the total assessment base. Tax rates are set for each property class.

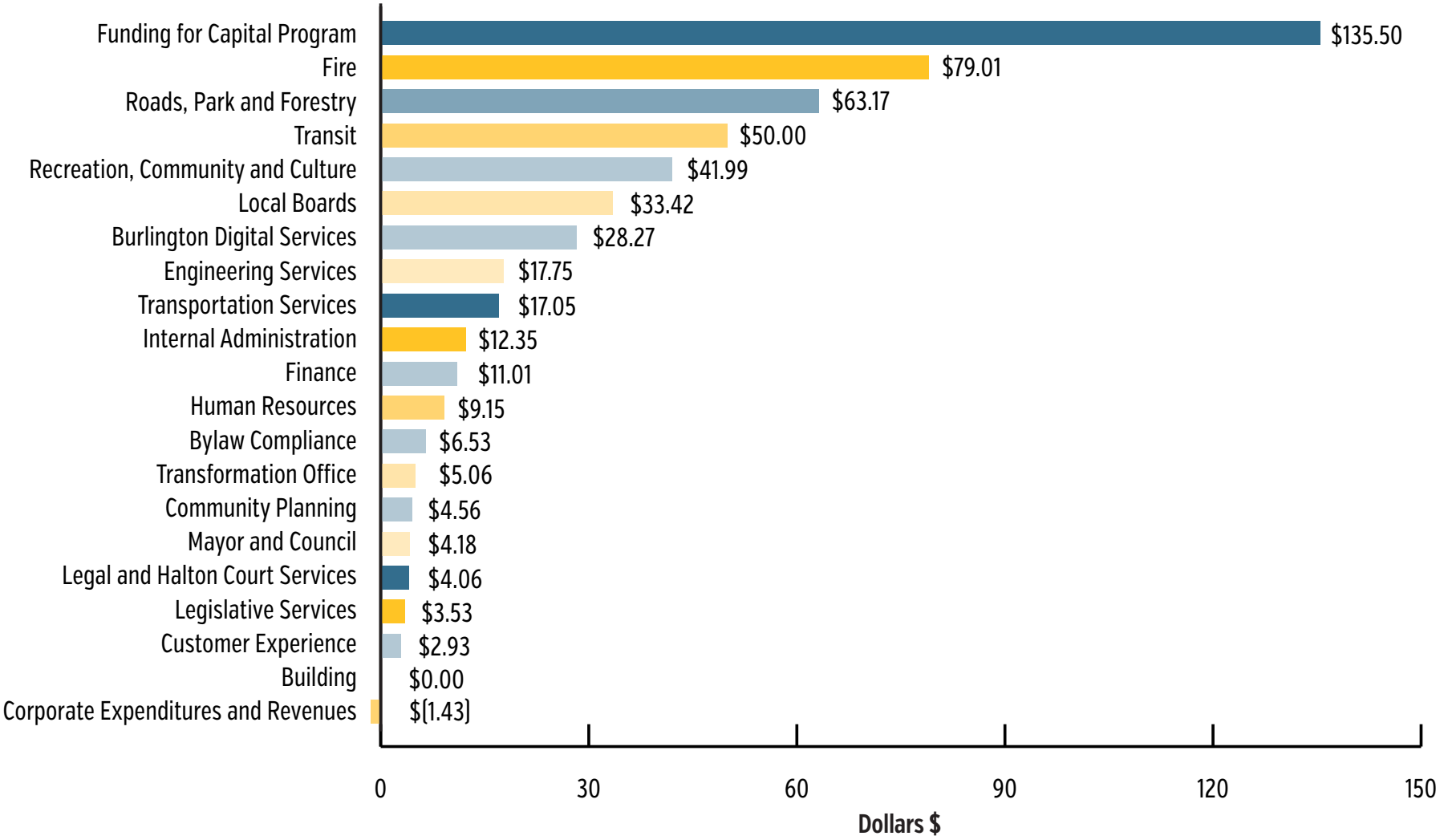
CALCULATING PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes are calculated using the property's assessed value, the municipal tax rates (City and Region) and the Education tax rate:



TAX BREAKDOWN

The following chart provides a breakdown of how the property taxes collected for each $100,000 of residential current value assessment fund City operations.

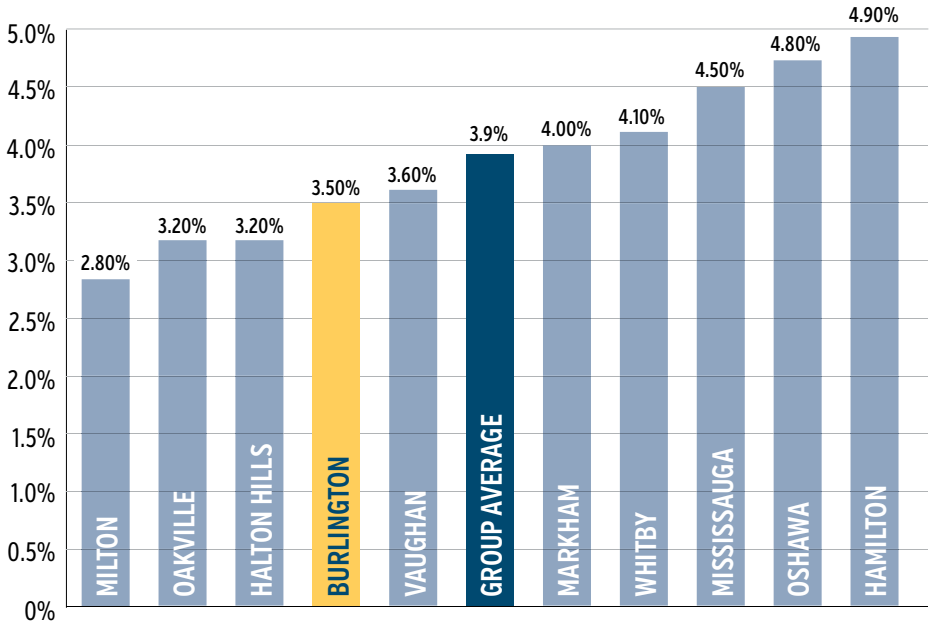


MUNICIPAL COMPARATORS



The following chart compares property taxes paid as a percentage of household income. Burlington is below the group average of municipal comparators.

PROPERTY TAXES AS A % OF INCOME



BMA Management Consulting Inc. – Municipal Study 2025



GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE 2026



The City of Burlington offers property tax rebate and deferral programs for many eligible individuals and groups. Learn more about each program to discover if you qualify at burlington.ca/propertytax.

PROPERTY TAX PROGRAMS

- Low-income Seniors and Persons with Disability – $575
- Older Adults Property Tax Deferral Program – interest free (Regional Program)
- Designated Heritage Property Tax Rebate program
- Charity Tax Rebate (Regional program)
- Tax Payment Plans: pre-authorized payment plans available

OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Windrow Program – expanded program to 1,000 spots $128.75 plus HST
- Recreational Assistance – fee waiver program and community investment fund
- Free Transit Programs – children, seniors and youth (Mon-Fri after 6 p.m. and weekends)
- Residential Plumbing Permits Grants for basement flooding prevention
- Home Energy Retrofit Program – interest free loan program
- Additional Residential Units (ARU) Incentive Program

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Budgets are more than dollars and cents. Your taxes fund the services you depend on.

Public engagement opportunities provided Council with feedback about the budget priorities that mean the most to the community.

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Online budget survey	**Monday, Aug. 25 – Sunday, Oct. 5** – Online at getinvolvedburlington.ca/2026budget
Food for Feedback event	**Saturday, Sept. 13** at Central Park (2299 New St.), from 12 – 4 p.m.
In-person 2026 Budget Town Hall meetings, with Mayor Meed Ward and participating Councillors	**Thursday, Sept. 18**, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Ward 6 at Haber Community Centre (3040 Tim Dobbie Dr.)
	Monday, Sept. 22, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Ward 1 at LaSalle Park Pavilion (50 North Shore Blvd.)
	Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Ward 2 at Burlington Seniors' Centre (2285 New St.)
	Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Ward 3 at Brant Hills Community Centre (2255 Brant St.)
	Monday, Sept. 29, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Ward 4 at Tansley Woods Community Centre (1996 Itabashi Way)
	Thursday, Oct. 2, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Ward 5 at Appleby Ice Centre (1201 Appleby Line)
Overview of proposed 2026 Budget at Committee of the Whole Council meeting	**Monday, Nov. 3** at 1 p.m.
2026 Budget Telephone Town Hall	**Wednesday, Nov. 5**, from 7 – 8:30 p.m., by phone