

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER & JOHN FITZGERALD



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON'S
FY27 OPERATING BUDGET**

WHEREAS, Boston's Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget totalled \$4.8 billion; *and*

WHEREAS, Section 6-4.1 of the Boston Municipal Code states that, in accordance to Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909, the Mayor, not later than May 1 of each year, shall submit to the Boston City Council the annual operating budget of the current expenses of the city and the county for the forthcoming fiscal year; *and*

WHEREAS, Mayor Michelle Wu is expected to announce the FY27 operating budget in the second week of April, and the Council is expected to take action on the FY27 operating budget in the first week of June, with expected final action on June 24; *and*

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Year 2026, the City Council focused on its priorities of increasing the affordability of housing, quality of life issues, community safety, and college and career readiness; *and*

WHEREAS, Fiscal uncertainties, including threats of federal funding cuts, rising costs, and fluctuating property values, have caused the Mayor to advise departments to reduce their budgets by at least 2 percent in FY27 to ensure that the City maintains its AAA bond rating and can cover fixed costs, including health care and long-term liabilities, including pension commitments; *and*

WHEREAS, Due to the potentially challenging circumstances that lie ahead, it is incumbent that the Council exercise its oversight of the operating budget to ensure that the City is able to continue to deliver essential City services to the residents of Boston in a fiscally responsible manner; *and*

WHEREAS, In previous iterations of the Council rules, the Committee on Ways and Means has had general oversight with respect to City revenues and expenditures and all other component units that comprise the government entity, as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and have referred to it all matters concerning appropriations, the City budget, expenditures, and loans; *and*

WHEREAS, Traditionally, the Committee introduces a hearing order similar to this one during the last week of January to officially begin deliberations on the Council about the next fiscal year's operating budget, which is the intent of this order; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston should continue to invest in its residents with a budget that supports our schools, parks, streets, libraries, housing, climate resiliency, community safety, and more in its FY27 operating budgets. Moreover, it is important that the Council as a body work together to tackle the challenges faced by our City now, which will require us to deliver an operating budget that meets the needs of residents; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold multiple hearings and public testimony sessions regarding City revenues, preliminary plans for the upcoming FY27 operating budget, and that representatives of City of Boston and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 28, 2026