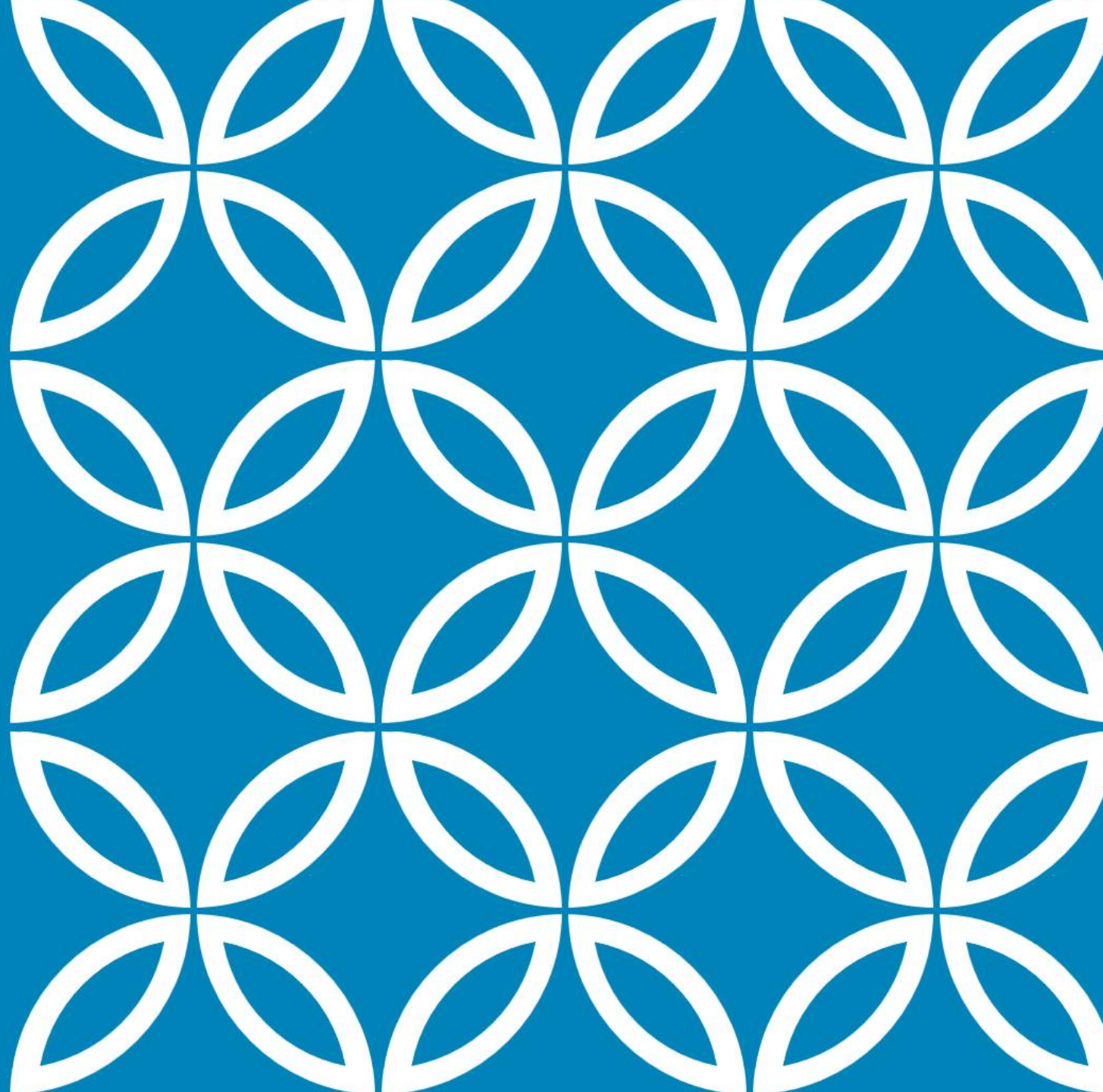


2026 BUDGET UPDATE



BUDGET PROCESS

- Department Heads have been working on their 2026 Budget requests since July.
- Once each department head has finished their budget requests, the requests are submitted to the Finance Committee of Borough Council who will then review the proposed figures from each department.
- A draft budget will be prepared and presented to the public at a budget workshop.
- Council will consider preliminary adoption of the 2026 operating budget at a Council Meeting.
- Once Council adopts a preliminary budget, the budget will be available for a public inspection period.
 - *The requirement for public inspection is 10 days; however, the Borough always makes the budget available for longer to ensure the public has adequate time to review the information prior to Council voting on final adoption.*
- After the public inspection period, Council considers adoption of the final budget at a public meeting.

ANNUAL BUDGETING GOALS

Each year, the annual Borough Budget is formulated in accordance with the following overall goals:

1. Continue to provide the highest quality services to the Hatboro Community while maintaining the lowest operational costs possible through utilization of conservative budgeting practices.
2. Maintain a high quality of life for Hatboro Residents and Business Owners
3. Streamline functions of all departments to ensure the most efficient operation of the Borough
4. Trimming of all non-essential expenditures across each department

ANNUAL BUDGETING GOALS

- Each year, approximately 80% of the Borough's budget is comprised of set expenditures (wages, benefits, insurance, and utilities).
 - These costs unfortunately increase each year based on labor contracts, inflation, etc.
 - While preparing annual budgets, the Borough begins looking at these set expenditures and aims to reduce spending on flexible costs including but not limited to supplies, uniforms, maintenance/repairs, training, computer/technology costs, fuel, etc.
- Like other industries, the Borough is impacted by inflation and rising costs. These cost increases have been more evident since the pandemic in 2020.
 - Each year, the goal is to prevent a tax increase or increase in fees charged for services; however, depending on costs the Borough is facing for goods and services, that is not always possible.

10 YEAR MILLAGE COMPARISON ANALYZED

Millage Type	Tax Year (all millages adopted in December of the year prior to calendar year listed)										
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
General Fund	6.134	6.718	6.718	6.357	7.054	7.549	7.339	7.559	7.801	8.388	8.388
Fire Protection	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.925	0.925	0.925	0.925	0.925	0.925	1.026	1.026
Sinking Fund	0.934	0.35	0.35	1.517	1.26	0.765	0.975	0.968	1.352	1.352	1.352
Union Library Fund (residents voted to pass tax via a referendum in 2020)						0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Second Alarmers Fund										0.05	0.05
TOTAL MILLAGE	7.878	7.878	7.878	8.799	9.239	9.789	9.789	10.002	10.628	11.366	11.366
Millage Difference from Prior Year	0	0	0	0.921	0.44	0.55	0	0.213	0.626	0.738	0

- Largest budget increase in the last 10 years was enacted at the end of 2017 for the calendar year 2018 (increase of 0.921 mills)
- The Tax increase in 2020 was made at the residents' request for the Union Library. There was no millage increase for Borough operations.
- 61.34% of the millage increase for the tax year 2023 was allocated to Enterprise Fire Company for costs associated with volunteer fire fighting operations.
- Millage increases in 2023 and 2024 were made for general operating purposes due to increased expenditure

BUDGET AVAILABILITY

- Copies of the Borough's budgets are always available at Borough Hall, 414 S. York Road. The Borough also receives many requests for the budget via telephone and email. Requests are always granted immediately by the Borough Manager.
- A budget page has also been created on the Borough website for viewing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - Municipalities and School Districts have always been targets for cybersecurity criminals.
 - Within the last 4-5 years there have been countless attacks on local governments and school districts within the Commonwealth alone targeting entities based on their posted budget funding.
 - In an effort to protect taxpayer funding at all costs and based on advisories issued by insurance companies, the Borough budget was removed from the website and made available by request.
 - Over the last few years, the Borough has increased funding allocated to cybersecurity measures.

BUDGET AVAILABILITY

- Based on feedback from the public, copies of this budget slideshow, the Borough Budgets, etc. can now be found on a single page on www.myhatboro.org.
 - Hover over the “Departments” tab on the menu bar
 - Click “Annual Budget”
- This page will be updated with additional information as time progresses. Additionally, as the budget process progresses, this webpage will be updated with information for the 2026 budget.
- As always, Borough Staff is always more than happy to answer questions and concerns regarding the budget or any other matters in person at Borough Hall, via phone at 215-443-9100 or via email.