TOWN OF ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT · A RESIDENT'S GUIDE

Understanding Ellington's Town Budget

How our Town plans, funds, and adopts the budget that pays for the services Ellington relies on — and how you can shape it.

Fiscal Year runs July 1 – June 30



THE BASICS

What Makes Up Ellington's Budget

Ellington's annual budget combines three parts into a single spending plan that residents vote on each year. By law it must be balanced — projected revenues have to cover everything the Town plans to spend.

General Government

Day-to-day town services — public safety, public works, the library, and senior, youth, and human services.

Board of Education

The public schools budget — typically the single largest share of the Town's total spending.

Capital Budget

Longer-term investments and fixed assets valued at $20,000 or more, like vehicles, buildings, and roads.

Balanced by law: Projected revenues must equal or exceed planned spending for the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

THE ANNUAL CYCLE · CHARTER CHAPTER XI

How Ellington Builds Its Budget

1 Capital Requests

By Dec 1

Departments submit capital requests to the Board of Selectmen.

2 Selectmen Review

January

The Board of Selectmen, led by the First Selectman, deliberate the capital budget.

3 Operating Proposals

Jan – Feb

Departments submit operating budgets to the Town Administrator and Finance Officer.

4 To the Board of Finance

March

Selectmen and the Board of Education present their budgets for review.

5 Public Hearing

April

Residents comment on the full budget at Ellington High School.

6 Town Meeting & Vote

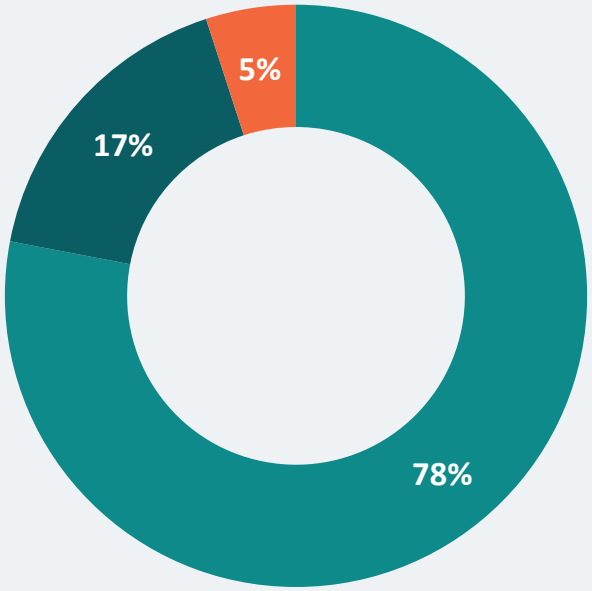
May

Residents adopt the budget or adjourn it to a referendum (§702).

REVENUE & SPENDING

Where the Money Comes From — and Goes

WHERE IT COMES FROM



Representative mix — property taxes are the Town's largest revenue source.

WHERE IT GOES

Board of Education

The schools are the single largest share of the budget.

Public Safety

Resident State Trooper program, fire, and emergency medical (EVAC).

Public Works & Roads

Street maintenance, snow removal, and town facilities.

Community Services

Library, senior center, and youth & human services.



GET INVOLVED

Your Voice Shapes the Budget

1

Attend the public hearing

Held each April at Ellington High School.

2

Read the budget packet

Posted at ellington-ct.gov and in the local paper.

3

Speak at Selectmen & Finance meetings

Share priorities during the spring deliberations.

4

Vote in May

At the Annual Town Budget Meeting and any referendum that follows.

A QUICK GLOSSARY

Key Budget Terms, in Plain Language

Mill Rate

The property tax rate — $1 of tax for every $1,000 of assessed value.

Fund Balance

A vital emergency savings account that must be maintained at 20% of our budget to protect our high credit rating & financial stability.

Note : Tapping into these reserve funds during tight budget cycles would risk serious financial difficulties & leave our town unprepared for true future emergencies

Board of Finance

Reviews every budget and sets the final plan sent to Town Meeting.

Annual Town Budget Meeting

Held the 2nd Tuesday of May; residents adopt the budget or send it to referendum.

Stay informed, attend the April hearing, and vote in May — your voice shapes Ellington's budget.