

FY2026 Budget Process Overview



City staff began meeting with the City Council in spring 2025 to discuss the FY2026 Budget. From June through September, staff prepared the budget, which was published on October 6. It will be presented to the City Council and Finance & Budget Committee in mid-October, discussed at ward and Council meetings this fall, and adopted before December 31.

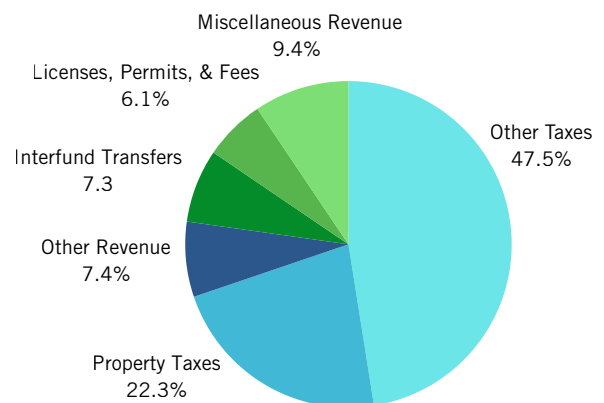
Budget Development Timeline

- Monday, October 6: Proposed Budget available on City website
- Monday, October 13: Proposed Budget presented at City Council
- Tuesday, October 14: Proposed Budget presented at Finance & Budget Committee
- Monday, October 27: Public Hearing on Budget at City Council
- October & November: Budget discussions at City Council/ward meetings
- Monday, November 3: Special City Council meeting for Truth in Taxation hearing
- Monday, November 10: Introduction of Budget and Tax Levy Ordinances at City Council
- December 31: Deadline for Budget adoption

Breaking Down the Budget

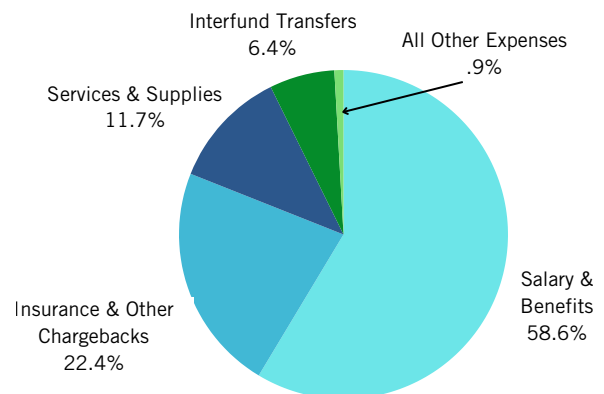
What Are the City's Revenue Sources?

The General Fund supports many of the City's core services. In addition to property taxes, it is financed by a combination of taxes, fees, permits, fines, and state and federal funding. Property taxes account for about 19% of the \$151.3 million General Fund revenue (including interfund transfers and use of Fund Balance).



What Are the City's Expenses?

The budget is broken into multiple funds. The General Fund is the largest, making up 35% of the budget. Services supported by the General Fund include public safety, recreation, administration, community development, health and human services, and public works. In 2025, the General Fund budget is \$151.3 million (including interfund transfers).



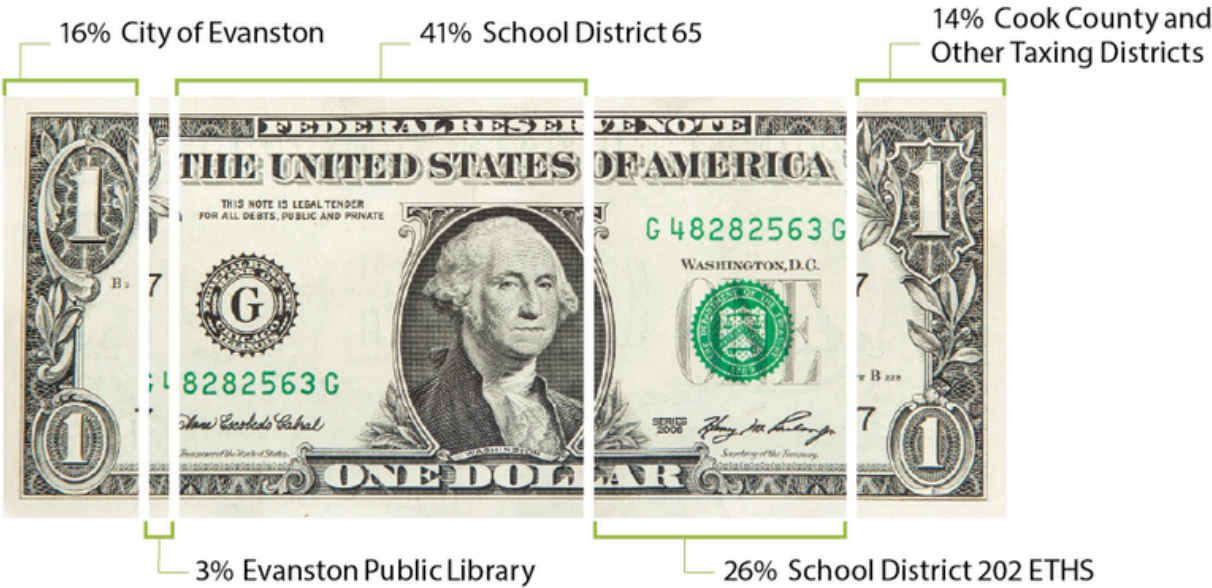
FY2025 Budget Highlights

- \$6.5 million increase to the Property Tax Levy, approximately a \$210 annual increase for a \$400,000 home
- No increases to Water or Sewer Rates
- Small increase to Yard Waste Collection Fees
- Expansion of the Crisis Alternative Response Evanston (CARE) Team
- Continued contributions towards Public Safety Pensions for 100% funding by 2040

Property Tax Overview

Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?

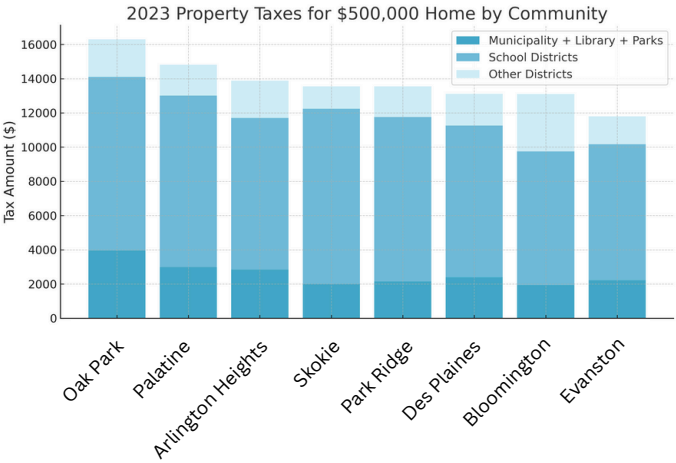
Your property tax bill covers several taxing districts (see chart below). The City of Evanston receives 16 cents of every dollar paid in property tax, or 16 percent of the total bill. This amount funds Police and Fire Pensions, debt payments for capital projects, and General Fund operations.



Peer Community Comparison

In early 2024, Evanston’s Finance & Budget Committee identified peer communities for financial and policy comparisons. **It’s important to note that the City of Evanston hasn’t raised property taxes in five years, while comparable communities have each raised them at least once during that time.**

The table below shows estimated 2023 property taxes for a \$500,000 home in Evanston and seven peer communities, broken down by 1) Municipality + Library + Park District, 2) school districts, and 3) other taxing bodies.



The table below compares Evanston’s 2023 Composite Tax Rate with seven peer communities, including libraries and park districts for an “apples-to-apples” comparison. Most communities have separate park district taxes.

