



FY2027 Budget & Override Options Town of Marblehead

“Providing Clear Choices for Our Community”



The Challenge

- Significant budget gap for FY2027
- Rising costs and limited revenue growth
- Balanced budget required for Town Meeting
- Service reductions were necessary
- Additional unmet needs from years of budget cutting



What Voters Will Decide

- Override Question 1: Level of service funding (Tier 1–3)
- Override Question 2: How to fund trash & recycling



Question 1: Tiered Override

- Question 1A – Partial Restore
- Question 1B – Stabilize & Build
- Question 1C – Invest & Improve
- Each tier builds on the previous
- Voters decide level of funding
- Highest value tier with passing vote determines levy increase



Tier 1 – Partial Restore

- Restores significant portion of cuts
- Includes Town and School services
- One-year or three-year solution?



Tier 1 – Partial Restore

- **Fire:** Restore 1 firefighter position.
- **Police:** Restore School Resource Officer (SRO).
- **DPW:** Restore Hot Top funding, temporary general clerk, and special laborer.
- **Finance:** Restore senior clerk, training, and computer equipment.
- **Library:** Full restoration of all library staffing and services.
- **Recreation & Parks:** Restore groundskeeper position.
- **Building Inspections:** Restore professional/technical funds.
- **Cemetery:** Restore superintendent to full-time and laborer.
- **Community Development & Planning:** Restore director, sustainability coordinator, and conservation agent.
- **Council on Aging:** Restore temp special clerk and general labor/nutrition coordinator.
- **Health:** Restore psychological counseling.
- **Human Resources:** Restore professional/technical funding.
- **Public Buildings:** Restore two special labor custodians.
- **Town Clerk:** Restore special clerk.
- **Reserve Fund:** Restore \$26,000 to FinCom Reserve.

Example



Tier 2 – Stabilize & Build

- Includes Tier 1 plus:
- Full restoration of cuts
- Building maintenance funding
- Public safety and DPW staffing
- Salary Study Recommendations



Tier 2 – Stabilize & Build

- All other restorations from the Partial Restore tier remain in place.
- **Fire:** Adds funding to restore an additional firefighter (total 2).
- **Police:** Adds funding for an additional officer (total restored: SRO + 1).
- **Human Resources:** Increases professional/technical services to \$15,000.
- **Salary Study:** Implement Salary Study Recommendations
- **Reserve Fund:** Increases FinCom Reserve by \$60,000 (total restored: \$86,000).

Example



Tier 3 – Invest & Improve

- Includes Tiers 1 and 2 plus:
- Small capital investments
- Equipment, infrastructure, buildings
- Focus on long-term improvement



Tier 3 – Invest & Improve

- All other enhancements from Partial Restore and Stabilize & Build remain in place.
- **Fire:** Adds funding to restore 4 additional firefighters (total 5).
- **DPW:** Adds \$70,000 GIS professional and \$220,000 public way maintenance.
- **Finance:** Adds \$130,000 for an IT Director.
- **Recreation & Parks:** Adds senior clerk (groundskeeper + clerk total \$113,000).
- **Public Buildings:** Adds \$400,000 for new Facilities Maintenance Department.
- **Capital:** \$500,000 for school capital, \$1,000,000 for town capital, \$208,000 for rail trail maintenance.

Example



Tier Comparison

- Tier 1: Partial Restore
- Tier 2: Stabilize and Build
- Tier 3: Invest and improve



Question 2 – Trash Funding



Current: Trash fee



Override option:
Fund via property
tax



Trash Funding Decision

- 3-Year: Lower cost, less stability
- 5-Year: Full contract, more stability



Voters to Decide

- Choose service level
- Decide funding approach
- Understand tax impact



Next Steps

- Finalize costs for each question
- Public information outreach
- Town Meeting vote to put on ballot
- June ballot vote