

## Top 10 Things to Know About the Barrington Budget Review Process

1. Budget Forecasting Committee is comprised of two members from each of the elected bodies (Town Council, School Committee and Committee on Appropriations), along with the Town Moderator and is advised by the municipal and school administrators.
2. The forecast provides an important context and backdrop to the start of the budget development and review seasons.
3. The forecast uses the numbers that are submitted to the state by the Town Director of Finance as a starting point and incorporates estimates of other upcoming costs (e.g., financing for the School Building projects). It is important for members of the public to understand that the forecast (including forecasts of increases in budgets over the coming five years) serves only as a guideline and offers suggestions that are subject to change as more is known.
4. The forecasting report (slides and executive summary) can be found on the Barrington Town website (<https://www.barrington.ri.gov/171/Budget-Forecasting-Committee>).
5. Following the budget forecast the School Committee, in conjunction with the School Superintendent and Director of Finance and the Town Council, in conjunction with the Town Manager and Director of Finance put together budget requests. Members of the public can participate in this process by attending budget discussions during meetings of both the Town Council (February 26, 2025 and March 3, 2025) and the School Committee (February 27, 2025).
6. The School and Municipal Budgets are reviewed by the Committee on Appropriations, who are responsible for preparing a final budget that is put before the Barrington taxpayers/voters.
7. The Committee on Appropriations meetings are held on Tuesday evenings starting in the beginning of March and running through to the beginning of May. All meetings are open to the public and are hybrid, meaning that the public can participate remotely, including offering public comment (More information here: <https://www.barrington.ri.gov/168/Committee-on-Appropriations-COA>) .
8. Traditionally, the Financial Town Meeting (this year, on Wednesday, May 28, 2025) has been where members of the public can come to hear the recommendations of the Committee on Appropriations and discuss/vote on the school and municipal budgets. In 2026, we will shift from a Financial Town Meeting to a Financial Town Referendum (where Barrington voters will go to the polls to vote on the budgets).
9. Members of the public who have questions about the budget review process can always reach out to the Committee on Appropriations ([COA@barrington.ri.gov](mailto:COA@barrington.ri.gov) or [crosengardcoa@gmail.com](mailto:crosengardcoa@gmail.com)).
10. Public participation in the form of attendance at meetings, communication with elected officials, and feedback throughout the review process results in the best and most thoughtful budget outcomes for all in Barrington.