

MAYOR STEVEN T. NOBLE

**Clearer. Bolder. Better.**

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Proposed 2021 Budget



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“ I look at the City budget as the foundation for our community to function, and we have to incorporate a culture of caring into the dollars and cents,” said Mayor Noble.

“Through this pandemic, we have seen what a community can do when we come together to support one another, and this budget will allow us to continue supporting crucial partnerships and create new programs. The City of Kingston services extend to many outside our own community, so these resources have widespread reach.”

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# Kingston is Resilient

In a truly unprecedented year, our community came together to lessen each other's suffering and comfort our neighbors.

City employees not only kept our City running in the most difficult times, they volunteered to work the emergency food hotline, to sort donations, and to deliver meals.

The resiliency of this entire community has been inspiring.

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# Finances are Strong

Though our resources have been greatly impacted, we were prepared to weather this financial storm.

For the last four years, we have made sound financial decisions, kept a healthy fund balance, and closely monitored revenue and expenses. We came into 2020 with strong financial footing.

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9/28/2020 • Government

## Kingstonwire

### For City Finances, 2019 Was No Stress

By Jesse J. Smith



KINGSTON - A 2019 "fiscal stress test" administered by the Office of the State Comptroller found the City of Kingston moving in excellent financial health as measured by factors like debt and the availability of reserve funds. But Mayor Steve Noble said the full impact of the pandemic on the city's finances remains to be seen.

"It will be interesting to see how the city's fiscal stress score," said Noble. "But I think we can continue to build a strong internal economy at least as far as city government is concerned."

excellent financial health

The fiscal stress tests were enacted in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis which sent some New York municipalities to the brink of insolvency. The process rates municipalities based on year-end fund balances, operating deficits or surpluses, cash on hand, fixed costs and the use of short-term borrowing to plug budget holes. Each community is given a rating from zero to 100 with lower numbers representing less stress. The comptrollers report rated Kingston's fiscal stress as a 5. That's down 1.7 points from 2017. In 2016, the year Noble took office, the score stood at 19.2 percent.

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# 2021 Budget Highlights

- No tax increases
  - No layoffs of City employees
  - No interruptions to City services
  - Continued investment in infrastructure
  - Increase in parks and trails maintenance
  - \$30 million in grant funding
  - 0% sewer rate increase
  - 3% decrease in spending
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0%

Increase in Taxes

6th  
Year in  
a Row!



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**Our tax levy would remain  
frozen at the 2016 level at  
\$17,650,940 with a 0% increase**

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# Tax Rates Continue to Decline

## City Tax Rates per \$1,000

**2017**

Homestead: \$10.10

Non-Homestead:  
\$18.13

**2018**

Homestead: \$9.94

Non-Homestead:  
\$17.39

**2019**

Homestead: \$9.74

Non-Homestead:  
\$15.59

**2020 - Proposed**

Homestead: \$8.99

Non-Homestead:  
\$14.17



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**\$1.3 million**  
**Reduction in Spending**

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# Increase in City Services

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# No Layoffs

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# Meet Our Essential Staff

The men and women of the City of Kingston staff keep our community running each and every day, through challenging times and inclement weather. From remote learning for our children at the Rondout Neighborhood Center, to picking up your refuse and recycling weekly, to responding to emergencies and calls for help in just three minutes – our City is powered by amazing people.

Please meet just a few of our dedicated employees who improve our quality of life by providing these essential services.

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**“Our goal is to connect the community with... the opportunity for a kid to see something and do something, and then they can take off.”**

***-Andrew Williams, Recreation Leader, Kingston Parks and Recreation***

**“...so in the hot days or  
the cold days or rainy  
days, we’re out there,  
serving our community”**

***Sandra Soria,  
Heavy Motor Equipment  
Operator, Department  
of Public Works***







**“...my favorite thing about my job  
is the ability to help people...”**

***Kristina Meschi, Lieutenant,  
Kingston Fire Department***

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## Key Areas of Investment:

- Parks and Trail Improvements and Maintenance
  - Major Infrastructure
  - Social Infrastructure
  - Housing
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Park Improvements

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## **Parks and recreation-facility projects that will be completed in 2021 include:**

- Refurbished pavilion at Hutton Park
- New fence and playground upgrades at Barmann Park
- Completion of playground, benches, front fence and handicapped accessible entry at Rickel Knox Park
- New playground equipment and court repair at Loughran Park

**Continues...**

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- New soccer field, playground, and parking lot at Kingston Point Park
  - Renovations at Andretta Pool including a brand new Splash Pad
  - New shade structure at Van Buren playground
  - New electrical system at T.R. Gallo
  - Andy Murphy Center kitchen upgrades
  - Hodge Center parking lot repairs and landscaping
  - Rondout Neighborhood Center bathroom renovations
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Future Brickyard Trail

# Vital Infrastructure Improvements & Repairs



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“**R**ecovering from a pandemic and growing our City in the right and responsible ways means investing from the ground up,” said Mayor Noble.

“We will be designing, progressing and completing several crucial infrastructure projects next year and will be investing in our workforce with the tools and equipment they need to get the job done right.”

“My budget proposes equipping our Police Department with a new interview camera system, our Waste Water Treatment Plant with new flow-recording equipment, and our Department of Public Works with a street sweeper, a packer truck and more. All of these important purchases keep our City safe, clean, and healthy.”

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## 2021 Capital Projects:

- Broadway Streetscape Project
  - Broadway and Grand St Intersection Improvements
  - Broadway Sewer Design
  - Franklin Street Complete Streets
  - Henry Street Pedestrian Improvements
  - Wilbur Avenue Reconstruction
  - DRI Uptown Transportation Improvements Project
  - Flatbush Ave and Foxhall Ave Safety Improvements
  - Midtown Parking Lots Green Infrastructure Project
- Continues...
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- Rondout Riverport Shoreline Stabilization and Public Access Project
  - Hasbrouck CSO Phase 1 & 2
  - WWTP Upgrade Modified SPDES Permit Compliance
  - Dietz Stadium Parking Lot Green Infrastructure
  - DRI Dietz Stadium Upgrades
  - Volunteer Fireman's Museum Improvements
  - Elmendorf St. Bridge Design and Repair
  - City Hall Tower & Interior Construction
  - Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS)
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An investment from the ground up

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## 2021 Equipment Purchases:

- Kingston Police Department Dispatch Recorder
  - Kingston Police Department Interview Camera System
  - Kingston Police Department police vehicle
  - Kingston Police Department Auto Vehicle Locator Modems
  - Building Department Hybrid Vehicle
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant Control Panel – Belt Press
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant Dump Trailer
- Continues...
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- Wastewater Treatment Plant Flow Recording Equipment
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant Knuckle Boom Truck
  - Public Works Automated Refuse Packer
  - Public Works Street Sweeper
  - Public Works Flatbed Service Truck
  - Public Works Sewer – F550 Dump w/ Plow and Sander
  - Public Works Sewer – Dump Truck 6-wheel w/ Plow and Sander
  - Parks and Recreation Pick-up Truck w/ Plow and Sander
  - Parks and Recreation Zero Turn Mower
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Equipment: A \$1.4 million investment in tools for City employees to get the job done right.





# Social Infrastructure

Kids at the Everette Hodge Community Center before Covid-19

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**\$100,000 Investment  
in Implementing the Re-envision  
Public Safety Task Force  
Recommendations**

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In the 2021 Recommended Budget, \$100,000 has been allocated to fund recommendations to be set forth by the Re-envision Public Safety Task Force. These funds would allow for the expansion of mental health services, which has also been discussed by the Kingston Police Commission, and could include mobile health units.

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The City of Kingston's community centers have been open for children during this difficult time, providing programs and remote learning opportunities. The Mayor's Recommended Budget will continue to support this community-based Covid-19 response as the City and school district navigate an uncertain school year in 2021.

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This budget allows for us to continue important housing work and support the Common Council in implementing new policies that further protect our current residents.

Mayor Noble said, “Housing is a cornerstone of our community and I am proud to further support the Office of Housing Initiatives and the work of the Kingston City Land Bank.”



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# Mayor Noble's 2021 Proposed Budget Highlights:

- ✓ No Layoffs of City Employees
  - ✓ \$1.3 million Decrease in Spending
  - ✓ Increase of Funding for Parks, Infrastructure,  
and Community Support
  - ✓ Fund the Re-envision Public Safety Task  
Force Recommendations
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Even in a difficult time, we will be meeting current **resident needs**, supporting areas of **improvement** (parks, trails, and green infrastructure), **acquiring technology** that will assist City staff in working efficiently, and continuing to **invest in vital infrastructure**

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## 2021 Budget Process Steps

- Public Hearing on the 2021 Budget: October 23 at 5pm
  - Common Council Finance Committee Budget Meetings:
    - October 26      DPW/WWTF
    - November 2     KPD
    - November 4     KFD/Bldg. Safety
    - November 16    Parks & Recreation
    - November 17    City Hall
    - November 23    Wrap up
  - Common Council votes at a December meeting
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**Find the full 2021 Proposed Budget at  
[www.kingston-ny.gov/budget2021](http://www.kingston-ny.gov/budget2021)**

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