

# CITY OF KINGSTON

## Office of the Mayor

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Steven T. Noble  
Mayor



October 18, 2023

Dear President Shaut,

I am proud to present my 2024 Recommended Budget for the Common Council's review and consideration.

As in recent years, due to the pandemic and other contributing economic factors, the enclosed budget represents a fiscally restrained approach to ensure our City's continued financial stability. To continue to provide vital infrastructure, maintain City services, and accommodate staff pay and benefit increases, my 2024

Recommended Budget includes a slight tax levy increase of 1.94%, staying below the tax cap for the ninth year in a row. The tax rates, which have steadily decreased for the last eight years, still remain below the 2021 level.

The 2024 Recommended Budget reflects inflationary increases across the board, with rising personnel and benefit costs accounting for 55% of the increase in this year's proposed budget.

A few of the key 2024 Recommended Budget highlights include:

- Three new positions year over year
- Tax levy increases, for the first time in 8 years, 9th year below the tax cap
- Tax levy is increased by 1.94% to \$17,941,969
- Modest change in the homestead rate from \$8.81 to \$8.98 (per thousand)
- Slight increase in the non-homestead rate from \$13.91 to \$14.09 (per thousand)
- Low Fiscal Stress Score (1.7 out of 100) for the third year in a row
- Investment in retention of employees
- Investment in equipment across departments to maintain infrastructure
- Sewer Rate set at \$7.13 per unit

By investing in our City staff and adjusting our budget to account for inflation—the cost of everything from health benefits to chlorine to asphalt has risen dramatically, with just a slight increase in our tax levy, we will continue to reliably deliver essential services for our residents.

I have also attached our proposed Capital Plan. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration of my recommended budget and look forward to working together for our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. Noble  
Mayor