

BOARD OF FINANCE

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BOARD OF FINANCE

Proposal for Resident Survey

Mission: The goal of this survey is to quantify our residents' sentiments regarding potential budget and mill rate changes for FY25. As a note, the Board of Finance can only poll residents on matters over which it has jurisdiction. Specifically, it is unable to poll residents on the impact of budget and mill rate changes on specific items under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, as the Board of Finance does not have line-item authority. As an example, we are unable to ask about trade-offs between certain levels of mill rate change and items within the BOE budget.

Process: The survey will ~~likely~~ be launched in early March (after the BOS and BOE vote on their respective budgets) and will be available to Wilton Residents until March 29, 2024 at 5pm ET. The results will be captured in SurveyMonkey, which has specific identifiers to determine duplicate responses. SurveyMonkey captures the data, and once the duplicate responses are excised, the information is tabulated and analyzed by the Board of Finance before its preliminary budget deliberations begin on April 2.

Note: the above Mission and Process paragraphs will not appear in the survey; they are a note to this draft.

Introduction (p.1):

The primary role of Wilton's Board of Finance is to recommend an annual budget to the town's residents. As part of that decision, the Board of Finance must approve and recommend budgets for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. These budgets are the primary drivers in the mill rate calculation. Wilton's residents will then vote on the town's budget at the Annual Town Meeting, **which this year will be held on Tuesday May 7 at 7:00pm**, with continued voting on **Saturday May 11 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, at the Clune Center at Wilton High School.**

To make its recommendation, the Board of Finance is seeking input from the town's residents about the Board of Selectmen's budget, the Board of Education's budget, and the mill rate. Please note that while the Board of Finance has line-item authority on the Board of Selectmen's budget, it does not have that same authority on the Board of Education's budget.

~~Introduction (p.2):~~

Based on the budgets proposed by the **Board of Selectmen (TBD% increase)** and the **Board of Education (TBD% increase)**, the **mill rate would increase TBD%**. Note that to illustrate a normalized spending change, the projected mill rate increase does not take revaluation's impact on the Grand List into account. Please see the next page for the relationship between the mill rate change and tax rate change for residential property owners. If

you'd like to review the budgets, please click [here](#) for the Board of Selectman's budget and [here](#) for the Board of Education's budget.

Introduction (p.2):

As the Board of Finance evaluates these [survey](#) results, [in most years](#) it uses the mill rate change as a proxy for the expected tax change. With this year's revaluation, residential property owners may see a tax change which differs from the mill rate change. Please see the chart below for an approximation of what the tax [increase-change](#) would be for residential properties at different values. Note these values are an approximation based on generalized assumptions and are not meant to be specific to any individual property.

Residential Property Appraised Value Range, Pre-Revaluation	Approx. Current Taxes, Pre-Revaluation & FY25 Budget	Post-Revaluation Approx. Expected Taxes, Assuming x% Mill Rate Change	Post-Revaluation Approx. % Change in Taxes, Assuming x% Mill Rate Change	Post-Revaluation Approx. \$ Change in Taxes, Assuming x% Mill Rate Change
<\$500,000	10,240	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$500,001 to \$750,000	12,800	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$750,001 to \$1,000,000	17,920	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$1,000,001 to \$1,250,000	23,040	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000	28,160	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$1,500,001 to \$1,750,000	33,280	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$1,750,001 to 2,000,000	38,400	TBD	TBD	TBD
>\$2,000,000	51,210	TBD	TBD	TBD

Please note that the responses to this survey are anonymous, and all results will be aggregated. Thank you for your time and consideration in responding to this short survey.

- 1) How closely do you follow Wilton's town budget process? Please select all that apply.
 - I have reviewed the Board of Selectman's budget and / or listened to their budget deliberations
 - I have reviewed the Board of Education's budget and / or listened to their budget deliberations
 - I have listened to the Board of Finance's budget discussions
 - I follow the budget process through media outlets (social media, Good Morning Wilton, Wilton Bulletin, etc.)
 - I do not track Wilton's budget process

Note to Draft: answers above will be in randomized order, except for the last option. Respondent may select all choices, but may only select the last option if that option is chosen

- 2) Do you support the proposed **TBD%** increase to the **Board of Selectmen's** budget?
 - Yes, and I would support a higher level of increase
 - Yes, I support a budget increase at this level
 - No, I do not support a budget increase at this level
- 3) Do you support the proposed **TBD%** increase to the **Board of Education's** budget?
 - Yes, and I would support a higher level of increase
 - Yes, I support a budget increase at this level
 - No, I do not support a budget increase at this level

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Residential Property Appraised Value Range, Pre-Revaluation	Approx. Current Taxes, Pre-Revaluation & FY25 Budget	Post-Revaluation Approx. Expected Taxes, Assuming x% Mill Rate Change	Post-Revaluation Approx. % Change in Taxes, Assuming x% Mill Rate Change	Post-Revaluation Approx. \$ Change in Taxes, Assuming x% Mill Rate Change
<\$500,000	10,240	TBD	TBD	TBD
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\$1,000,001 to \$1,250,000	23,040	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000	28,160	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$1,500,001 to \$1,750,000	33,280	TBD	TBD	TBD
\$1,750,001 to 2,000,000	38,400	TBD	TBD	TBD
>\$2,000,000	51,210	TBD	TBD	TBD

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4) Do you support a **TBD%** increase to the **mill rate**, as estimated based on the proposed budgets from the BOS and the BOE? Please see above for the approximated tax change for residential property value ranges based on this projected mill rate.

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- Yes, and I would support a higher increase to the mill rate
- Yes, I support a mill rate increase at this level
- No, I do not support a mill rate increase at this level

5) [IF Q4 = YES) What is the maximum mill rate change you would support, understanding that this higher mill rate would mean additional spending (relative to the proposed BOS & BOE budgets)?

- x% increase (*this will be the expected mill rate increase based on the proposed budgets*)
- x+1% increase
- x+2% increase
- x+3%+ increase
- Whatever rate the Board of Finance decides is sufficient

6) [IF Q4 = YES) Where would you want this additional funding to be applied? Please select all that apply.

- The Board of Selectmen's budget
- The Board of Education's budget
- Held as a reserve for infrastructure improvements or other spending priorities
- Other (please specify)

7) [IF Q4 = No) What is the maximum mill rate change you would support, understanding that this lower mill rate would mean reduced spending (relative to the proposed BOS & BOE budgets)?

- x% increase (*this will be the expected mill rate increase based on the proposed budgets*)
- x-1% increase
- x-2% increase
- x-3% increase
- No change
- 1% decrease
- 2% decrease
- Whatever rate the Board of Finance decides is sufficient

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8) [IF Q4 = No) From which budget would you want this reduced funding to be removed? Please select all that apply.

- The Board of Selectmen's budget
- The Board of Education's budget
- Both the Board of Selectmen's and Board of Education's budgets

9) Is there any commentary you wish to add regarding the FY2025 budget?

- Open text box

- 8)10) Are you eligible to vote in Wilton?
- Yes, as a registered voter
 - Yes, as a property owner, but not as a registered voter
 - No

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- 9)11) [IF ~~Q8-Q10~~ = FIRST 2 OPTIONS] Do you plan to vote at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7 or at the Adjourned Town Meeting on May 11?
- Yes, I plan to vote
 - No, I do not plan to vote

- 10)12) How old are you?
- 18 or Younger
 - 19-25
 - 26-34
 - 35-44
 - 45-54
 - 55-64
 - 65-74
 - 75 or older
 - I prefer not to say

- 11)13) Do you have ~~children~~ at least one child enrolled in the Wilton Public Schools?
- Yes
 - No, my children receive education outside of the Wilton public school system
 - No, my children are no longer school aged, have already graduated
 - No, my children are too young to attend school
 - No, I do not have children

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- 12)14) How long have you lived in Wilton?
- 5 years or less
 - 6 – 10 years
 - 11 – 20 years
 - 21 – 30 years
 - More than 30 years

Conclusion:

Thank you very much for taking the time to go through this survey. The Board of Finance will plan to review the results during its budget deliberations.

Please also remember to join us at the public hearings for the Board of Selectmen at 7:00pm on March 18 and the Board of Education at 7:00pm on March 20.

Please also remember to join us at the **Annual Town Meeting at 7:00pm on May 7 at Wilton High School's Clune Center!** You can also vote at the Adjourned Town Meeting on May 11 **from 8:00am to 6:00pm at the Clune Center as well.**