



TOWN OF CANTON

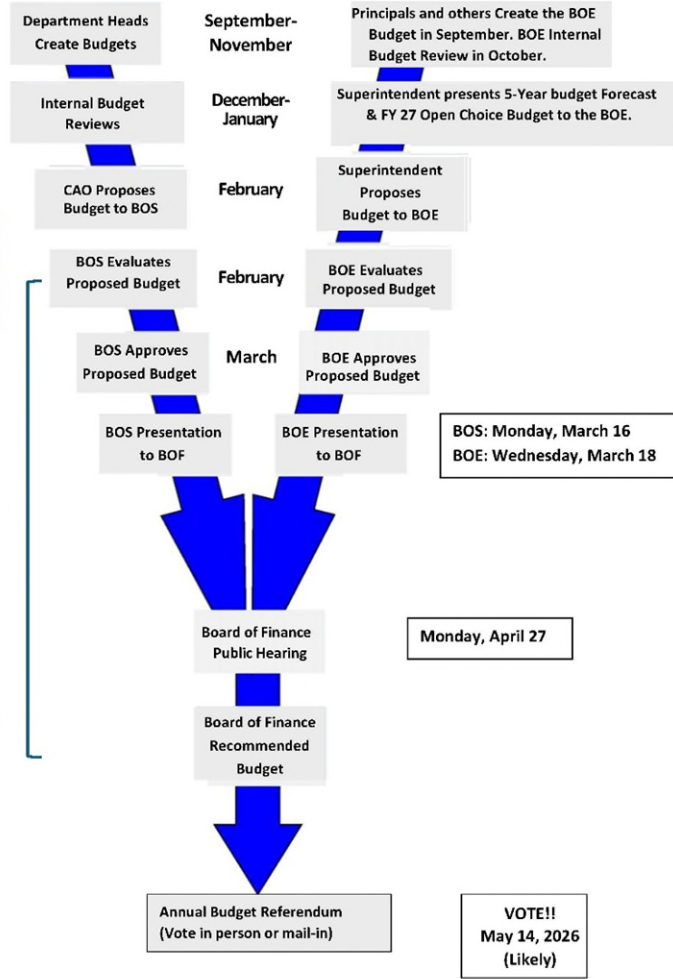
Board of Finance Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year 2026/2027

April 27, 2026

Town of Canton, Connecticut 2026-2027 Budget Development Process

PUBLIC INPUT

Meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and Board of Finance are open to the public. Feedback on the budget has the most impact during the Jan to March period, while the budget is being developed. Residents can attend these meetings in person or virtually and provide feedback via email or phone at any time.



FY 2026–27 BUDGET: EXTERNAL COST PRESSURES AFFECTING THE MILL RATE



State and federal mandates requiring expenditures without corresponding revenue



New England inflation increasing baseline costs for services, materials, fuel, and construction



Rising employee health insurance, pension, and OPEB obligations

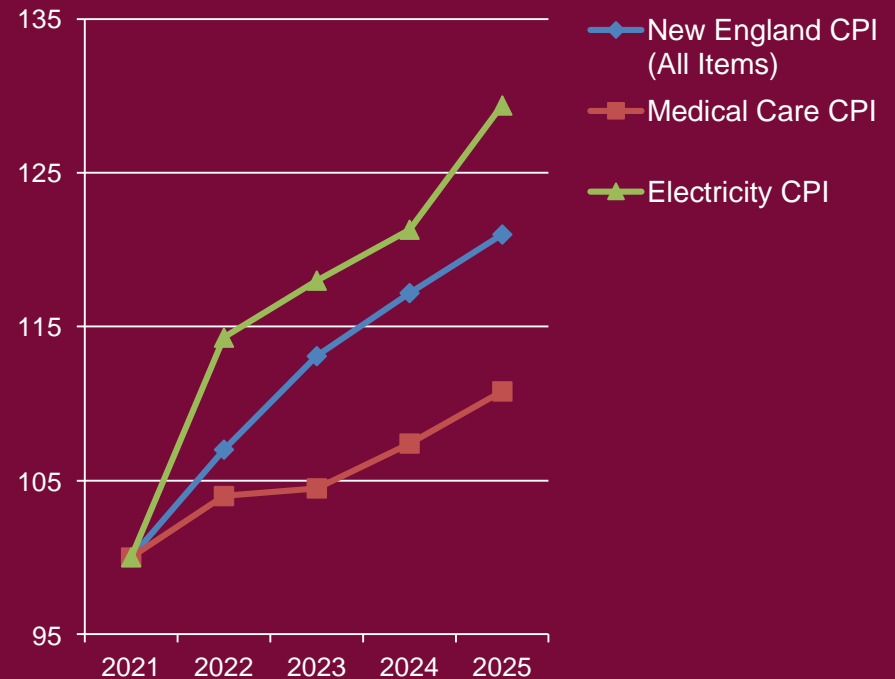


Education costs beyond local discretion, including special education and transportation



Energy and utility market volatility

Indexed Regional Cost Trends



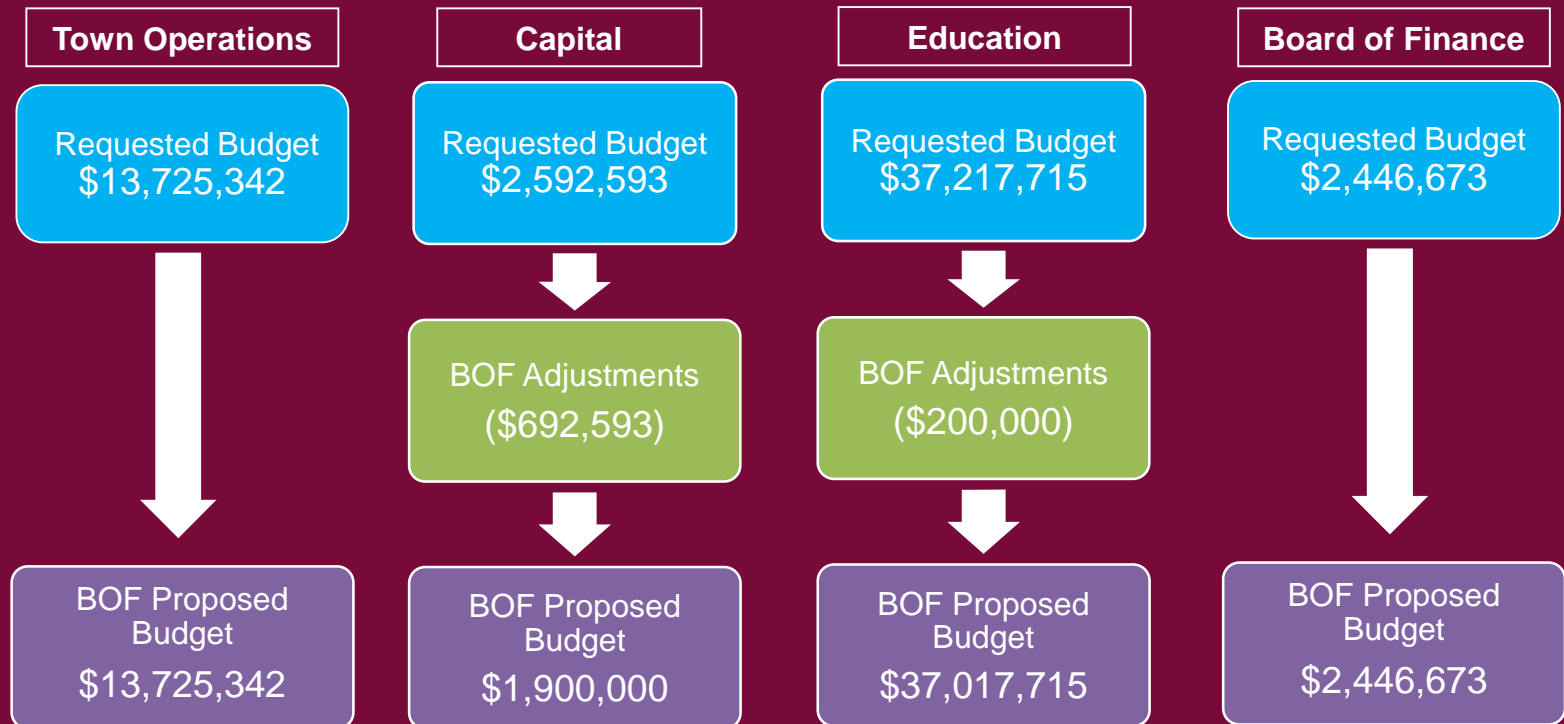
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), New England region and selected categories. Indexed for presentation clarity.

Rising New England inflation—particularly in medical care and energy—continues to increase the cost of maintaining existing services, placing upward pressure on the FY 2026–27 tax levy and mill rate.

BUDGET MYTHS VS. FACTS

- Myth: The Town added new programs that caused the increase.
 - Fact: The FY 2026–27 budget mainly reflects inflation, mandates, and required obligations—not new local programs.
- Myth: The Board of Finance didn't make any cuts.
 - Fact: The Board of Finance reduced requested budgets by \$892,593, lowering the overall increase from 10.16% to 8.41%.
- Myth: Education spending is discretionary.
 - Fact: Many education costs—especially special education and transportation—are required by law.
- Myth: Capital spending could simply be eliminated.
 - Fact: Capital funding addresses essential infrastructure and deferring it often results in higher long-term costs.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES MADE BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE



Total Board of Finance cuts (\$892,593) reduced total budget increase from 10.16% down to 8.41%

TOWN WIDE BUDGET SUMMARY

	Approved FY26	Proposed FY27	Increase (%)	Increase (\$)
Board of Selectmen	\$13,097,335	\$13,725,341	4.79%	\$627,986
CIP	\$1,011,000	\$1,900,000	87.93%	\$889,000
Board of Education	\$34,892,081	\$37,017,715	6.09%	\$2,125,634
Board of Finance	\$1,816,487	\$2,446,673	34.69%	\$630,186
Total Proposed Budget	<u>\$50,816,923</u>	<u>\$55,089,729</u>	<u>8.41%</u>	<u>\$4,272,806</u>

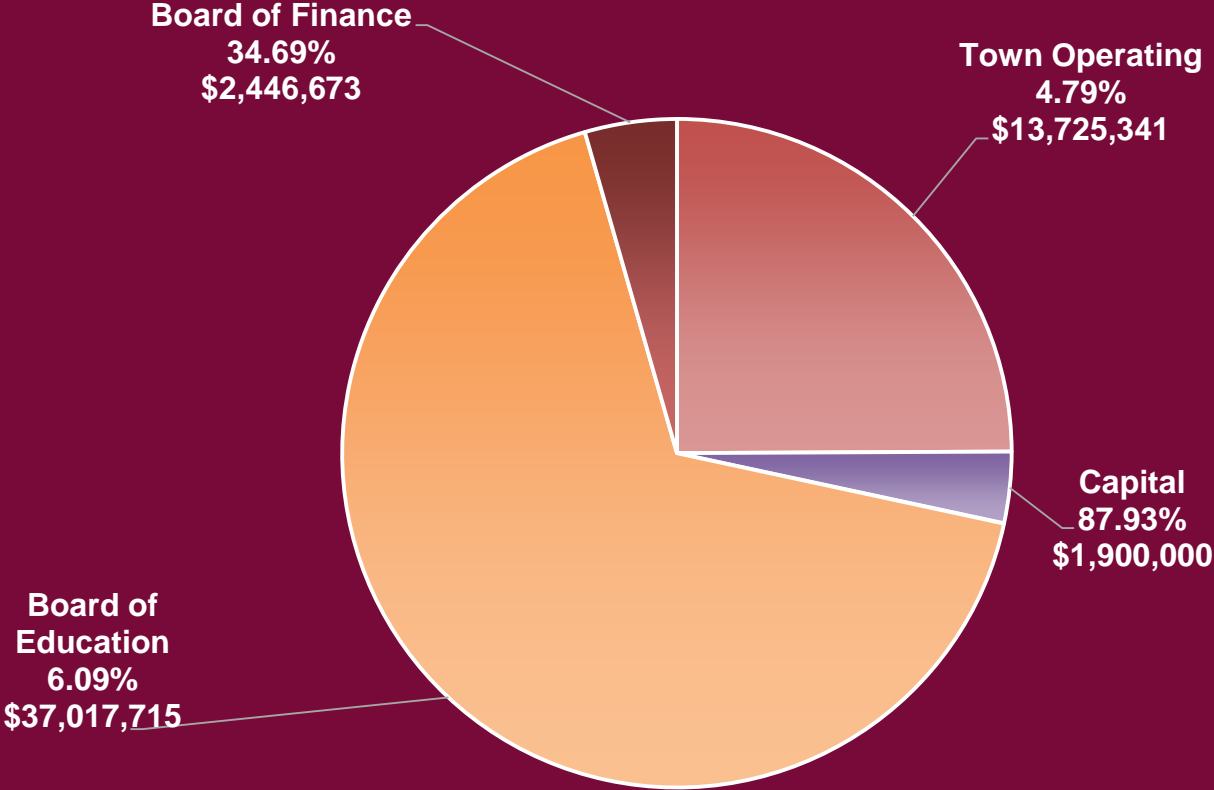
2026-2027 BUDGET INCREASES

TOWN WIDE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

(BY FUNCTION)

TOTAL PROPOSED: \$55,089,729

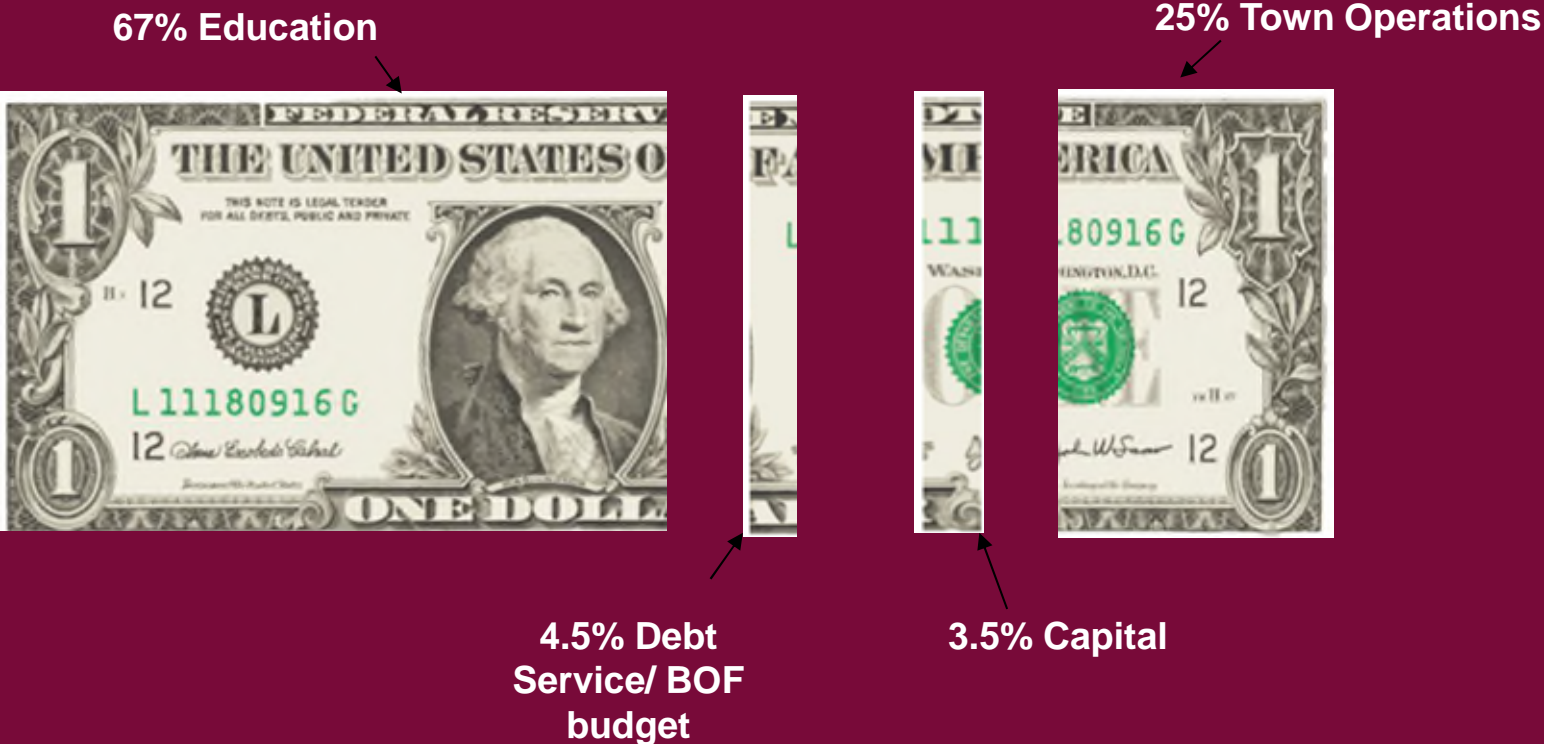
8.41% INCREASE



Line item	Amount (\$)	Explanation
Auditor Fees	\$56,700	Auditor fees cover the cost of the audit for the Town, Board of Education, and WPCA. The Town currently uses King, King & Associates, CPAs. The audit fee increases 5% annually and the WPCA pays for 10% of the audit fees.
Capital & Non-recurring	\$0	The Capital & Non-recurring account has historically been used to cover the cost of the revaluation and phase-in. This account currently has a balance of approximately \$80,000 to be used for future revaluations. This budget cycle the Board has opted to pause this appropriation and will re-evaluate next year.
Appropriation to Fund Balance	\$700,000	During Fiscal Year 2026, the Town adopted a fund balance policy requiring the Town to maintain a fund balance of at least 15% of budgeted expenditures. The Town's fund balance is currently at 14.3%. This \$700,000 will be used to help rebuild our fund balance, per the new policy, and cover any future debt service payments that arise from the Vision 2050 bonding package.
Debt Service	\$1,686,573	Debt Service expenditures under this line item are to finance the Town's principal and interest on its current general obligation bonds.

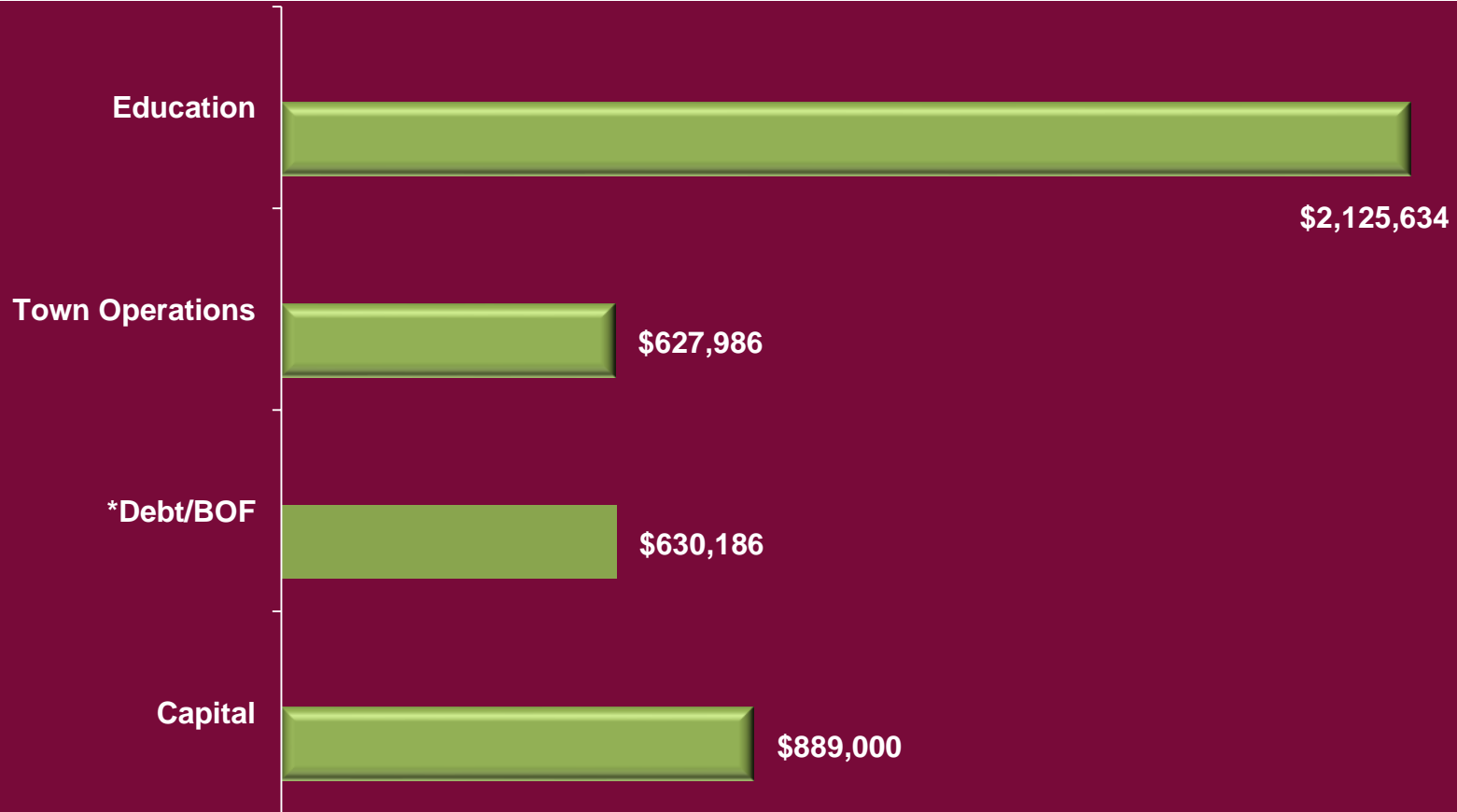
BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET DRIVERS

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLAR IS SPENT



ALLOCATION OF TOTAL INCREASES

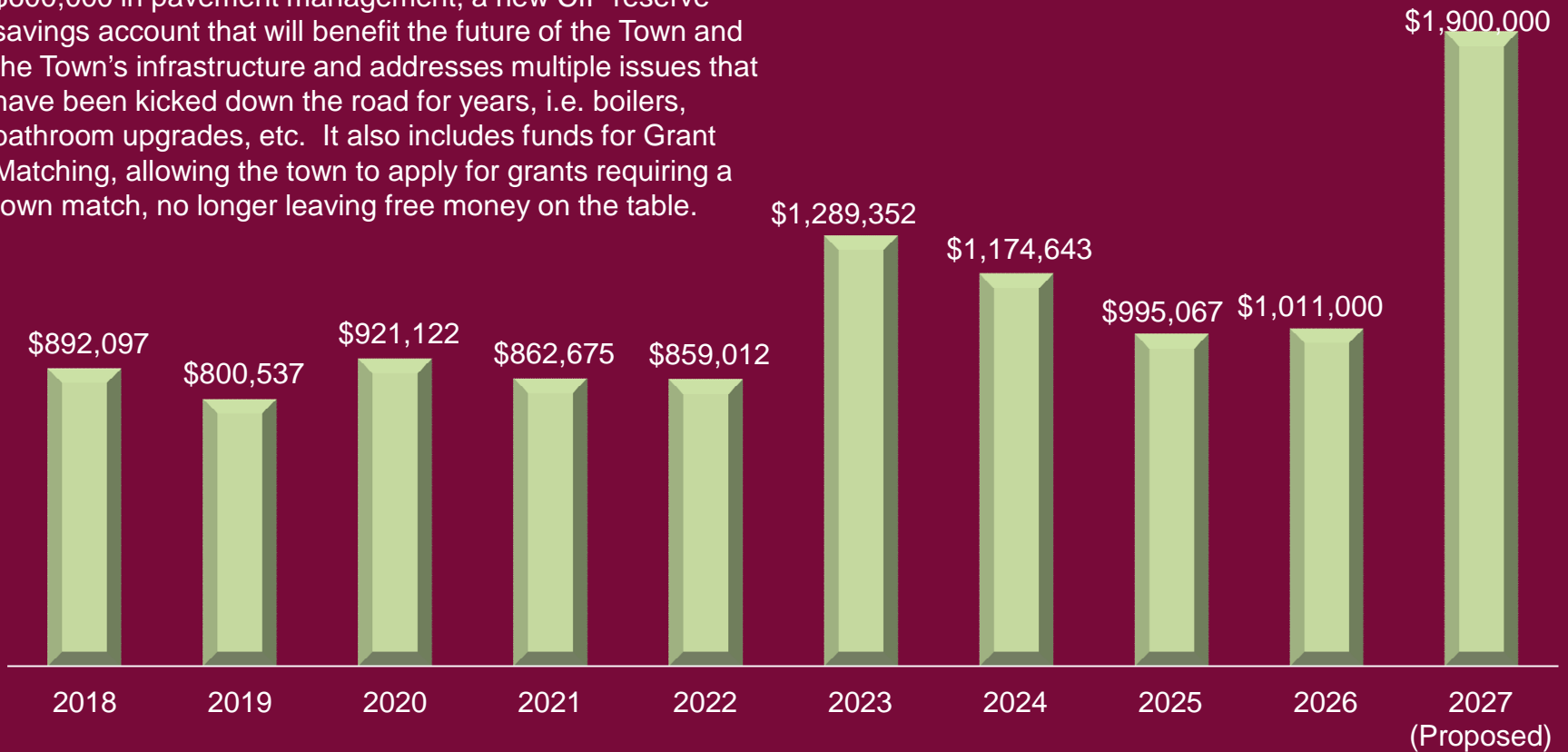
\$4,272,806



CAPITAL BUDGET HISTORY

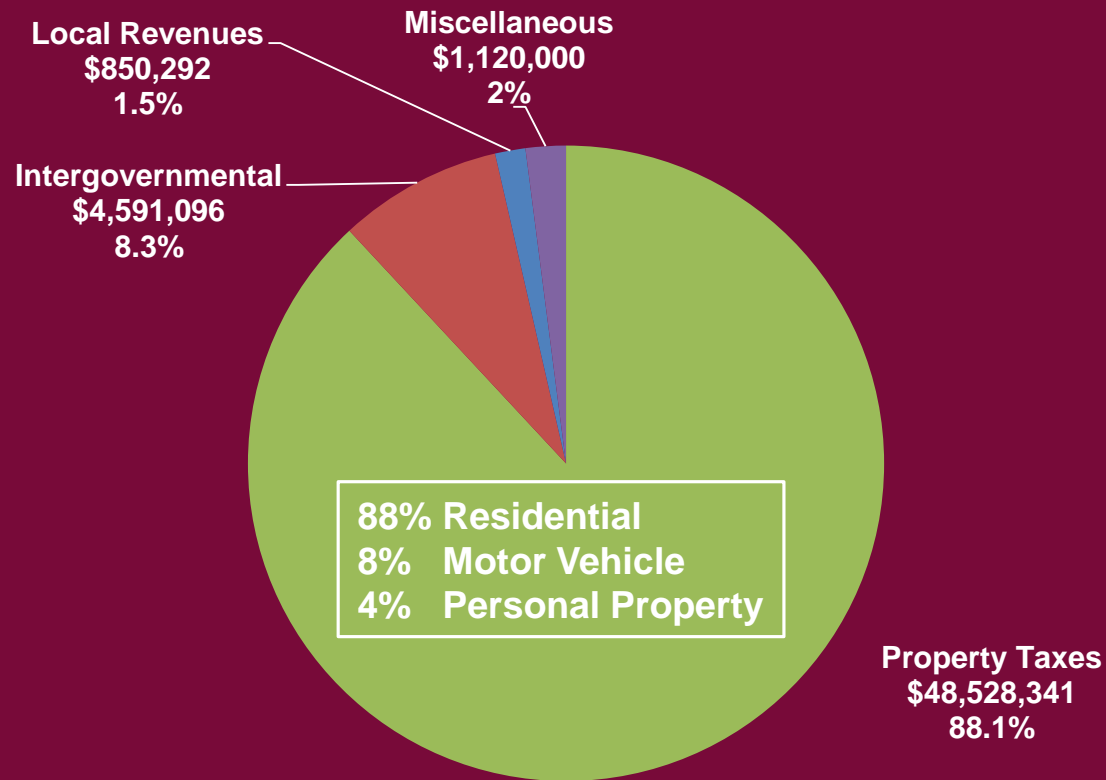
GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTION

This year's Capital Improvement Plan Budget includes \$600,000 in pavement management, a new CIP reserve savings account that will benefit the future of the Town and the Town's infrastructure and addresses multiple issues that have been kicked down the road for years, i.e. boilers, bathroom upgrades, etc. It also includes funds for Grant Matching, allowing the town to apply for grants requiring a town match, no longer leaving free money on the table.



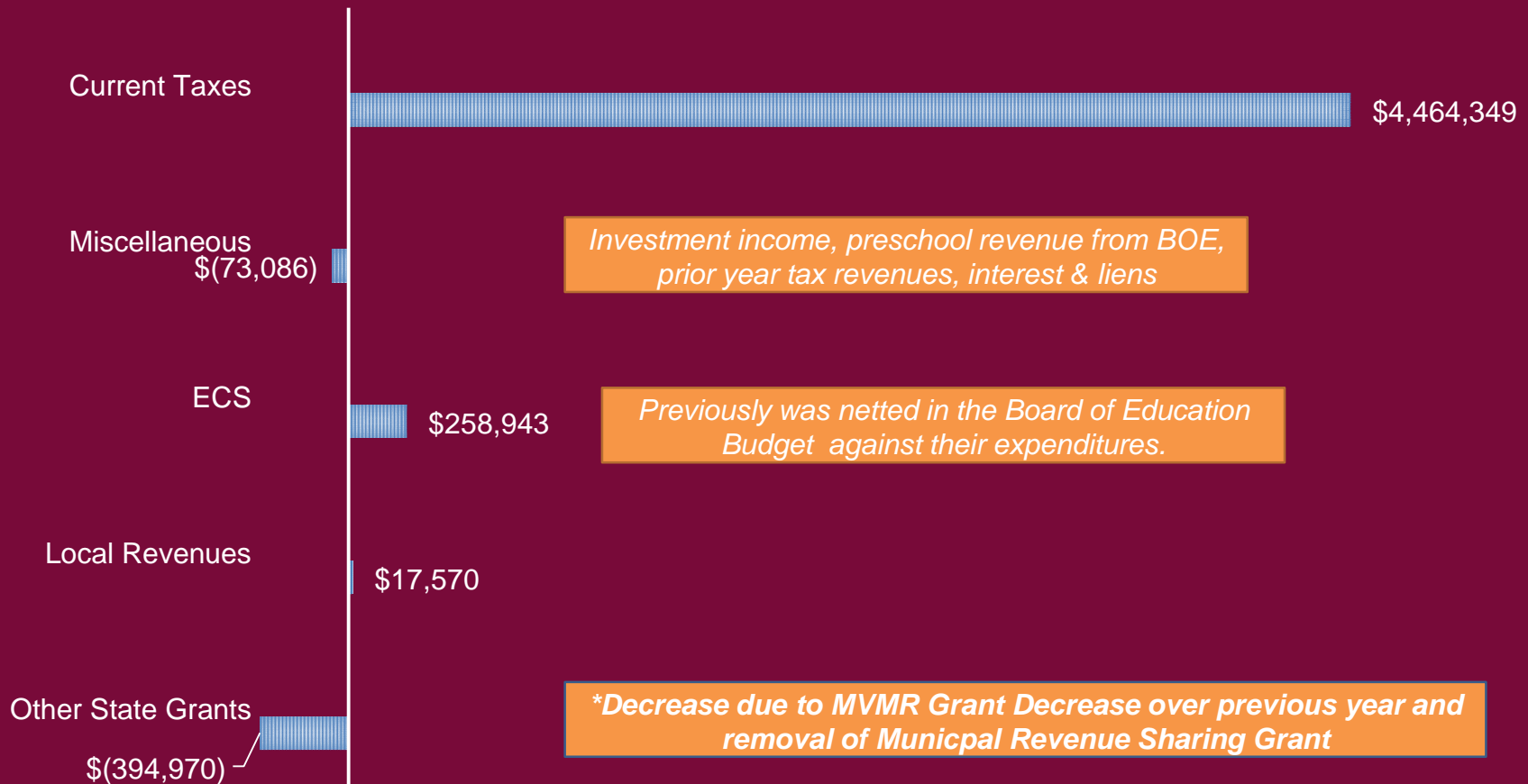
MANAGER PROPOSED REVENUES

BY MAJOR FUNCTION
TOTAL PROPOSED: \$55,089,729



ESTIMATED REVENUE CHANGES

\$4,272,806

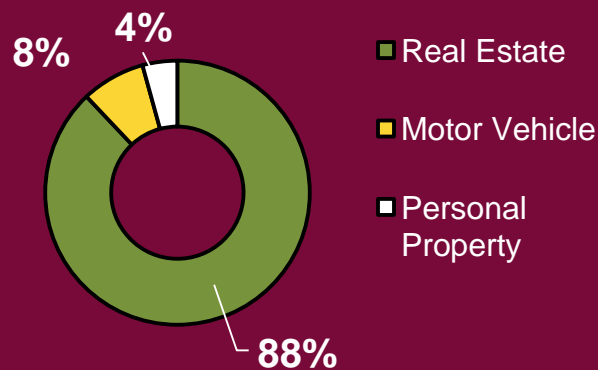


GRAND LIST

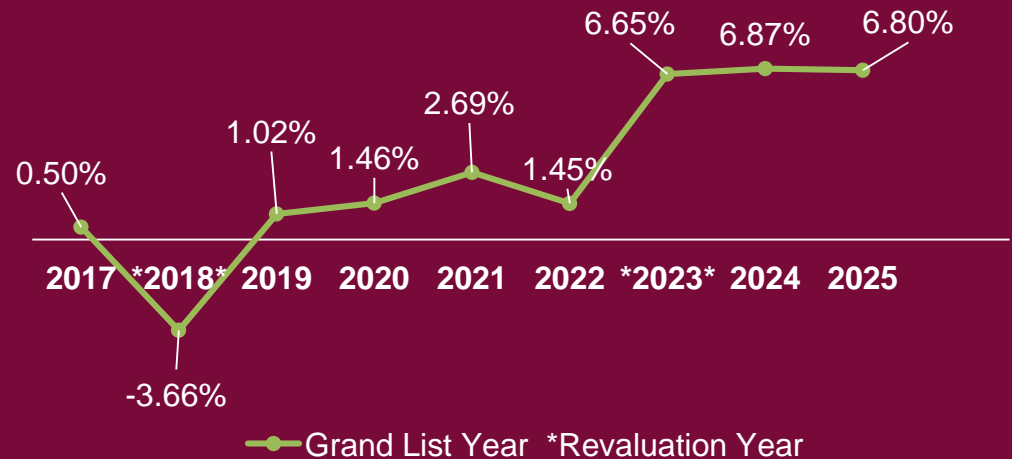
- Grand List increased by 6.80%
- The 10/1/25 Grand List is currently valued at \$1,404,902,971.

This is subject to change due to adjustments from the Board of Assessment Appeals and litigation.

Assessed Value

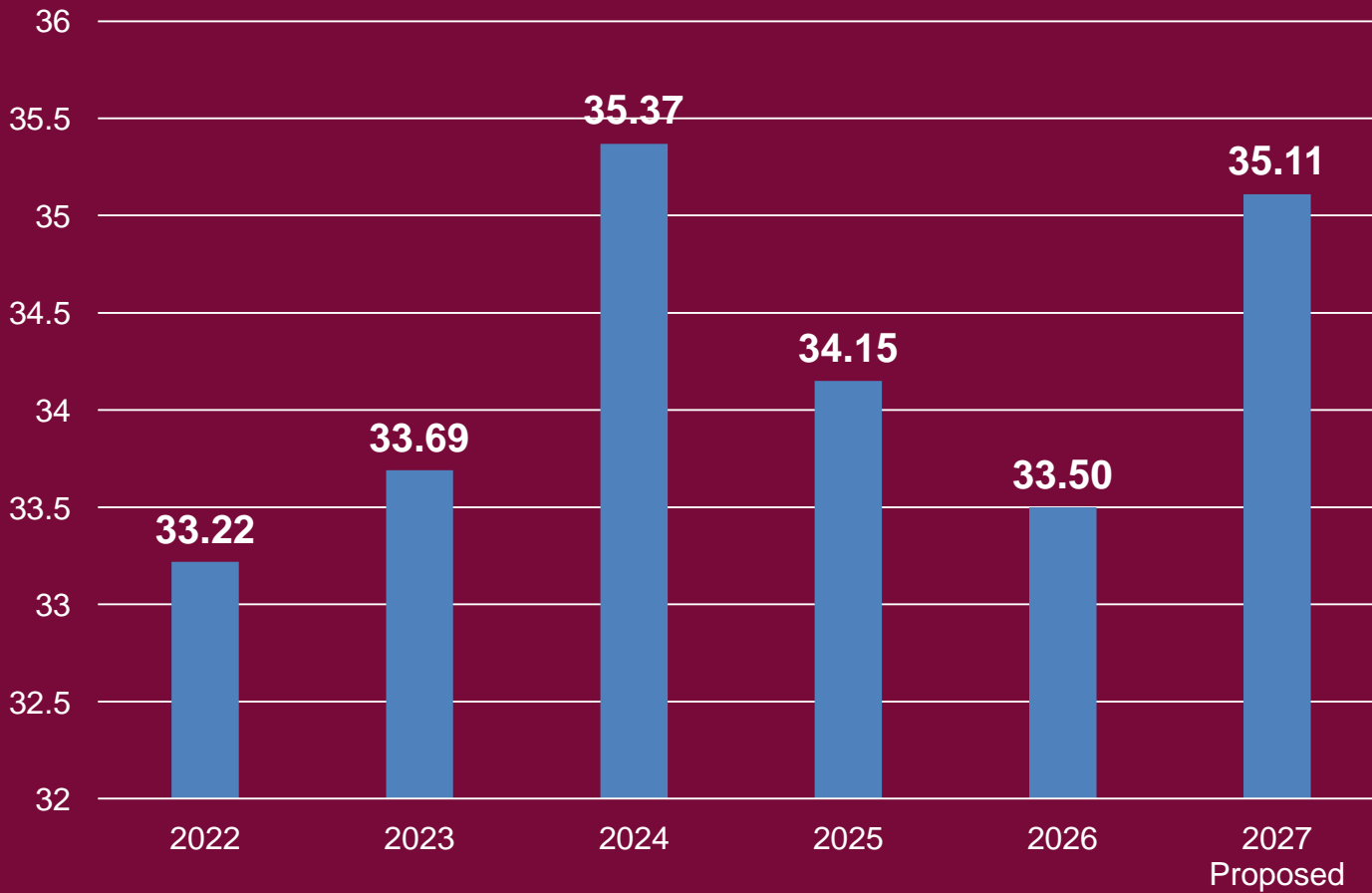


Actual Net Growth in Grand List

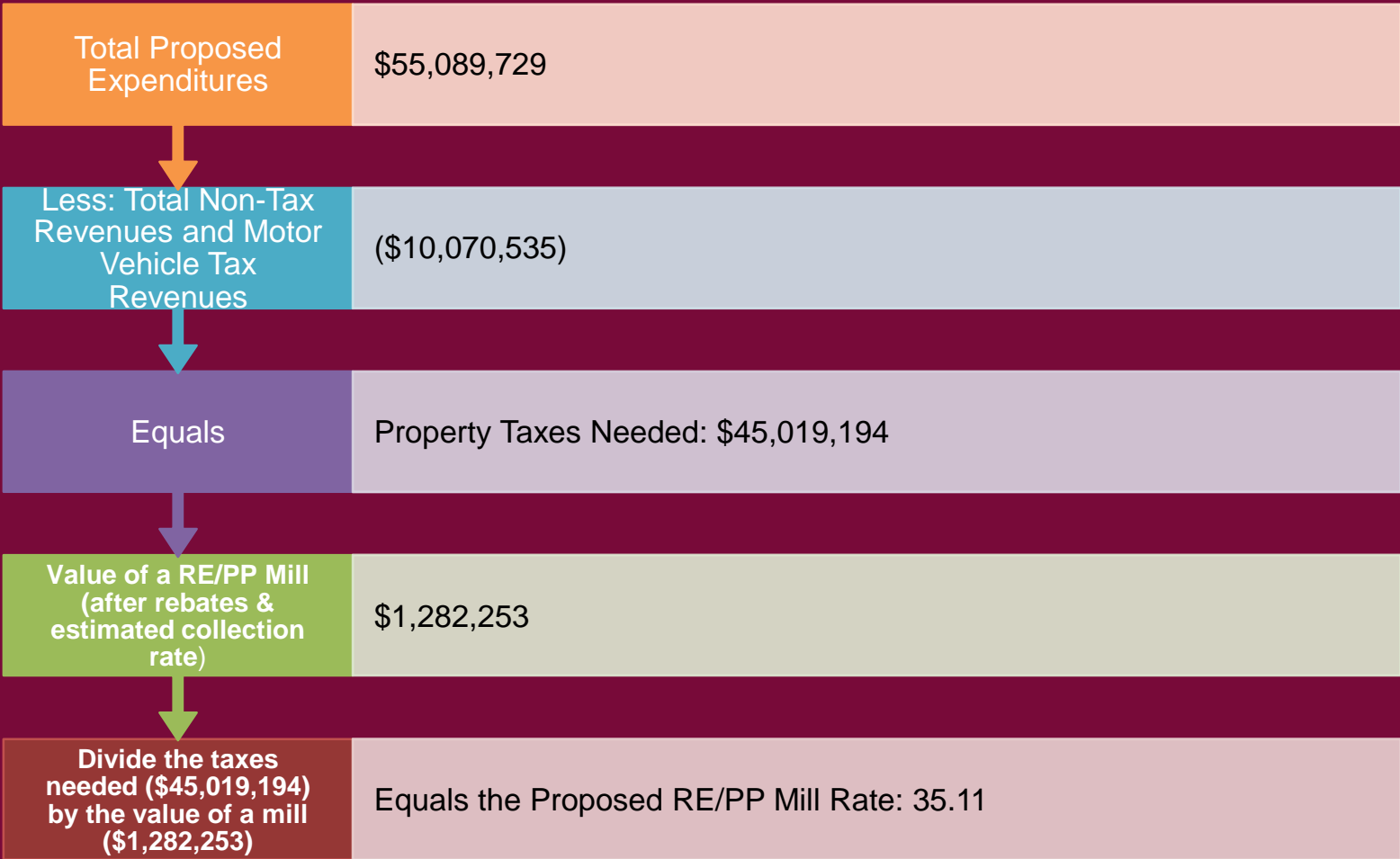


MILL RATE HISTORY

(REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY)



MILL RATE CALCULATION



FY 26 Adopted Mill Rate	FY 27 Proposed Mill Rate	Change	% Change
33.50	35.11	1.61	4.81%

Assessed Value	FY 26 Taxes	FY 27 Proposed Taxes	\$ Change	% Change
\$ 217,293	\$ 7,279	\$ 7,629	\$ 350	4.81%

PROPOSED RE/PP TAX CHANGE

FY 2026- 2027 BUDGET LINKS



[Board of Education
Budget](#)



[Board of Selectmen
\(including town
wide CIP\) Budget](#)



[Board of Finance
Budget](#)

BUDGET REFERENDUM

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2026

LOCATION: Canton Community Center

TIME: 6:00am – 8:00pm

PLEASE CONTACT
BRIAN MILLER, BOARD OF FINANCE CHAIR
CANTONBOFCHAIR@GMAIL.COM

ZOE PEAK, FINANCE DIRECTOR
ZPEAK@TOWNOFCANTONCT.ORG

WITH ANY QUESTIONS.