



City Council
Finance/FY27 Tax Rate
Committee Meeting

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

~Final~

Councilor Zaida Govan (Chair)

October 20, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

Zoom

Councilor Davila (Committee member)
Jessica Guerra (Assesor)
Diana Szynal (spfld regional chambers)
Lindsay Hackett (Deputy CAFO)
Ronald Molina-Brantley
Steven Carosello

In Person

Councilor Govan (Chair)
Council President Whitfield
Melanie (Assesors)
Stephen Loneragan (Treasurer)
Cathy Buono (CAFO)
Sacoy Malone (Grants Director)
Pat Burns (Comptroller)
Michelle (Roca)

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Excused	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Present	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	

Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Zoom	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Absent	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracy Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Present	

Call To Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on October 20, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. Discussion of FY27 Preliminary Tax Rate Information

On October 20, 2026, the Finance Committee and Tax Rate Committee, chaired by Councilor Zaida Govan, met to review the FY2027 property tax classification process. Jessica Guerra, Chair of the Board of Assessors, presented an overview of property assessments, Proposition 2½, tax levy limits, new growth, and the responsibilities of the Board of Assessors, Department of Revenue, and City Council. Springfield has approximately 46,000 taxable parcels and personal property accounts. FY2026 assessed values increased 7.81%, with an average single-family assessment of \$275,000, an average tax bill of \$4,255, and a residential tax rate of \$15.46 per \$1,000. The maximum tax shift factor of 1.75 resulted in residential properties paying 61% of the levy and commercial, industrial, and personal property paying 39%. The shift redistributes the tax burden without increasing the total levy. Final FY2027 assessments and new growth figures remain pending Department of Revenue approval.

The committee reviewed available property tax exemptions for qualifying seniors, veterans, surviving spouses, and residents with disabilities, along with the state Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. The newly established Targeted Tax Relief Program received \$1 million in initial funding to assist eligible low-income elderly or disabled homeowners. Applications opened October 13 and close November 13, 2026, with individual applications scheduled for review beginning November 20. Discussion addressed increasing public awareness through neighborhood councils, libraries, and community outreach.

Additional discussion focused on property affordability, the impact of tax classifications on homeowners and businesses, redevelopment of vacant properties, small business assistance, and opportunities to increase state and federal funding. Members requested examples illustrating how different tax factors would affect residential and commercial tax bills. City officials reported an estimated 96% to 97% property tax collection rate and confirmed that FY2027 property tax revenues remain on track with budget projections. Additional new growth revenue may be directed toward the overlay account for abatements. The committee also reviewed financial reserves and anticipated expenses associated with the recent microburst, with a funding request expected following free cash certification.

The next Tax Rate Committee meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2026, when updated assessments and tax factor options are expected to be presented. The City Council Tax Classification Public Hearing is scheduled for November 24, 2026. No formal recommendation or vote was recorded. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]