

BUDGET



HOW AND WHEN IS THE BUDGET PREPARED?

Each spring, City departments submit their plans and needs for the coming year to the Office of Management and Budget, which compiles a proposed budget. This is reviewed by the City Manager who then submits the recommended budget to the City Council by the end of June. The Council reviews the budget in workshops over the summer and often holds public meetings for citizen comment. In September the Council holds two public hearings to obtain citizen input, make final changes, and adopt a final millage rate and budget for the new year starting October 1st.

Citizens who would like to learn more about the City's budget process should carefully watch or attend all Council meeting discussions on the budget, especially those during the months of July through September.

WHAT IS THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF CLEARWATER?

The City of Clearwater's final adopted millage rate for 2007/08 is 4.6777 mills, which is a decrease of 10.2% from last year's rate of 5.2088 mills; and a decrease of 18.7% from the City's millage rate of 5.753 two years ago in fiscal 2005/06.

One mill is equal to \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessed property value. With a millage rate of 4.6777 mills, city property taxes on a \$100,000 home with a \$25,000 homestead exemption, would be \$350.83.

THE TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF CLEARWATER IS 19.9371 MILLS. HOW MUCH OF THAT WILL BE PAID TO THE CITY?

Only 4.6777 mills of the total 19.9371 mills levied for the fiscal year 2008 budget year will be paid to the City of Clearwater. This represents only 23.5% of the total property tax bill. Other taxing agencies receiving a portion of your property taxes include Pinellas County Services, Pinellas County School Board, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Juvenile Welfare Board, and the Pinellas County Transit Authority.

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF CLEARWATER?

The annual operating and capital improvement budget for the City of Clearwater is \$397 million for fiscal year 2007/08. This includes the budgets for all operating funds including the City's water and sewer, gas, solid waste, and recycling operations.

The General Fund budget represents \$123 million of the total budget, which is an increase of only 1% over last year's budget. The General Fund provides money for City operations of a non-proprietary nature, including police, fire, parks and recreation, libraries, street lighting, transportation services, and planning. Public safety remains the City's highest priority, and the budgets for the Police and Fire Departments represent approximately 47% of the total General Fund budget.

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES

Property Tax	38%	\$ 47.2M
Communications/ Service/Sales Tax	11%	\$13.6M
Franchise/Utility Tax	18%	\$ 21.8M
Licenses/Permits	4%	\$ 4.5M
Fines/Penalties	1%	\$ 1.0M
Intergovernmental	9%	\$ 11.8M
Service Charges	3%	\$ 3.8M
Interfund	14%	\$ 17.2M
Miscellaneous	2%	\$ 2.3M

EXPENDITURES

Public Safety	47%	\$ 58.4M
Planning & Developm't Svcs.	5%	\$ 5.7M
Engineering/ Public Services	9%	\$ 10.7M
Quality of Life	24%	\$ 29.6M
Administration/ Other	15%	\$ 17.7M
Reserves	1%	\$ 1.1M

