

C6-3.1 Limitation on Property Tax Levy Increase. [Amended 09-05-2007, approved at 11-06-2007 Municipal Election; Amended 06-22-2011, approved at 11-08-2011 Municipal Election]

The City Council shall adopt the annual municipal budget for city and school purposes to limit the property tax levy on taxpayers to the property tax levy from the previous tax year increased by the amount of inflation calculated from the Consumer Price Index-Boston and the net increase in new construction. Enterprise funds, dedicated funds, capital reserve funds, grants, county tax, state property tax, and revenues from sources other than local taxes shall be excluded from the limitation on the property tax levy. Appropriations in the annual municipal budget shall not exceed the property tax levy increased by other revenues generated by the municipality.

A. The "amount of inflation" means the average of the thirty-six (36) month changes for the calendar years immediately preceding the budget year as stated in the Consumer Price Index-Boston published by the United States Department of Labor.

B. "Net increase in new construction" means the total value of building permits minus the total value of demolition permits for the previous calendar year based on information provided from city departments.

C. The "property tax levy" means the amount sought to be collected from property taxes.

D. The budget limit provisions on the total property tax levy may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all elected members of the City Council.

E. If any provision of this section is invalidated in proceedings before a court of law, the remaining provisions consistent with the general law and constitution shall remain in full force and effect.

C6-4. Budget Hearing.

A public hearing on the budget shall be held at least seven days before its final adoption by the Council at such time and place, convenient to the public, as the Council shall direct and notice of such public hearing, together with a copy of the budget as submitted, shall be posted in two public places and published once at least one week in advance by the City Clerk; provided, however, that there shall be a separate hearing held on the portion of the budget submitted by the School Board and a separate hearing on the portion of the budget submitted by the Manager, and there shall be at least a twenty-four hour period between the hour at which one hearing is begun and the hour at which the other hearing is begun.