



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY COUNCIL

BEN WHEELER  
CITY COUNCILOR AT LARGE

Dear Colleagues:

With the fiscal year 2027 budget season beginning, I wanted to share the proposed schedule and process for this year's budget review.

Drawing on how the budget process has evolved in recent years, this year we will continue using a format that emphasizes advance submission of questions before hearing nights, and structured opportunities for follow-up during hearing nights. The initial round of questions will be submitted in advance of each hearing, and departments will respond via written materials. Hearing nights will then provide an opportunity for follow-up questions and discussion. I'm working now on a Google Form that you can use to submit questions to each specific department.

Each department will be assigned one of three departmental budget hearing nights to appear before the council for presentation and follow-up questions. Should there be any remaining questions, there will be a fourth night where councilors can indicate that they would like a department head to appear, to answer questions that arose following that department's initial appearance.

This approach allows for a longer period to review the budget and submit questions, while devoting a higher percentage of meeting time to answering councilor questions.

This schedule may change, but here is the proposed timeline for when each step will happen:

- Friday, May 29 (tentative): Mayor releases budget
- Thursday, June 4: Mayor's Budget Presentation (*in-person*)
- Monday, June 8: Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2027 Budget (*remote*)
- Tuesday, June 9: Departmental Budget Hearings (*night 1 of 4; remote*)  
*Deadline for presubmitted questions: Friday, June 5*
- Monday, June 15: Departmental Budget Hearings (*night 2 of 4; remote*)  
*Deadline for presubmitted questions: Wednesday, June 10*
- Wednesday, June 17: Departmental Budget Hearings (*night 3 of 4; remote*)  
*Deadline for presubmitted questions: Monday, June 15*
- Monday, June 22: Departmental Budget Hearings (*night 4 of 4, for follow-ups; remote*)
- Tuesday, June 23: Cut Night (*in-person*)
- Thursday, June 25: Budget voting night (*regular meeting of city council, in-person*)

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Ben Wheeler  
City Councilor At-Large