



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY COUNCIL

KRISTEN STREZO

City Councilor At-Large

March 8, 2026

To the Wilson Administration and My Somerville Community,

I have had the gift of serving my beloved Somerville for four terms, now. I take my role as a City Councilor and my impact seriously as I consider, every day, how the decisions I make impact the lives of Somerville residents, and sometimes the broader Boston-area.

As I write this Somerville faces an uncertain financial climate going into the FY27 budget. Revenue is down. Our city faces a \$6 million shortfall. Within Somerville, there has been a lot of changes of leadership within our municipal government in the numerous years I've served in my role. Somerville has had three mayors with three separate approaches within in the span of less than a decade. This sometimes prompts shifts of staffing and department heads. Sometimes, it prompts shifts of budget priorities.

Additionally, the City Council has seen a lot of new faces over this same time period. This ebb and flow can create a fresh approach to ideas. But it also reveals the steep learning curve with various levels of understanding of the municipal process, priorities and approach. Knowing this, I stand steadfastly devoted to making sure my constituents feel a sense of continuity, responsiveness and validation. We must uphold the work to protect our residents and aim to ensure their best quality of life. This is the work of City Council.

As our city faces that shortfall of millions and millions of dollars, my FY27 Budget priorities are focused on practical and cost-effective everyday ways to sustain and enhance life for my Somerville constituents. I am also resubmitting my previous budget requests from past cycles.

Of course, I want as many of my Budget Requests accepted and as amply funded as possible. However, the ultimate decision of City Council Budget Requests lay in the hands of the Mayor's Administration to accept. So, I am choosing to pass on submitting my Budget Requests with paragraphs-upon-paragraphs of explanatory descriptions of my line items, especially in the midst of such a financial shortfall. These budget



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line items may or may not be accepted in the numerous difficult funding decisions our city faces. I believe my attention and capacity as a City Councilor is best directed supporting, enhancing and protecting the everyday lives of my constituents. So, I will let my Budget Request line items speak for themselves. I may have elaborated on a Budget Request if I felt clarification was necessary.

It is essential in these uncertain times--for our nation, our state and our city--that Somerville residents know that we always have them in our focus. I am devoted to this. And I hope we can take on any uncertainty together as a community --with love and with respect to what each of us brings to the table. I hope that my budget priorities reflect this.

Yours In Service,  
Councilor Kristen Strezio  
City Councilor, at-Large



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## **BUDGET REQUESTS FOR THE FY27 CYCLE**

### **OUR YOUNGEST CONSTITUENTS AND FOCUS ON NURTURING OUR FUTURE**

**RESOLUTION:** that the FY27 Budget includes funding to open and regularly maintain Founder's Rink.

**RESOLUTION:** that the FY27 budget include funding for the Recreation Department to implement a year-round Girls Hockey Team and intramural Hockey program.

**RESOLUTION:** that the FY27 budget include funding for the Recreation Department to expand inclusive and special needs focused programs.

**RESOLUTION:** that the FY27 budget include funding to open, staff and maintain a regular Teen Center with daily hours until 8 p.m.

**RESOLUTION:** for the FY27 budget to include funding towards creating more municipal seasonal indoor spaces for families with younger children.

**RESOLUTION:** for the FY27 budget to include funding towards More Out of School time, expanding play spaces for Somerville residents from birth to 18 and their adults.

### **COMMUNITY, COMMUNITY SPACES AND WAYS TO CONNECT US**

**RESOLUTION:** that the FY27 Budget includes funding stable patio furniture for City Hall patio and furniture placed around City Hall Concourse to increase and invite communal use of public spaces.

**RESOLUTION:** that funds are released in the FY27 Budget to establish a dog park in Ward 7.



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**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 budget includes increased support for Somerville small businesses.**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 budget includes increased funding for weather-sturdy clothing for crossing guards.**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY 27 Budget include funding to implement the recommendations of the Massachusetts Antisemitism Commission recommendations and funding to initiate implicit bias trainings.**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget includes funding for two work pods installed inside City Hall.**

While the 1895 Building sits on the Capital Improvement plan, potentially considered within 5-10 years, visitors to City Hall and employees of City Hall, frequently shuffle for space and a place to hold a meeting. Sometimes these meetings require a private location within City Hall, where constituents share vulnerable details about an issue they're facing within the city. Funding these two workspace pods would be a low-cost solution to improve our commitment to excellent constituent service.

### **HOUSING AND SUSTAINING US**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget includes funding for the Office of Housing Stability to sustain funding for services including the continuation of municipal flex funding, funding for legal services, collaboration with community partners, the municipal voucher program and the SomerVIP program.**

**RESOLUTION: the FY27 budget to include funding towards a study on how Somerville could introduce a low-income or first generational path to homeownership that is specifically tailored to Somerville with the goal of implementation within five years.**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget includes funding that sustains and increases, where most impactful, the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), to sustain our support for our immigrant community and protecting our vulnerable members of our immigrant community.**



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**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget includes funding to address food insecurity in Somerville.**

**SENIOR ISSUES: PLANNING FOR GROWING OLDER IN PLACE**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget includes a Senior Advocate Liaison position within the Executive Office that is present in planning and advocates on behalf of residents 65 and older to ensure aging-in-place-friendly city design is happening.**

The first is a Director of Senior Affairs, a forward-thinking community advocate housed within the Executive Branch, whose role is to be present in every room where community decisions and plans are being made, to represent and speak up for seniors on everything from street design and mobility, to parks, to housing and zoning, to health, to communication, to policy, and beyond.

The Director of Senior Affairs would also oversee research and collect data on the growing senior population to ensure we know more about who they are and what they need. This position is designed to be separate from the Council on Aging.

**RESOLUTION: for the FY27 budget to include \$300 for T-shirts for the Council on Aging Board.**

**GENDER EQUITY**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget include \$15,000 in funding for menstrual products to be supplied, and free to the public, in each city-owned building, including in City Hall.**

**RATS.**

**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget increase and sustain and increase its funding for rat control efforts.**

**Community Development Through Promoting Safe Streets**



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**RESOLUTION: that the FY27 Budget includes \$15,000 towards expanding the Neighborways program for low-cost street mural traffic calming measures and community collaboration.**