



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL
JAKE WILSON
CITY COUNCILOR AT LARGE

11 March, 2024

Somerville City Council
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: City Council FY 2025 Shared Budget Priorities Process

Dear Honorable City Council Colleagues:

The Mayor once again requested our individual budget priorities for the Fiscal Year 2025 budget that will be constructed over the coming months. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their individual FY25 budget priority memos ahead of tonight's meeting in order to have them considered as potential FY25 shared budget priorities by this council in the weeks ahead.

Below are some key dates in this council's FY25 Shared Budget Priorities process:

March 15-19: Meetings with Councilors

The City Council's Finance Analyst, Mohammed Uddin, and our Legislative and Policy Analyst, Brendan Salisbury, are meeting with councilors to go through their individual FY25 budget priorities, in order to ensure they understand intent and to go over categorization – or “bucketing” – of councilors' individual budget priorities on a Google Form that will be used for voting at our Shared Budget Priorities meeting on March 26.

March 19: Draft category form shared

A draft of this Google Form will be shared with this council and the public at the public hearing on FY25 budget priorities on Tuesday, March 19. Councilors are asked to raise any issues with the form in the days after that meeting, in order for it to be finalized ahead of the March 26 meeting.

March 26: Shared Budget Priorities meeting

This council will meet as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 26 at 7 PM in the City Council Chamber in order to determine our top shared FY25 budget priorities as a body – and hopefully pass resolutions expressing these to the Administration.

The meeting will consist of three phases:

1. **Individual Budget Priorities:** Councilors will have an opportunity to briefly highlight an individual budget priority or two from their memo that they wish to persuade colleagues to support that evening. We will ask councilors to limit themselves to one two-minute speaking turn, as we go around The Horseshoe in customary order of seat numbers.
2. **Voting:** Councilors will cast a maximum of ten (10) votes for their top budget priorities from the list of categories on the Google Form. There then will be a 15- to 20-minute recess while votes are tabulated.
3. **Shared Budget Priority Resolutions:** Beginning with the category or categories (in the event of a tie) garnering the most support, we will take up motions for resolutions expressing the City Council's support for shared budget priorities in those categories.

Please note that the Chair will move to suspend the normal rules of the City Council at the beginning of the March 26 meeting and move to adopt special rules for the evening. These rules will differ from the normal City Council rules in the following ways:

- Motions from the floor will not be entertained with the exception of motions for resolutions expressing a shared FY25 budget priority of the Somerville City Council.
- Motions expressing a shared FY25 budget priority will be taken up in the order of descending levels of support on the Google Form.
- Resolutions of shared FY25 budget priorities will require supermajority support for approval, meaning a minimum of eight (8) Yes votes will be required to approve these resolutions.

I will be reaching out to all colleagues on the council to go over this information ahead of these meetings. Councilors should feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns in the meantime.