

**TOWN OF BROOKLINE  
FY2008 Program Budget**

**NON-APPROPRIATED EXPENSES**

This category consists of mandated expenditures and assessments that are automatically added to the tax rate without appropriation. Overall, Non-Appropriated expenses are expected to total \$7,123,786, an increase of \$300,063 (4.4%) for FY08. The total projected State and County Assessments of \$5,481,921, an increase of \$252,228 (4.8%), includes \$4,478,658 for the MBTA and \$589,801 for Norfolk County. The remaining Non-Appropriated expenses include Education Offsets, Tax Titles/ Court Judgments/ Deficits, and the Tax Levy Overlay. Those items increase \$47,835 (3%).

CLASS OF EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL FY2006	BUDGET FY2007	REQUEST FY2008	FY08 vs FY07	
				\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
State and County Assessments					
County	572,204	586,509	589,801	3,292	0.6%
Retired Employee Health Insurance	0	0	2,812	2,812	-
Air Pollution District	20,794	21,273	21,226	(47)	-0.2%
MAPC	15,428	15,790	16,096	306	1.9%
Special Education	49,404	54,097	68,078	13,981	25.8%
Registry Parking Surcharges	192,720	192,720	305,280	112,560	58.4%
MBTA	4,233,927	4,359,334	4,478,658	119,324	2.7%
<b>SUB-TOTAL - STATE AND COUNTY ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>5,084,477</b>	<b>5,229,723</b>	<b>5,481,951</b>	<b>252,228</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
Education Offsets	1,280,287	117,738	116,835	(903)	-0.8%
Racial Equality	1,164,886	0	0	0	-
School Lunch	21,742	19,993	22,427	2,434	12.2%
Libraries	93,659	97,745	94,408	(3,337)	-3.4%
Tax Levy Overlay	1,490,442	1,451,262	1,500,000	48,738	3.4%
Tax Titles/ Court Judgments/ Deficits	7,403	25,000	25,000	0	0.0%
<b>SUB-TOTAL - MISC. NON-APPROPRIATED</b>	<b>2,778,132</b>	<b>1,594,000</b>	<b>1,641,835</b>	<b>47,835</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-APPROPRIATED</b>	<b>7,862,609</b>	<b>6,823,723</b>	<b>7,123,786</b>	<b>300,063</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

**COUNTY TAX**

General Laws Chapter 35, Section 31, provides that the cost of county government shall be apportioned among the cities and towns within each County according to the equalized valuation (EQV) of each city and town in relation to the total EQV of all cities and towns in the County. EQV's are updated by the State every two years and were updated by the State in CY2005. Under the present EQV's, Brookline pays more than 12% of the Norfolk County assessment. While the overall county assessment is limited to a 2 1/2% increase under Proposition 2 1/2, individual communities' assessments are not. The Town's FY08 assessment will increase \$3,292 (0.6%) to a total of \$589,801.

**HEALTH INSURANCE - RETIREES**

General Laws Chapter 32A, Section 10B, requires communities to reimburse the State for the costs of providing a health insurance plan for governmental retirees who were pensioned prior to the implementation of Chapter 32B by their local governmental unit. Chapter 32B enabled municipalities to establish a mechanism for group insurance for retirees. Each participating municipality is assessed for the governmental share of health insurance premiums paid on behalf of its retirees by the State. The State pays 90% of the total premium and the retiree's co-payment is 10% of the total premium, as well as full payment for catastrophic illness coverage. A proportionate share of administrative expenses is also assessed to each municipality. Costs for FY08 are estimated at \$2,812.

**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

General Laws Chapter 11, Section 142B, requires that communities be assessed for a portion of the costs incurred by the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to monitor air pollution levels and enforce air quality standards at industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities. Expenditures made for such purposes are assessed against the metropolitan communities, one-half in proportion to the EQV's and one-half by the population of each community. Costs for FY08 are estimated at \$21,226, a decrease of \$47 (0.2%).

**METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL**

The basic purpose of the Council is to coordinate and assist communities in their planning efforts, particularly for those activities or projects that may have a regional impact. The total assessment is apportioned among communities based on the community's share of the total district population. The assessment is expected to increase \$306 (1.9%) for FY08, resulting in a projected cost of \$16,096.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

This assessment is to partially reimburse the State for providing special needs education to children enrolled in state hospital schools. The cost that each municipality is charged is the average per pupil cost of education within the school district multiplied by the Full Time Equivalent of resident pupils served by the State. Current year charges are for pupils served in the prior school year. The FY07 assessment was \$54,097 and, based on the Preliminary Cheery Sheets, is expected to increase \$13,981 (25.8%) for FY08, resulting in a projected cost of \$68,078.

**PARKING FINE REGISTRY SURCHARGE**

If after proper notices a motorist fails to pay a parking fine, motor vehicle excise tax, or a charge for abandonment of a motor vehicle, the Town notifies the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to not renew the license and registration of that motorist. To cover the RMV's administrative costs of entering the necessary information into its computer system, the RMV assesses the Town a fee of \$20 for each notification it receives. This fee, which comes through as a charge on the Cherry Sheet, is recovered by the Town by adding this amount and other penalties to the original fine amount. The FY08 surcharge assessment is estimated at \$305,280, an amount that represents an increase of \$112,560 (58.4%).

**MBTA**

The MBTA provides rapid transit and other mass transit services to 175 cities and towns including Brookline. Prior to the 1999 enactment of the reform package that overhauled the budgeting and assessment procedures for the MBTA (commonly referred to as "forward-funding"), only 78 communities were assessed, totaling \$145 million and increasing 2 1/2 % annually. Now 175 communities are assessed and total assessments declined over a six-year period, ending in FY06, when it reached \$127.5 million. With the total assessment being spread over a larger number of communities, the assessment for the original 78 communities will be lowered over the six-year period. This is governed by General Laws, Chapter 161A. Beginning in FY07, total assessments cannot increase by more than 2 1/2% annually.

Each community's MBTA assessment equals its weighted share of the total population of the authority. Chapter 161A, Section 9 has determined the weights for each community. The population figures utilized in this calculation are the most recent from the United States Census Bureau. The FY07 total assessment for all communities was \$139.4 million, with the Town's assessment at \$4,359,334. The assessment is expected to increase 2.7% in FY08 to \$4,478,658, an increase of \$119,324.

**EDUCATION OFFSETS**

Included in the estimated amount of aid to be received from the State are grant funds for the Schools and Libraries. These funds are reserved for direct expenditure by the departments and cannot be counted as general available revenues. Consequently, as part of the tax rate preparation process, whatever amount is included within the state aid estimate is also included in the non-appropriated expense section as an off-setting debit. The two components of Education Offsets are School Lunch (\$22,427) and Libraries (\$94,408). A more detailed explanation of these items can be found in the financing section (Section III) under State Aid.

The METCO program is no longer a Cherry Sheet item. In FY07, the Division of Local Services (DLS), in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), removed METCO from the Cherry Sheet, as they viewed it as a grant that has no impact on the local tax rate setting process. Chapter 76, Section 12A, provides financial assistance to communities that educate children who reside in other towns where racial imbalance exists. Each school system must submit a plan to the Board of Education that shall include an estimate of the costs associated with its implementation. If the plan is approved by the Board of Education, it enters into an agreement for reimbursement with the school system.

**TAX LEVY OVERLAY**

General Laws Chapter 59, Section 25 requires that the Board of Assessors put aside funds from each tax levy in a reserve that is called an Overlay. This account is established in anticipation that a certain percentage of the tax levy may end up being abated or exempted. Individual tax abatements are paid out of this fund, as are exemptions for certain elderly, veterans, surviving spouses, and blind persons. The final amount of the overlay account is determined by the Assessors and added to the tax rate without appropriation. The proposed overlay for FY08 is \$1.5 million, or approximately 1% of the total property tax levy, an increase of \$48,738 (3.4%).

**TAX TITLES, COURT JUDGMENTS, AND DEFICITS**

State law provides that if the Town receives a court judgment requiring the payment of funds, the Treasurer, with the Director of Account's approval, may pay the award from the treasury without appropriation. The amount must then be added to the tax rate for the following year unless a subsequent appropriation is made to cover the deficit prior to setting the next year's tax rate. From time to time, there are other non-appropriated expenses that have to be added to the tax rate. Any deficits in revenue, overlay, pensions, or debt and interest accounts, along with tax title amounts, must be added to the following year's tax rate. Expenses for FY08 are projected to level-funded at \$25,000.

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