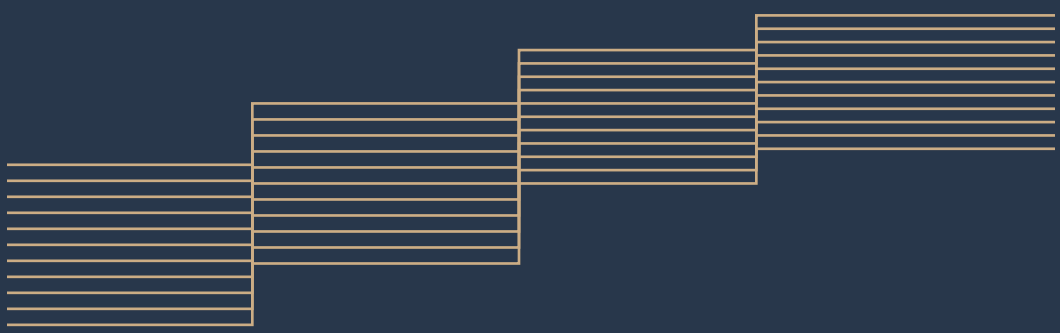
County First

BOOKS & PERIODICALS

FREE READING SAMPLE

# How to Read a Municipal Budget

A resident's workbook for following a tax dollar from the budget vote to the year-end accounts.



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WORKED EXAMPLE

# The $87.7-million question

**$56.8m** The amount Prince Edward County said would come from taxation toward its 2026 tax-supported operating budget. [3]

Prince Edward County reported a tax-supported operating budget of $87.7 million. In the same announcement, the county said $56.8 million would be raised through taxation. Dividing the latter by the former produces about 64.8 per cent. Subtracting gives a residual of approximately $30.9 million. The summary alone leaves the composition of that residual open. To name its sources, turn to the revenue schedules in the final budget book. [3] [4]

### Why two official percentages can differ

The notice after deliberations described a proposed tax-rate increase of 3.59 per cent. The January 14 adoption notice put the corresponding increase at 3.56 per cent. A reference to the first figure can be perfectly accurate about the proposal and still misstate the adopted budget. Write the status and date alongside the number you quote. [2] [3]

Try the test locally. Find the gross operating budget and amount raised by taxation. Write the two figures side by side, with their units and year. If a council collects taxes for another authority as well, check which levy the budget summary includes. [1]

READING NOTES

# Footnotes

Select a source title to open the underlying record. Web sources checked November 22, 2026.

**[1] Ontario, The Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide, chapter 9**

The fiscal context. Explains operating and capital budgets, reserves and differences between funding and accounting.

**[2] County of Prince Edward, Council concludes 2026 municipal budget deliberations**

Proposal following the December 2025 deliberations. Useful for comparison with the adopted rate.

**[3] County of Prince Edward, 2026 County budgets adopted, January 14, 2026**

Approved operating figures, tax-rate change and capital program.

**[4] County of Prince Edward, Budgets, 2026 budget documents**

Final budget book and separate tax-supported and water/wastewater budgets.