



MARCH 26, 2026

FY27 BUDGET & OVERRIDE PUBLIC FORUM

AGENDA



- Where we are in the budget process
- What we've done to save taxpayers money
- How your tax dollars are spent and what is driving the increased costs
- The need for Ashland Public Schools to restructure for financial stability
- The path forward for APS and Ashland
- Questions and feedback from the public



“A strong, connected community is built in the everyday moments—neighbors checking in on neighbors, shared spaces that bring us together, and local services and events that make it easy to belong. It’s what keeps families supported, seniors less isolated, kids engaged, and volunteers showing up when it matters. When we invest in the places and programs that connect us, we’re not funding “extras”—we’re protecting the relationships and quality of life that make Ashland a place people are proud to call home.” - Claudia Bennett, Select Board Member, Retired Educator & Principal of Mindess





WHERE WE ARE IN THE BUDGET PROCESS

- Extensive public meetings– including 5 Tri-Board meetings in past year (Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee)
- Town and APS analyzed data- from state, projected costs, needs
- Looked at many options and scenarios
- Received public feedback and board discussions
- Recognize that rising costs have hit all of us hard
- Approach to minimize the impact to residents & meet current challenges
 - Override request is \$2.75 million for Ashland Public Schools
 - \$750K municipal need (Fire, Police, DPW, Finance)- will be taken out of Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) this year
- Community discussion and ultimately vote on override
 - Town Meeting May 6th and Ballot May 19th