



**TOWN OF  
GROTON  
FISCAL YEAR 2026  
PROPOSED  
BUDGET  
AMENDMENTS  
June 23, 2025**

*FY 2026  
BUDGET  
CREATION  
TIME-LINE*

- **October 29, 2024** – Select Board and Finance Committee Provide FY 2026 Guidance to the Town Manager
- January 15, 2025 – Town Manager Finalizes Revenue Projections for FY 2026 Budget
- January 22, 2025 – Governor Healey Releases House 1 – The State’s FY 2026 Proposed Budget
- **January 31, 2025** – Town Manager Releases the Town of Groton’s FY 2026 Proposed Operating Budget
- **March 12, 2025** – Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee Certifies the FY 2026 GDRSD Operating Budget
- **March 18, 2025** – Finance Committee Votes to Approve and Recommend the FY 2026 Budget to the April 26, 2025 Spring Town Meeting

*FY 2026  
BUDGET  
CREATION  
TIME-LINE*

- **March 18, 2025** – Select Board Votes to Call for an Override of Proposition 2½ to Fund GDRSD Assessment
- **April 26, 2025** – Town Meeting Approves Balanced Budget and Override Budget for School District
- April 30, 2025 – Massachusetts House Approves its FY 2026 State Budget
- May 5, 2025 – Town Manager Presents FY 2025 Third Quarter Revenues to the Select Board
- **May 20, 2025** – Groton Rejects Override of Proposition 2½ to Fund GDRSD Assessment

*FY 2026  
BUDGET  
CREATION  
TIME-LINE*

- **May 23, 2025** – Groton Select Board Calls for a Special Town Meeting on June 23, 2025 to consider amendments to the Approved FY 2026 Town of Groton Operating Budget
- May 29, 2025 – Massachusetts Senate Approves its FY 2026 State Budget
- **June 4, 2025** – Town Manager Proposes Amendments to the FY 2026 Approved Town of Groton Operating Budget to Fund GDRSD Operating Assessment; Select Board and Finance Committee vote unanimously to adopt Town Manager's Proposed Amendments; GDRSD Committee votes to revise their Assessment
- **June 23, 2025** – Special Town Meeting to Consider Amending the FY 2026 Approved Town Operating Budget

# KEY BUDGET FACTORS FOR ORIGINAL FY 2026 BUDGET

Original Town Manager's Proposed New Estimated Revenues for FY 2026 were based on Previous Five Fiscal Year Revenues and First Two Quarters of FY 2025

Original Town Manager's Proposed New Growth Estimate for FY 2026 was based on Building Permits Issued and Planning Board Projects Approved through December 31, 2024 (\$15 million in New Growth)

GDRSD Proposed Revenues were based on the Governor's Proposed Chapter 70 Increase of \$75 per Student

# WHAT CHANGED?

Third Quarter Town Revenues outpaced original estimates in Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes and Room Occupancy Taxes Allowing an Increase In Estimated Receipts of \$61,000

Building Permits Approved and Construction Completed since January 1, 2025 Far Exceeded Original Estimates

Board of Assessors Accelerated Review of New Growth Estimate (Usually Takes Place After June 30th) Creating an Additional \$10 million in New Growth, or \$152,500 in new Revenues

House and Senate Increased Chapter 70 Aid to \$150 Per Student Lowering Groton's Assessment by \$128,995

Where We  
Are Now

Original GDRSD School Assessment was \$28,451,198, creating a deficit of \$673,250. Revised Assessment based on House and Senate current Budget is \$28,322,203, lowering deficit to \$544,255.

## Town Manager's Proposed Amendments to Approved FY 2026 Budget

- Do Not Fill a Vacancy in Highway Department with a savings of \$92,723 (Salary and Benefits)
- Do Not Fill Proposed New COA Van Dispatch Position with a savings of \$17,266
- Move Most Minor Capital in Operating Budget to the Capital Budget Permanently with a savings of \$66,550
- Reduce Health Insurance by an additional \$24,645 based on an employee's decision not to take the Town's Health Insurance
- **TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS - \$201,184**

# Town Manager's Proposed Increases in FY 2026 New Revenues

- Increase in New Growth adding \$152,500 to the Anticipated FY 2026 Levy Limit
- Appropriate \$55,000 in Free Cash to Fund One-Time Non-Recurring Expense in Operating Budget
- Increase Estimated Receipts (Motor Vehicle and Room Occupancy Taxes) by \$61,000
- **TOTAL INCREASE IN REVENUES - \$268,500**

# SUMMARY OF CHANGES

<u>Line Item/ Revenue Account</u>	<u>Original Appropriation</u>	<u>Proposed Appropriation</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b><u>Operating Budget Reductions</u></b>			
1305 - Police Department Minor Capital	\$ 26,550	\$ -	\$ (26,550)
1501 - Highway Department Wages	\$ 773,563	\$ 708,918	\$ (64,645)
1504 - Highway Department Minor Capital	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ (15,000)
1542 - Municipal Buildings Minor Capital	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ (15,000)
1554 - Solid Waste Minor Capital	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ (5,000)
1713 - Local Access Cable Minor Capital	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ (5,000)
1610 - Senior Van Wages	\$ 82,100	\$ 64,874	\$ (17,226)
3010 - Health Insurance	\$ 1,906,470	\$ 1,853,707	\$ (52,763)
<b>Total Reductions</b>			<b>\$ (201,184)</b>
<b><u>Revenue Increases</u></b>			
New Growth	\$ 228,750	\$ 381,250	\$ 152,500
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$ 1,860,000	\$ 1,886,000	\$ 26,000
Free Cash	\$ 603,855	\$ 658,855	\$ 55,000
Local Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 150,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 35,000
<b>Total Revenue Increases</b>			<b>\$ 268,500</b>
<b>Total Needed for School District</b>			<b>\$ 544,255</b>
<b>Difference</b>			<b>\$ 74,571</b>

# ADJUSTMENTS BY FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT

<u>Category</u>	<u>April 26, 2025 Approved Budget</u>	<u>June 23, 2025 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Dollar Difference</u>
General Government	\$ 2,565,835	\$ 2,565,835	\$ -
Land Use	\$ 549,503	\$ 549,503	\$ -
Protection of Persons and Property	\$ 4,864,896	\$ 4,838,346	\$ (26,550)
Department of Public Works	\$ 2,475,217	\$ 2,375,572	\$ (99,645)
Library and Citizen Services	\$ 2,439,509	\$ 2,417,283	\$ (22,226)
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,922,407	\$ 4,869,643	\$ (52,764)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,817,367</b>	<b>\$ 17,616,183</b>	<b>\$ (201,184)</b>
Debt Service - In Levy Only	\$ 406,680	\$ 406,680	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total - All Municipal</b>	<b>\$ 18,224,047</b>	<b>\$ 18,022,863</b>	<b>\$ (201,184)</b>
Nashoba Tech	\$ 908,490	\$ 908,490	\$ -
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$ 27,777,948	\$ 28,247,632	\$ 469,684
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$ 110,389	\$ 110,389	\$ -
Groton-Dunstable In-Levy Debt	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$ 278,643	\$ 278,643	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total - Education</b>	<b>\$ 29,075,470</b>	<b>\$ 29,545,154</b>	<b>\$ 469,684</b>
<b>Grand Total - Town Budget</b>	<b>\$ 47,299,517</b>	<b>\$ 47,568,017</b>	<b>\$ 268,500</b>

- The Town Manager's Proposed Amendments in the Operating Budget and Increase in Revenues Provides an Additional \$469,684 for the GDRSD Assessment and lowers the deficit from \$544,255 to \$74,571
- GDRSD Superintendent and School Committee have agreed to amend their Assessment to the Town of Groton from \$28,322,203 to \$28,247,632 and reduce their Operating Budget by not filling a vacancy to meet this Revised Assessment

## **OUTCOME OF TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSAL**

# OVERALL BUDGET SUMMARY

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>Dollar Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Municipal Wages	\$ 9,066,607	\$ 9,464,498	\$ 397,891	4.39%
Employee Benefits	\$ 5,199,336	\$ 4,869,643	\$ (329,693)	-6.34%
<b>Sub-Total - Wages and Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 14,265,943</b>	<b>\$ 14,334,141</b>	<b>\$ 68,198</b>	<b>0.48%</b>
Municipal Expenses	\$ 3,390,900	\$ 3,282,042	\$ (108,858)	-3.21%
<b>Sub-Total -</b>	<b>\$ 17,656,843</b>	<b>\$ 17,616,183</b>	<b>\$ (40,660)</b>	<b>-0.23%</b>
Debt Service - In-Levy Only	\$ 538,989	\$ 406,680	\$ (132,309)	-24.55%
<b>Total - All Municipal</b>	<b>\$ 18,195,832</b>	<b>\$ 18,022,863</b>	<b>\$ (172,969)</b>	<b>-0.95%</b>
Nashoba Tech	\$ 966,719	\$ 908,490	\$ (58,229)	-6.02%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$ 26,412,384	\$ 28,247,632	\$ 1,835,248	6.95%
Groton Operating Grant	\$ 619,000	\$ -	\$ (619,000)	-100.00%
Groton-Dunstable Debt	\$ 60,534	\$ -	\$ (60,534)	-100.00%
.	.	.	.	.
<b>Sub-Total - Education</b>	<b>\$ 28,058,637</b>	<b>\$ 29,156,122</b>	<b>\$ 1,097,485</b>	<b>3.91%</b>
<b>Grand Total - Town Budget</b>	<b>\$ 46,254,469</b>	<b>\$ 47,178,985</b>	<b>\$ 924,516</b>	<b>2.00%</b>

# Tax Bill Comparison

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2025</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2026</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 38,052,807	\$ 39,469,997	\$ 1,417,190	3.72%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 13.55	\$ 13.92	\$ 0.37	2.73%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,592	\$ 9,854	\$ 262	2.73%
Excluded Debt	\$ 4,776,976	\$ 5,258,050	\$ 481,074	10.07%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.86	\$ 0.16	9.41%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 1,203	\$ 1,317	\$ 113	9.41%
Final Levy Used	\$ 42,829,783	\$ 44,728,047	\$ 1,898,264	4.43%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.25	\$ 15.78	\$ 0.53	3.48%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 10,795	\$ 11,170	\$ 375	3.48%



**THANK YOU**

**QUESTIONS**