WESTFIELD MUNICIPAL BUDGET

March 24, 2026





Westfield Municipal Budget Team

James Gildea
Town Administrator

A 30+ year Westfield municipal veteran, boasting 26 years of expertise in crafting municipal budgets

Heather Re-Ferratti
Assistant Town Administrator

A 14-year municipal veteran; nine years dedicated to formulating municipal budgets, nine years of service in Westfield

Suplee Clooney & Company and Rogut McCarthy
Highly experienced auditing and bond counsel firms.

Scott Olsen
Chief Finance Officer

A 28-year municipal veteran; 25 years dedicated to crafting municipal budgets, 11 years with Westfield

Councilman Vik Venkataraman
Finance Chair
Councilman Drew Pecker
Finance Vice Chair
Councilman Michal Domogala
Finance Committee Member
Councilman David Kiefer
Finance Committee Member

Budget Process & Timeline

Long Term Capital Investment Plan

- Six-year Capital Plan formulation
- Focus on three-year plan including roads, drainage, parks, public safety, etc.

01

02

Department Budgets

- Department heads prepared & submitted proposals for review in Nov/Dec
- Close out previous year in January & meet with financial experts

Finance Committee Review (FPC)

- January 29 public meeting
- Meetings with auditors and Department Heads January 21-March 13
- Incorporate State Aid & grant info & prepare state budget forms

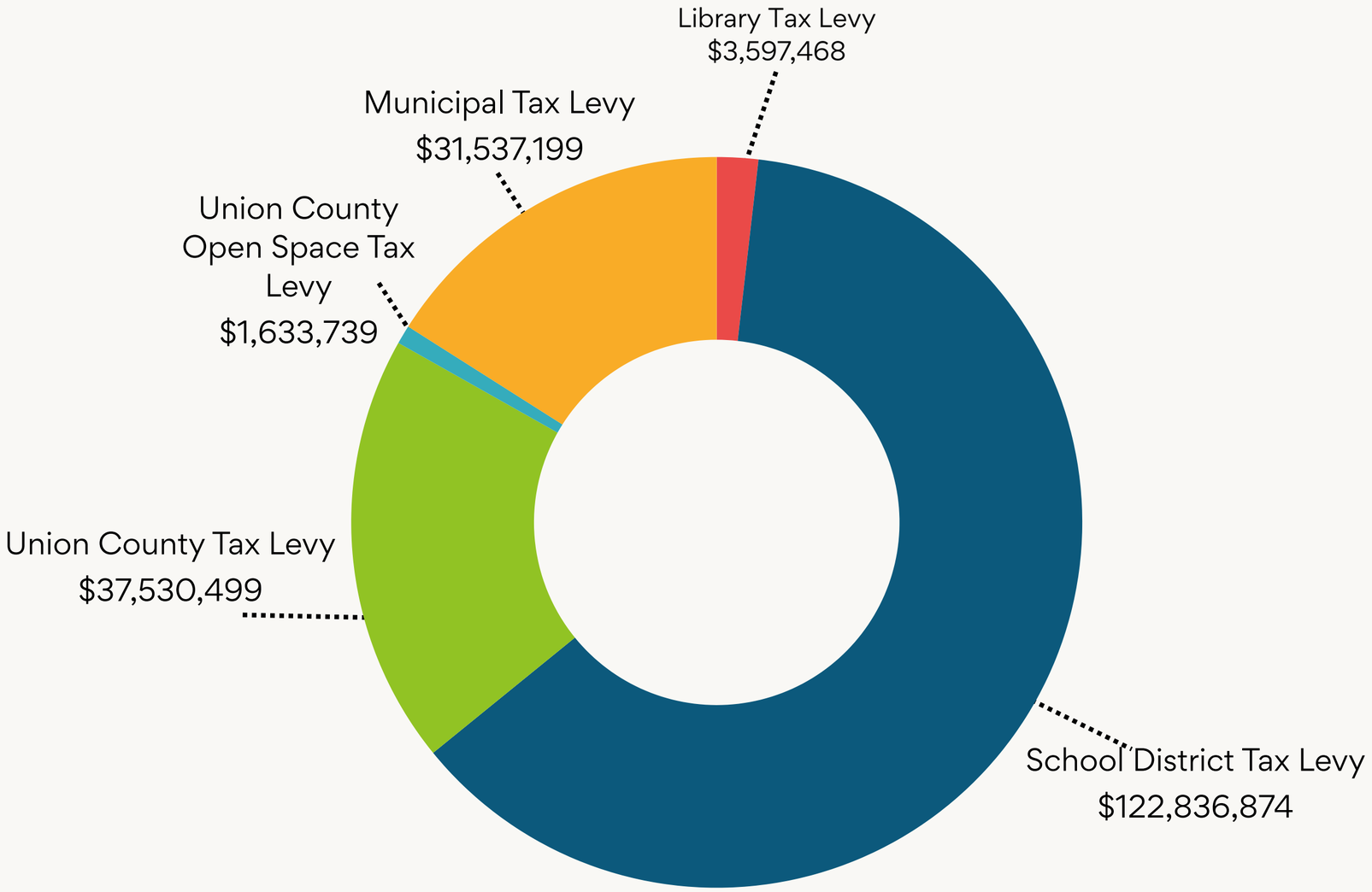
03

04

Council Review & Public Presentation

- Introduce budget to public March 24
- Public hearing and anticipated adoption April 21

Total 2025 Tax Collections = $197,135,779



Where did your taxes go?

62% — **School District Tax Levy**
7 elementary schools, 2 intermediate schools, 1 high school

19% — **Union County Tax Levy**
Parks, roads, County Police, etc

1% — **Union County Open Space Tax Levy**
Open space tax

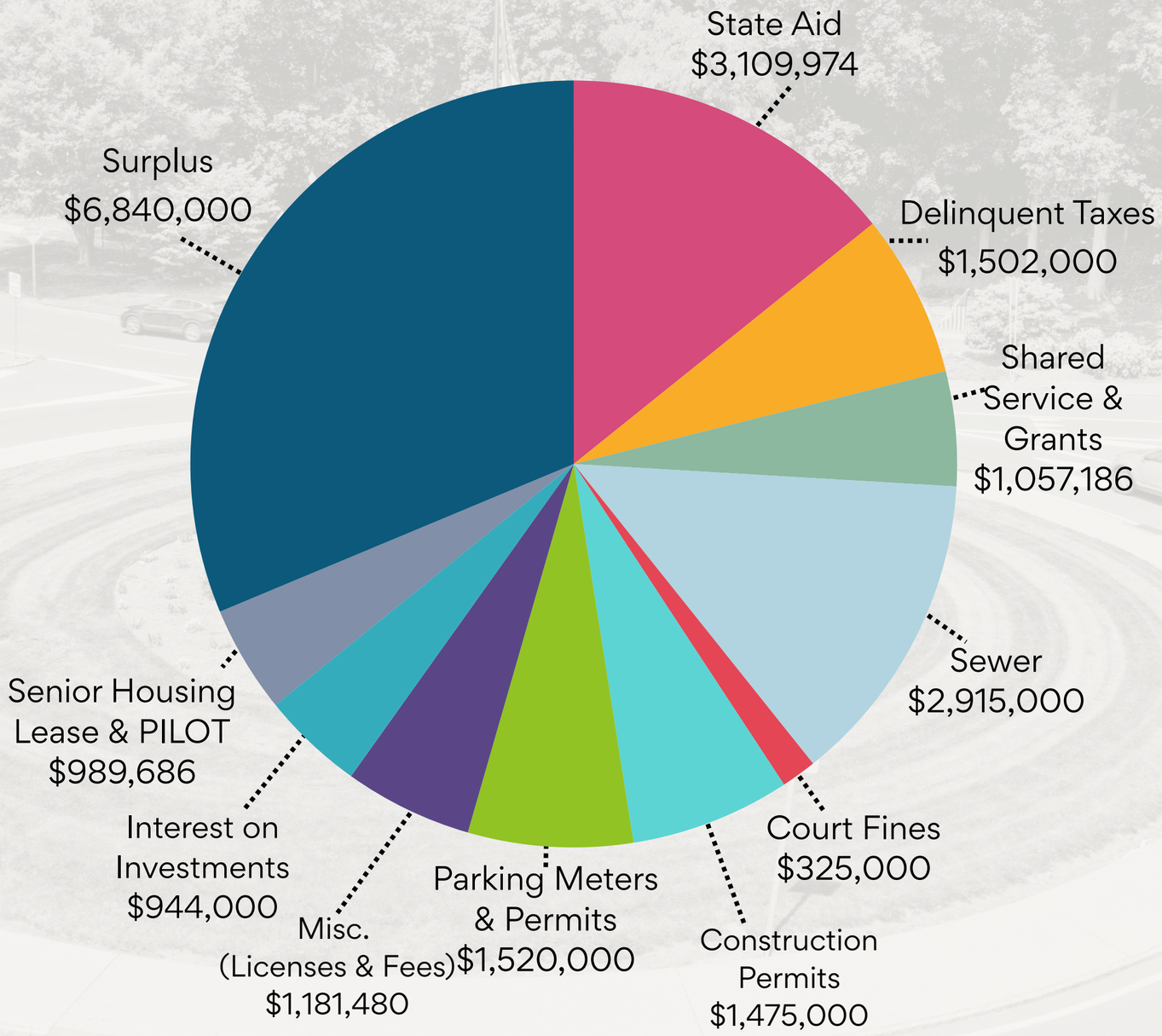
16% — **Municipal Tax Levy**
Police, fire, public works, recreation, health, general administration, court, construction, etc.

2% — **Library Tax Levy**
Statutory minimum = $3,597,468

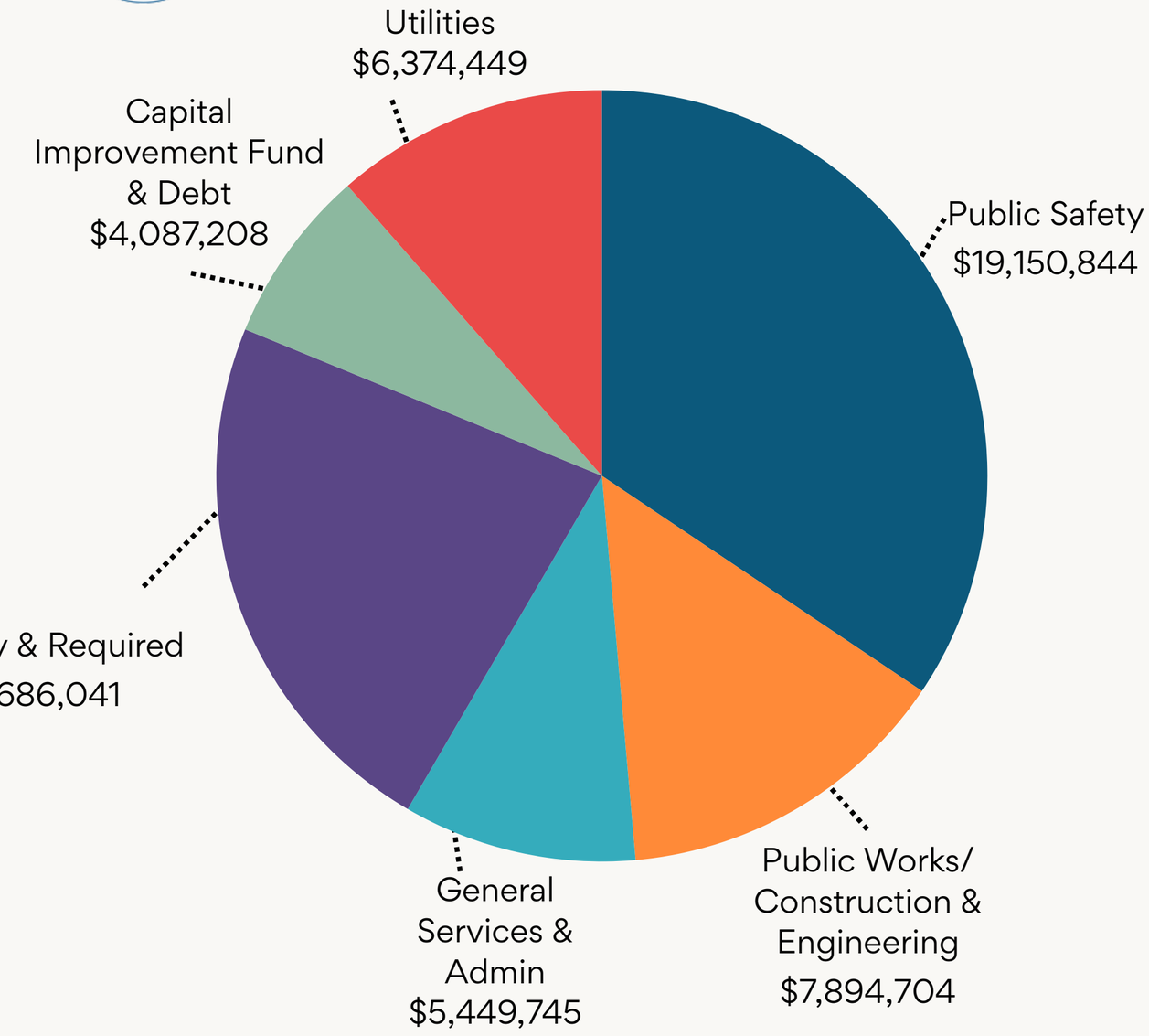
Snapshot of Municipal Portion of Property Taxes

	2025	2026	
Total Appropriations	$54,393,786	$55,642,991	Total Appropriations
Revenues	$22,856,587	$23,119,907	Revenues
Municipal Tax Levy	$31,537,199	$32,523,084	Municipal Tax Levy
Average Municipal Portion of Tax Bill 2025 Average Assessment = $826,700	$3,034	$3,114	Average Municipal Portion of Tax Bill 2026 Average Assessment = $832,500
Average Property Tax Bill	$18,948 (Town Portion $3,034)	TBD (Town Portion ~$3,114)	Average Property Tax Bill

Anticipated Municipal Revenues



Total Municipal Appropriations = $55,642,991



(34%) Public Safety
Police, Dispatch, Fire, Fire Safety Official, crossing guards, Parking Division, Police/Fire pensions, fire hydrants, etc.

(14%) Public Works/Construction & Engineering
Conservation Center, maintenance of roads & sewers, parks & fields, and downtown, forestry management, fleet management, engineering, permitting and inspections, etc.

(10%) General Services & Administration
Administration, Recreation, Planning & Zoning, Health, Finance, Clerk, Assessor, Collector, Court & Legal

(23%) Statutory & Required
Non-emergency pensions, insurance, unemployment, reserve for uncollected taxes, and tax appeal reserve

(7%) Capital Improvement Fund & Debt
Debt service for roads, drainage, facility upgrades, park improvements, equipment and down payments, etc.

(12%) Utilities
Water, electric, gas, phone, street lighting, fuel, sanitary sewer treatment at RVSA

Capital Improvement Program Highlights

Investing $5.4MM in capital improvements to upgrade infrastructure, strengthen public safety, and support long-term community needs.

$4,093,500

Infrasturcture & Facility Improvements

Roads, stormwater & drainage improvements; addresses over 40 roads or sections of roads

$216,500

Public Safety

Security cameras, technology improvements, police & fire equipment

$450,000

Facility Improvements

Roofs and interior improvements at Town Hall, DPW and Fire Dept.

$435,000

Equipment, Vehicles, & Facilities

Public Works equipment & vehicles, parking meter head replacements

$70,000

Traffic & Pedstrian Safety Improvements

Speed signs, traffice devices, signage, flashing beacons, etc.

$225,000

Recreation & Park Improvements

Continued various Recreation facility improvements and funding for 200 South Ave. pocket park design

Projects Underway

- Houlihan/Sid Fay parking lot & comfort station
- Fuel system replacement and old system removal
- Quimby Street design plan
- Tamaques Park Design plan
- Structure demolitions at 200 South Ave. & 1037 Central Ave
- Cell tower installation at Conservation Center

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