

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN
Notice of Initial Public Hearing
and
Tentative Budget Schedule
FY 2026-2027 Budget

The Town Council and the School Committee of the Town of South Kingstown will hold an initial budget hearing on Wednesday, December 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers, 180 High Street, Wakefield to discuss and solicit comments from the public relating to the goals and objectives of the development of the FY 2026-2027 municipal and school budgets, in accordance with the South Kingstown Town Code, Section 4220, entitled: Budget Procedures. Discussion will include but not be limited to increases in taxes, proposed new projects, contractual obligations and other items or matters of concern. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or view the meeting live on ClerkBase at <https://clerkshq.com/SouthKingstown-ri> or on your local Public Access Television Station. A summary of the budget adoption process as approved November 7, 2006 and tentative schedule follow.

Initial Budget Hearing To Discuss Goals and Objectives.

The Town Council shall schedule between December 1 and January 15 of the ensuing year a public hearing for the purpose of discussing and soliciting comments from the electors relating to the general goals and objectives of the budget for the ensuing year.

Town Manager's Proposed Budget.

Submission of budget and budget message. On or before March first of each year, the town manager shall submit to the town council the town manager's proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year and an accompanying message.

Town Council's Preliminary Budget.

The council shall review the budget submitted by the manager in public workshops, and on or before March 22nd of each year adopt a Preliminary Budget.

Public Hearings.

Following approval of the preliminary budget, the council shall schedule and hold two (2) public hearings, on or before April 18th of each year, on separate days on both the municipal and school budgets, at which the school committee shall be represented.

Petitions to the Council.

Following adoption of the Preliminary Budget by the council, any qualified elector of the town may circulate a petition requesting the council to increase or decrease by any amount any item of expenditure in the said budget or to insert a new item of expenditure and must be returned to the town clerk on or before April 21st. Upon receipt, the town clerk shall cause the signatures to be verified, and if it contains twenty-five (25) valid signatures of qualified electors of the town, shall transmit to the council. The council, before final adoption of the budget, shall consider and vote upon each such petition(s) proposal.

Final Town Council Approval of Budget.

The council shall, on or before May 1st of each year, complete its consideration of any petitions it shall have received, make any final changes in the Preliminary Budget it may deem advisable, and give final approval to the Budget.

Referendum petitions.

Following final approval of the budget by the town council, any qualified elector of the town may circulate a petition requesting that a referendum be held on the appropriation for the general fund or the school fund in the budget as approved. Such petition may propose a reduction or increase in the total appropriation for said funds.

All petition forms shall be approved by the town clerk before circulation, and must be returned to the town clerk on or before May 12th of each year. The town clerk, upon the return of petitions to his or her office, shall cause the signatures to be verified, such verification to be completed on or before May 16th of each year.

Budget referendum.

The town clerk shall cause a referendum by ballot to be held on the Tuesday following the first Saturday in June on all budget changes requested on petitions submitted, provided that each such petition shall contain signatures of no less than two hundred of the qualified electors of the town and shall request an increase or decrease of a sum of at least \$250,000.00.

**TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN
TENTATIVE BUDGET SCHEDULE
FY 2026-2027 BUDGET**

Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM	Town Council & School Committee Initial Hearing – Goals
Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM	Town Council Municipal Capital Improvement Program Work Session #1
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM	Town Council & School Committee School Capital Improvement Program Work Session #2
Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:30 PM (deadline - February 1st)	Town Council – Regular Session Adoption of Capital Improvement Program
Friday, February 27, 2026 (deadline – March 1st)	Town Manager's Budget Submission to Council
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM	Town Council Budget Work Session #1
Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM	Town Council Budget Work Session #2 (HSOA/Outside Agencies)
Monday, March 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM	Town Council & School Committee Budget Work Session #3 Schools
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM (deadline – March 22nd)	Town Council Preliminary Budget Adoption
Monday, April 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM	Town Council & School Committee Public Hearing #1 Municipal and School Budgets
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00 PM (deadline - April 18th)	Town Council & School Committee Public Hearing #2 Municipal and School Budgets
On or before Tuesday, April 21, 2026 4:00 PM (deadline – April 21st)	Petitions for revisions to Preliminary Budget
Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:30 PM (deadline - May 1st)	Town Council – Regular Session Consideration of petitions for revisions or additions and Town Council’s adoption of final budget
On or before Tuesday, May 12, 2026 4:00 PM (deadline – May 12th)	Referendum petitions
Monday, May 18, 2026 (deadline - May 16th - falls on a Saturday)	Verification of Petitions to go to Referendum
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM	Potential Budget Referendum

Meetings are subject to change, please take notice of Agendas posted at the Town Hall, Peace Dale Library, and www.southkingstownri.gov

Individuals requesting American Sign Language interpreters or CART service must call the Town Clerk's Office at 401-789-9331 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting date.

**Nichole C. Romane
Town Clerk**