Safety & Crime Prevention Tips from the West Palm Beach Police Department

Desire, ability and opportunity are three key factors that influence crime. By minimizing the opportunity for crime, you can reduce crime by following simple prevention tactics. The West Palm Beach Police Department encourages you to be aware of your surroundings when out in public.

Be prepared with these important safety tips:

- Be alert and aware of the people around you.
- Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys where someone could hide.
- Walk confidently at a steady pace.
- Make eye contact with people when walking.
- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street - continue walking.
- If you carry a purse, carry it securely between your arm and your body. Although a purse-snatcher’s intent is to steal the purse, your personal safety may depend on not clinging to it.
- Do not wear anything that will impede your vision or hearing (i.e. headphones).
- CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY if something happens to you or someone else - dial 911.
- For police-related matters that are non-emergencies, call the non-emergency number at (561) 822-1900.

For information about the West Palm Beach Police Department, please visit: https://www.wpb.org/government/police-department/department-overview. To call the West Palm Beach Police Department’s non-emergency number, dial (561) 822-1900 (TTY: 800-955-8771). In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
CAMERA REGISTRY PROGRAM

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP WEST PALM BEACH SAFE!

- Please share the location of your security cameras with the West Palm Beach Police Department.
- Sharing does not mean the department will have access to your camera.
- There is no additional cost involved with sharing your camera location.
  - Sharing is confidential and secure. Your information will not be shared with anyone, and you will only be contacted if a crime occurs in your neighborhood.

Share your security camera location with West Palm Beach Police:
https://wpb.registry.cam

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!
TEXT US TIPS: 561-660-9077
Send us info, photos & videos.
Standard text message rates apply.
Dear West Palm Beach neighbor:

I am pleased to share that the City of West Palm Beach has approved a balanced $225 million general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23).

The approved budget is unlike others in recent times. Not only does it honor our city’s commitment to a high quality of life; it enhances prioritized services for our residents, neighborhoods and businesses. It includes a heightened focus on community services, public health and safety, roadway repairs while continuing to promote economic development in our city. In a short period of time, we bounced back from the pandemic and have become a more resilient and thriving community that is attracting national and international attention.

Despite the lingering nationwide effects of the pandemic, the city continued its trend of new growth resulting in an unprecedented rise to the assessed value. With this rise in value, we were able to reduce the millage rate for the first time since 2008; the city is forgoing about $2 million in tax revenue. The millage rate was reduced by $0.15 from $8.3465 to $8.1965 per $1,000 of assessed property value. Also, there is no change to the annual fire assessment fee which, per residential property, remains at $100. In addition to the tax reduction, we also approved an additional $25,000 Homestead Exemption for qualifying Seniors.

Following are some of the many programs and services provided in the budget:

- Public safety, including the second year of the contractual significant market pay adjustments along with the 5% step pay for our Police Officers and Firefighters; as well as full staffing, bunker gear and vehicle replacements for Fire Station 8.
- Parks and recreation, including staffing for lifeguards to perform year-round swim instruction as well as continued youth and adult programming,
- Library services and restored funding for Library digital and hard copy materials,
- Additional staffing to alleviate illegal dumping within the city,
- Restored positions that were dissolved in the FY 2021 pandemic-induced budget reductions and new positions to improve service delivery,
- Mental health and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as workforce/affordable housing development incentives, and resources to expand community engagement, and
- Contractual cost of living increases (5%) for SEIU and PMSA, including non-union employees (5%) to address retention and market challenges.
In other elements of the budget, the Public Utilities Water & Sewer Fund and Stormwater Fund will continue to finance protection of water quality from source to tap and the continued provision of services to valued water customers. Like FY22, there will be no increases to water rates in FY23. The 2020 approved not to exceed $30 million Parks Bond will continue to fund much needed improvements in many city parks and recreational facilities.

I invite you to learn more about the budget on the Finance Department’s page on the city’s website, wpb.org/finance. Copies of the budget are available upon request through the City Clerk’s office.

After experiencing significant challenges with the FY21 budget due, in part, to adverse economic impacts of the public health crisis, our fiscal position is strong and much improved. The city’s local economy recovered much faster than anticipated. We’re experiencing record breaking permit, development and corporate relocation activity. This, along with other economic engines, resulted in increased operating revenue. Through sound conservative financial planning, we are honoring our commitment to be judicious and fiscally responsible.

I extend my sincere gratitude to City Staff, City Administration and the City Commission for their engagement and hard work to develop a balanced and fiscally responsible annual budget.

In my ongoing quest to make West Palm Beach a community of opportunity for all, our city is forging new paths for local businesses, neighborhoods and residents. We are becoming a premier world-class inclusive place to live and work. Not for some, but for all. And I am delighted to have you as a neighbor to share in our city’s transformative and ongoing success.

Yours in service,

Keith A. James, Mayor

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WEST PALM BEACH BY THE NUMBERS

117,286  Residents

43,849  Households

$54,603  Household Income

57.73  Square Miles
The City of West Palm Beach’s FY23 Budget in Brief is provided to serve as an overview of the City’s budget. This document provides a summary of the highlights to the budget, revenues the City expects to receive and planned areas where the money will be spent.

The adopted budget is a deliberate balance of revenues and expenditures prepared in accordance with Florida’s statutory Truth in Millage process and best serves the City’s prioritization for provision of core services and commission initiatives. State law requires that the City adopt a balanced budget prior to the beginning of its fiscal year on October 1st.

The FY23 budget was developed to assure that fundamental services are appropriately delivered, and programs are maintained at current levels. The budget is a responsible allocation of public resources that maintains the City of West Palm Beach as a safe, attractive and vibrant community for the satisfaction of its residents and visitors.

In partnership with our communities, West Palm Beach, delivers exceptional customer service that enhances quality of life, embraces inclusion, and promotes opportunity for all.

- **Diversity:** We find strength in celebrating our differences, promoting mutual Understanding and inclusiveness.
- **Integrity:** We demonstrate the ethical principles underlying public service; believing honesty and follow-through support credibility.
- **Respect:** We treat our constituents, stakeholders, and each other with dignity, courtesy and esteem.
- **Excellence:** We deliver high-quality services in a friendly manner, based on an understanding of our constituents and their needs.
- **Collaboration:** We build partnerships, which ensure our community’s success.
- **Transparency:** We recognize that openness, accountability and two-way communication makes mutual trust possible and invites participation.
Where the Money Comes From

The City of West Palm Beach has an approved total Citywide Budget of $658,705,191 which is a 15.6% increase over last year's budget. The total citywide budget includes a General Fund budget of $225,437,742 which is a 9.6% increase over last year.

The City continues to experience growth and stability in its revenue streams with increasingly new development and new assessed value added to the tax rolls. Property Tax revenue accounts for 48% of the General Fund revenue sources. The $8.1965 adopted millage rate will generate $109M in FY23.

**FY23 Revenue highlights include:**

- **Property Taxes** – increased by 14.5% or $13.8M
  - Accounts for millage reduction of $0.15
- **Charges for Services** – increased by 5.1% or $2.1M
- **Intergovernmental Revenues** – increased by 7.5% or $2.0M

![Revenue Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Sources</th>
<th>FY22 Adopted Budget</th>
<th>FY23 Adopted Budget</th>
<th>Variance 22 vs 23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>95,408,749</td>
<td>109,219,752</td>
<td>13,811,003</td>
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<tr>
<td>License &amp; Permits</td>
<td>14,920,875</td>
<td>15,298,401</td>
<td>377,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>26,583,843</td>
<td>28,583,186</td>
<td>1,999,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charges for Services</td>
<td>41,218,073</td>
<td>43,321,430</td>
<td>2,103,357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fines &amp; Forfeitures</td>
<td>1,865,860</td>
<td>2,269,244</td>
<td>403,384</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Taxes</td>
<td>20,991,800</td>
<td>21,053,800</td>
<td>62,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2,279,487</td>
<td>1,874,560</td>
<td>-404,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers &amp; Carryforward</td>
<td>2,311,955</td>
<td>3,817,369</td>
<td>1,505,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Fund Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$205,580,642</strong></td>
<td><strong>$225,437,742</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,857,100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where the Money Goes

The FY23 General Fund budget prioritizes essential services for our residents and neighborhoods. It will maintain the overall quality of life for residents, help make our community even safer, and promote continued economic development within our city.

Highlighted benefits achieved by this balanced budget include:

- Maintains all external core services such as police, fire, library, parks and recreation etc.
- Maintains all internal core services such as fleet, legal, finance, human resources etc.
- Addresses staffing shortages and workload impact all while balancing organizational needs:
  - Restores several positions removed from the FY21 pandemic induced budget reduction.
  - Funds 32.5 new positions which increases capacity within key operations.
- Includes increased funding for vehicle replacements to continue updating the City’s fleet.
- Includes unprecedented funding towards road-paving to augment other funding sources and address additional roadway repairs.
- Increases funding for contingency in the event of any unforeseen operational expenses.
- Maintains funding for economic development incentives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
<th>FY22 Adopted Budget</th>
<th>FY23 Adopted Budget</th>
<th>Variance 22 vs 23 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Services</td>
<td>136,067,549</td>
<td>146,533,234</td>
<td>10,465,685</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials &amp; Services</td>
<td>36,433,007</td>
<td>38,675,434</td>
<td>2,242,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Service Charges</td>
<td>14,772,739</td>
<td>16,075,750</td>
<td>1,303,011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>12,087,150</td>
<td>11,656,000</td>
<td>-431,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Aids</td>
<td>433,061</td>
<td>432,061</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>3,146,239</td>
<td>8,061,822</td>
<td>4,915,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserves &amp; Contingency</td>
<td>2,140,897</td>
<td>2,253,441</td>
<td>112,544</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Fund Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$205,580,642</strong></td>
<td><strong>$225,437,742</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,857,100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your Property Taxes Explained

The Property Appraiser provides The City's estimated total assessed taxable value every year by June 1. The City then uses this estimate for budget planning purposes. For Tax year 2022, the City of West Palm Beach's assessed taxable value is $18.3M billion which is a 17.6% growth in value and an increase in tax revenue of $13.8M over last year. This includes new construction of $420M that was added to the tax roll.

**MILLAGE RATE REDUCTION**

$8.3465 → $8.1965

The City approved a millage reduction of $0.15 bringing the operating millage down to $8.1965 from $8.3465. This is the first millage reduction since 2008.

An additional $25,000 Homestead Exemption for Seniors was also approved.

**AD VALOREM TAX CALCULATION**

The millage rate is the ad valorom tax rate levied per $1,000 of a property's taxable value. The rate is expressed in mills, which is equal to 0.1% of the taxable value. Each taxing authority adopts a millage rate every year that appears on the property tax bill.

To calculate the tax levy using a given millage rate, the formula is:

\[
\text{Taxable Value}/1,000 \times \text{Millage Rate} = \$ \text{Ad Valorem Tax}
\]

For example, a West Palm Beach property with an assessed value of $400,000 and exemptions of $50,000 has a taxable value of $350,000.

The ad valorem property tax for West Palm Beach would then be:

\[
$350,000/1,000 \times 8.2777 \text{ Mills} = $2,897
\]

**City of West Palm Beach Millage Rate History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Operating Millage</th>
<th>Debt Millage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>8.3465</td>
<td>0.1283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>8.3465</td>
<td>0.1202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>8.3465</td>
<td>0.1261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>8.3465</td>
<td>0.0718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>8.1965</td>
<td>0.0812</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Named the "Best Farmers Market" in 2022 for the second consecutive year

Prepared by the
City of West Palm Beach
Finance Department, Budget Office
401 Clematis Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561-822-1310