



City of Melrose
City Council
Special Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025, 7:00 PM
City Council Chamber, 1st Floor
562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

AGENDA

NOTE:

To watch this meeting live visit mmtv3.org or local cable station MMTV (Channels 3, 15, 22 on Comcast or Channels 37, 38, 39 on Verizon)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Cal Finocchiaro
Mark Garipay
Ward Hamilton
Maya Jamaledine
Manjula Karamcheti
John Obremski
Devin Romanul
Robb Stewart
Kimberly Vandiver
Ryan Williams
Leila Migliorelli, President

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. City Council Meeting November 17, 2025 7:45 pm

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

When: Nov 24, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Special City Council Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://cityofmelrose-org.zoom.us/j/93247990396?pwd=TUV8abaQz1hw8IRBILMJ8eaG6MmZ5w.1>
Passcode: 109707
Webinar ID: 932 4799 0396

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HONORABLE MAYOR & OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Appropriations

- i. **(ID # 2025-614):** Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$13,500,000 for the Fiscal Year 2026

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

VII. EXPIRIES

VIII. RULE 36 REPORTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The City of Melrose does not discriminate based on disability and is committed to hosting accessible meetings and events. Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Melrose or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Polina Latta platta@cityofmelrose.org.



CITY OF MELROSE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JENNIFER GRIGORAITIS

Mayor

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4440

To: Melrose City Council

From: Mayor Jen Grigoraitis

Re: Ballot Question 1A Override: Supplemental Appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2026

CC: Kerri Golden, CFO
Lauren Grymek, Chief of Staff
Shannon Philips, City Solicitor
Cari Berman, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Ken Kelley, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Melrose School Committee

With the passage of Question 1A on the November 4, 2025 municipal election ballot, voters of the City of Melrose have authorized a permanent increase to the City of Melrose's tax levy limit by \$13.5 million beginning July 1, 2025 (FY26).

Language of Question 1A:

Shall the City of Melrose be allowed to assess an additional \$13,500,000.00 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding: 17 school, 5 public works, and 2 police officer positions (salaries and benefits); city and school employee union contracts and benefits; school technology and curriculum needs; public works, senior center, veterans services, and library programs; and repairs and maintenance to roads, sidewalks, buildings, and parks for which monies from this assessment will be used for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025?

Before any of this additional voter-approved taxing authority can be used beginning July 1, 2025, an appropriation by the City Council is required.

To effectuate and further the will of the voters, I am submitting this request for supplemental appropriation to the FY2026 City operating budget.

Supplemental Appropriation for FY 2026:

Below is a summary of the requested supplemental appropriation for FY 2026 by department, consistent with the spending purposes as identified to voters in the above question.¹ A detailed breakdown of each department's appropriation for FY2026 is included at the end of this memo.

As it relates specifically to the School Department, City Council is being asked to vote only on the *total amount* of the appropriation for FY26. Under state law, while City Council must establish the total appropriation to the School Department, it does not have the authority to determine how the appropriation is allocated within the School Department budget or to restrict the School Committee's expenditures of that appropriation. The School Committee will vote and make its decision on the actual allocations of this appropriation amount within the School Department budget at its public meetings in the near future.²

Please also note that there are multiple appropriations in City department budgets, including IT, Public Works, and Employee Benefits, that will directly benefit the Melrose Public Schools as outlined in the ballot question. These appropriations are under the purview of the City Council.

Department	Total Appropriation
Department of Public Works	\$7,347,096
School Department	\$3,818,800
Employee Benefits	\$1,483,579
Information Technology	\$525,000
Police Department	\$200,210
Council on Aging	\$40,000
Library	\$35,315
Veterans Services	\$30,000
Human Resources	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$13,500,000

Pending Council approval, this supplemental appropriation will increase the FY 26 City of Melrose budget to \$121,075,802.00

Thank you for your consideration and support.

¹ By law, any additional funds raised beginning July 1, 2025 must be earmarked for the spending purposes as stated in the question only in the first fiscal year (FY26). See DLS *Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Questions Requirements and Procedures*, pg. 8 (August 2017).

² See Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 71, s. 34

Supplemental Appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2026**(401, 402, 422, 433, 475, 485, 491) Department of Public Works - \$7,347,096.00**

Description	Amount
Restore 5 positions • <i>City Engineer (General fund portion)</i> • <i>Facilities Manager (General fund portion)</i> • <i>Facilities Laborer</i> • <i>HMEO</i> • <i>Mechanic</i>	\$284,521.00
Restore DPW Summer Work Program	\$131,000.00
Restore Overtime Costs for Programs: • <i>Main Street Flower Baskets</i> • <i>City Yard Saturday Hours</i> • <i>Municipal Park & Weekend Downtown Trash Removal</i> • <i>City Event Support & Parklets</i> • <i>Roadway Line Painting</i>	\$63,223.00
School Building Maintenance & Improvements: • <i>MHS Bathroom Renovations Project</i> • <i>MHS Courtyard Stairs Rebuilding</i> • <i>MVMMS Solar Inverter Repairs</i> • <i>MVMMS Front Stairs & Sidewalk Repairs</i> • <i>MVMMS HVAC Controls Upgrades</i> • <i>Winthrop School Doors & Masonry Repairs</i> • <i>Districtwide Asbestos Remediation</i>	\$4,345,052.00
Milano Center Outdoor Lighting	\$40,000.00
Roads & Sidewalks: • <i>Additional Road Paving Projects</i> • <i>Sidewalk Repairs Projects</i>	\$1,240,000.00

• <i>Howard Street Speed Tables</i> • <i>Crosswalk Improvements</i> • <i>Road Flooding Mitigation Projects</i> • <i>Engineering Projects & Repairs</i>	
Parks: • <i>Tree Planting, Trimming, Removals, and Adopt-a-Site</i> • <i>Common & Dutton Park Playground Replacements</i> • <i>Softball & Baseball Fields Improvements</i> • <i>Tennis & Pickleball Courts Repairs</i> • <i>Foss Park Basketball Court Repairs</i> • <i>Citywide Open Space & Playground Maintenance</i>	\$1,243,300.00

(300) School Department - \$3,818,800.00

Description	Amount
Restore 17 Positions	\$1,649,000.00
Current Fiscal Year Contractual Obligations	\$529,000.00
Curriculum Materials	\$1,469,500.00
Instructional Technology	\$171,300.00

(911, 914, 916, 942) Employee Benefits - \$1,483,579.00

Description	Amount
Pension	\$500,000.00
Post Employment Benefits	\$500,000.00
Health Benefits for 24 Positions Restored	\$442,455.00
Medicare Employer Tax for restored positions	\$41,124.00

(155) Information Technology - \$525,000.00

Description	Amount
School Technology Needs: • <i>School Security Cameras</i> • <i>MHS Projector Upgrades</i> • <i>Districtwide PA System Upgrades</i> • <i>Back Up Power Modernization</i> • <i>Elementary Classroom Chromebook Replacements</i>	\$525,000.00

(211) Police Department - \$200,210.00

Description	Amount
Restore (2) Police Officers	\$154,076.00
New Recruit Costs	\$46,134.00

(541) Council on Aging - \$40,000.00

Description	Amount
Program Support	\$40,000.00

(611) Library - \$35,315.00

Description	Amount
Restore Sunday Hours	\$25,315.00
Program Support	\$10,000.00

(543) Veterans Services - \$30,000.00

Description	Amount
Outreach, Events, Commemoration Program Support	\$30,000.00

(152) Human Resources - \$20,000.00

Description	Amount
New Hire Advertising	\$8,000.00
New Hire Physical Exams	\$12,000.00

Budget Line Item	Department #	Description	Amount
011522-520500	152	Advertising	8,000.00
011522-543000	152	Physical Exams	12,000.00
Total Department 152 Human Resources			20,000.00
01155772-551097	155	School IT - Equipment and Infrastructure Upgrades	525,000.00
Total Department 155 Information Technology			525,000.00
012111-511000	211	Restore Police Positions (2 Officers)	154,076.00
012112-540007	211	Recruit Startup Costs (Tuition, Uniforms and Equipment)	46,134.00
Total Department 211 Police Department			200,210.00
013001-511000	300	School Department Appropriation	3,818,800.00
Total Department 300 School Appropriation			3,818,800.00
014011-511000	401	Restore DPW Positions (City Engineer & Facilities Manager)	111,704.00
014011-512000	401	Restore DPW Summer Work Program	21,000.00
014011-513000	401	Restore Overtime	3,905.00
Total Department 401 DPW - Admin/Engineering			136,609.00
01402771-511042	402	Restore DPW Position - Laborer	54,349.00
014021-512004	402	Restore DPW Summer Work Program	69,120.00
01402771-513000	402	Restore Overtime	18,329.00
014023-551094	402	City Building Maintenance/Improvements	40,000.00
01402773-551172	402	School Building Maintenance/Improvements	4,345,052.00
Total Department 402 DPW - City and School Facilities			4,526,850.00

Budget Line Item	Department #	Description	Amount
014221-512004	422	Restore DPW Summer Work Program	4,800.00
014221-513000	422	Restore DPW OT	5,764.00
014222-526900	422	Traffic Markings	10,000.00
014223-551101	422	Road Paving Projects	600,000.00
014223-551190	422	Sidewalk Repair Projects	250,000.00
014222-551183	422	Traffic Calming (RFRBS & Howard St speed tables)	50,000.00
014223-551165	422	Road Flooding Mitigation	330,000.00
Total Department 422 DPW - Highway			1,250,564.00
014331-512000	433	Restore DPW Summer Work Program	2,500.00
014331-513000	433	Restore DPW OT	19,700.00
Total Department 433 DPW - Sanitation			22,200.00
014751-512000	475	Restore DPW Summer Work Program	24,000.00
014751-513000	475	Restore DPW OT	15,525.00
014752-551182	475	Tree Planting	100,000.00
014752-524006	475	Forestry Hired Equipment -Tree Trimming	100,000.00
014752-537640	475	Adopt- A-Site Support	5,000.00
014753-551168	475	Playground and Park Improvements	536,000.00
014752-527806	475	Playground & Equipment Repairs	20,000.00
014752-535200	475	Landscaping Supplies	5,000.00
014753-551169	475	Pickleball/Foss Park/Tennis Courts Improvements	125,000.00
014752- 551177	475	Baseball/Softball Field Improvements	352,300.00
Total Department 475 DPW - Parks and Forestry			1,282,825.00
014851-511000	485	Restore DPW Position - Mechanic	57,124.00
Total Department 485 DPW - Automotive			57,124.00

Budget Line Item	Department #	Description	Amount
014911-511000	491	Restore DPW Position - HMEO	61,344.00
014911-512000	491	Restore DPW Summer Work Program	9,580.00
Total Department 491 DPW - Cemetery			70,924.00
015412-543800	541	Program Support	40,000.00
Total Department 541 Council on Aging			40,000.00
015432-543800	543	Veterans Outreach, Events, and Commemoration Support	30,000.00
Total Department 543 Veterans			30,000.00
016111-511000	611	Restore Sunday Hours	25,315.00
016112-543800	611	Program Support	10,000.00
Total Department 611 Library			35,315.00
019111-511010	911	Pension Obligation - Employee Benefits	500,000.00
Total Department 911 Pension			500,000.00
019142-549201	914	Group Health Providers - Health Insurance (24 Employees)	442,455.00
Total Department 914 Health Insurance			442,455.00
019162-548000	916	Medicare Costs - Employer Portion (1.45%)	41,124.00
Total Department 916 Medicare			41,124.00
019422-561400	942	OPEB Funding - Employee Benefits	500,000.00
Total Department 942 Stabilization Fund			500,000.00
Total Appropriation			13,500,000.00

Supplemental Appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2026 (Override Budget)

City of Melrose
Prepared November 17, 2025

Schools \$8,688,852.00	School Building Maintenance & Improvements \$4,345,052.00	MHS - Bathrooms Renovation MHS - Courtyard Stairs MVMMS - Solar Inverter Repairs MVMMS - Front Stairs and Sidewalk Repairs MVMMS - HVAC Control Upgrades Winthrop School - Doors & Masonry Repairs All Schools - Asbestos Remediation
	Instruction & Learning \$3,818,800.00	Restore 17 Positions \$1,649,000.00 Current Fiscal Year Contractual Obligations \$529,000.00 Curriculum Materials \$1,469,500.00 Instructional Technology \$171,300
	School Technology Needs \$525,000.00	School Security Cameras MHS - Projector Upgrades Districtwide - PA System Upgrades Back Up Power Modernization Elementary Schools - Chromebook Replacements
Department of Public Works \$1,718,744.00	Restore 5 positions \$284,521.00	City Engineer (General fund portion) Facilities Manager (General fund portion) Facilities Laborer Heavy Machinery/Equipment Operator (Cemetery) Mechanic
	Restore DPW Summer Work Program \$131,000.00	
	Restore Overtime Costs for Programs \$63,223.00	Main Street Flower Baskets City Yard Saturday Hours Municipal Park & Weekend Downtown Trash Removal City Event Support & Parklets Roadway Line Painting
	Roads & Sidewalks \$ 1,240,000.00	Additional Road Paving Projects Sidewalk Repairs Projects Howard Street Speed Tables Crosswalk Improvements Road Flooding Mitigation Projects Engineering Projects & Repairs
School / City Employee Benefits & Human Resources \$1,503,579.00	Pension \$500,000.00	
	Post Employment Benefits \$500,000.00	
	Health Benefits for Restored Positions \$442,455.00	
	Medicare Employer Tax for Restored Positions \$41,124.00	
	New Hire Advertising \$8,000.00	
	New Hire Physical Exams \$12,000.00	
Parks & Fields \$1,243,300.00	Tree Planting, Trimming, Removals, & Adopt-A-Site	
	Common Park & Dunton Park Playground Replacements	
	Softball & Baseball Field Improvements	Infield Work at Morelli, Common and Conant Fields Lights at Monk Field Scoreboard at Common Field
	Tennis & Pickleball Court Repairs (Crystal & Tremont Street courts)	
	Foss Park Basketball Court Repairs	
	Citywide Open Space & Playground Maintenance	
Police Department \$200,210.00	Restore 2 Police Officers \$154,076.00	
	New Recruit Costs \$46,134.00	
Council on Aging \$80,000.00	Milano Center Outdoor Lighting \$40,000.00	
	Program Support \$40,000.00	
Library \$35,315.00	Restore Sunday Hours \$25,315.00	
	Program Support \$10,000.00	
Veterans' Services \$30,000.00	Outreach, Events, Commemoration Program Support \$30,000.00	