



Council approves lowest tax increase in 10 years

Key programs and services maintained

December 13, 2016

Edmonton City Council today passed the 2016-2018 Supplemental Budget Adjustment, the lowest tax increase in a decade, while still maintaining current services and programs and funding major Council initiatives such as the Neighbourhood Renewal Program and EndPovertyEdmonton.

The 2.9 per cent tax rate increase is down from 3.1 per cent originally proposed at the November 29 Council meeting.

The City reduced the base budget, the percentage of the tax increase necessary just to maintain current programs and services due to inflation, from 2.5 per cent in 2016 to 0.8 per cent in 2017. Of the 1.7 per cent in savings, Council reinvested 1.5 per cent of it, or \$22 million, into Neighbourhood Renewal to maintain Council's long-standing commitment. This vital program funds repairs to roads, sidewalks and streetlights in Edmonton's more than 300 aging neighbourhoods.

"This budget represents a balanced and efficient approach to city building while making investments in both people and infrastructure," says Mayor Don Iveson. "That's not an easy feat when you consider 2016 has brought more economic uncertainty to our region and with it, the demands placed on the City of Edmonton have increased."

Household Impact

The City of Edmonton's 2016-2018 Operating Budget results in a 2.9 per cent general property tax increase in 2017 for all civic operations. The tax rate is finalized in the spring, after the Government of Alberta sets the Provincial Education Tax, which makes up a portion of the total tax rate.

The approved budget maintains all City programs and services for slightly more than \$6.59 a day in municipal taxes for most Edmonton households. This means a tax increase of \$66 in 2017 and \$120 in 2018 for the typical household, which is a single-family dwelling with an assessed value of \$408,000.

The budget holds department expenditures to well below the cost of inflation, while providing staffing for new infrastructure approved in previous budgets, such as fire halls in new neighbourhoods. It also dedicates 0.6 per cent of the tax increase to construction of the Valley Line LRT expansion.

Increased investments deliver on citizen priorities

The City reallocated savings found in other parts of City operations to fund programs identified as priorities for citizens, including:

- Additional firefighters for three fire halls
- Problem Properties Task Force
- Nikaniw Indigenous Youth Leadership Program 2017
- The EndPovertyEdmonton initiative
- Community Development Corporation
- Art Gallery of Alberta Sustainability initiative

2016-2018 Utilities Budget

Last week, Council approved the 2016-18 Utilities Budget, which covers the revenues and expenses of the City's two utilities: Waste Management Services and Drainage Services. They are funded exclusively through utility rates and utility program revenues, not property taxes.

Under the 2016-2018 budget, Waste Management Services for the typical residential customer will increase by:

- \$22.80 a year in 2017
- \$22.20 a year in 2018

For Drainage Services, the typical residential customer will see annual rate increases of \$12 in 2017 and \$15 in 2018.

For more information:

[Supplemental 2016-2018 Operating Budget Overview and Budget Primer](#)
[Background](#)

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