

Reader's Guide to the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

This budget document is intended to be accessible to readers with significant, little, or no experience with municipal finance. Presented in six distinct sections, this budget document will provide both general and specific data, from philosophical discourse on the nature of the fiscal partnership between branches of government, to line-by-line department spending requests for items such as office supplies and gasoline. The sections include:

<p><u>Section 1</u></p> <p>Town Manager's Budget Message</p>	<p>This section contains the overall philosophy upon which the budget was developed, and provides an explanation of the budget process, and any significant changes to the budget as compared to previous years. This section also covers the budget highlights and provides a summary of the balanced budget proposal.</p>
<p><u>Section 2</u></p> <p>Revenue Summary</p>	<p>This section identifies the sources of revenue to meet the proposed operational, miscellaneous, and capital expenses for the coming year. The section also provides the reader with an overview of historical and proposed revenue, including the assumptions used to develop the estimates.</p>
<p><u>Section 3</u></p> <p>Department Descriptions</p>	<p>This section contains descriptions for the General Fund, Enterprise Funds and Community Preservation Fund which identifies the general purpose of each department and include a history of past year expenditures, the current year budget, and the recommended balanced budget.</p>
<p><u>Section 4</u></p> <p>Departmental Budget Submissions</p>	<p>This section contains budget submissions for General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and the Community Preservation Fund.</p>
<p><u>Section 5</u></p> <p>Glossary of Terms and Appendices</p>	<p>This section contains definitions that may prove useful in reviewing this budget document and appendices such as the Plan Executive Summary for the FY2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan which was published as a separate document on January 6, 2015.</p>



Name: Town of Needham

Incorporated: 1724

Total Area: 12.61

Elevation: low elevation is 68 feet above sea level and the high is 298 feet above sea level.

Public Roads: 138.35 miles

County: Norfolk

Population: 28,886 (2010 census)

Form of Government:
Representative Town Meeting

School Structure: K-12

FY2015 Tax Rate:
\$11.29 Residential
\$22.43 Commercial

FY2015 Average Single Family Home Value: \$818,436

FY2015 Average Single Family Tax Bill: \$9,240

Coordinates:
42° 16' 52" N 71° 14' 11" W

Town Hall Address:
1471 Highland Avenue
Needham, MA 02492

Website: www.needhamma.gov

Facebook: Town of Needham

Twitter: @TownofNeedham

Community Profile

The **Town of Needham** is located on rocky uplands within a loop of the Charles River in Eastern Massachusetts. The town is bordered by Wellesley on the west and northwest, Newton on the north and northeast, the West Roxbury section of Boston on the east, Dedham on the southeast and south, and Westwood and Dover on the south. Needham is ten miles southwest of Boston, twenty-nine miles east of Worcester, and about 208 miles from New York City.

Needham is situated in the greater Boston area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. Principal highways are State Routes 128 (the inner belt around Boston) and 135, and Interstate Route 95, which shares the same roadway as State Route 128. Commuter rail service is available via four stations to Back Bay Station and South Station in Boston. Needham is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed bus route service between Needham Junction and Watertown Square.

