

2027 Budget Retreat

May 12, 2026

Presentation to the Tompkins County Legislature



Administration

Myers Point on Cayuga Lake
in the Town of Lansing, NY



Economic & Fiscal Indicators

Environmental Scan

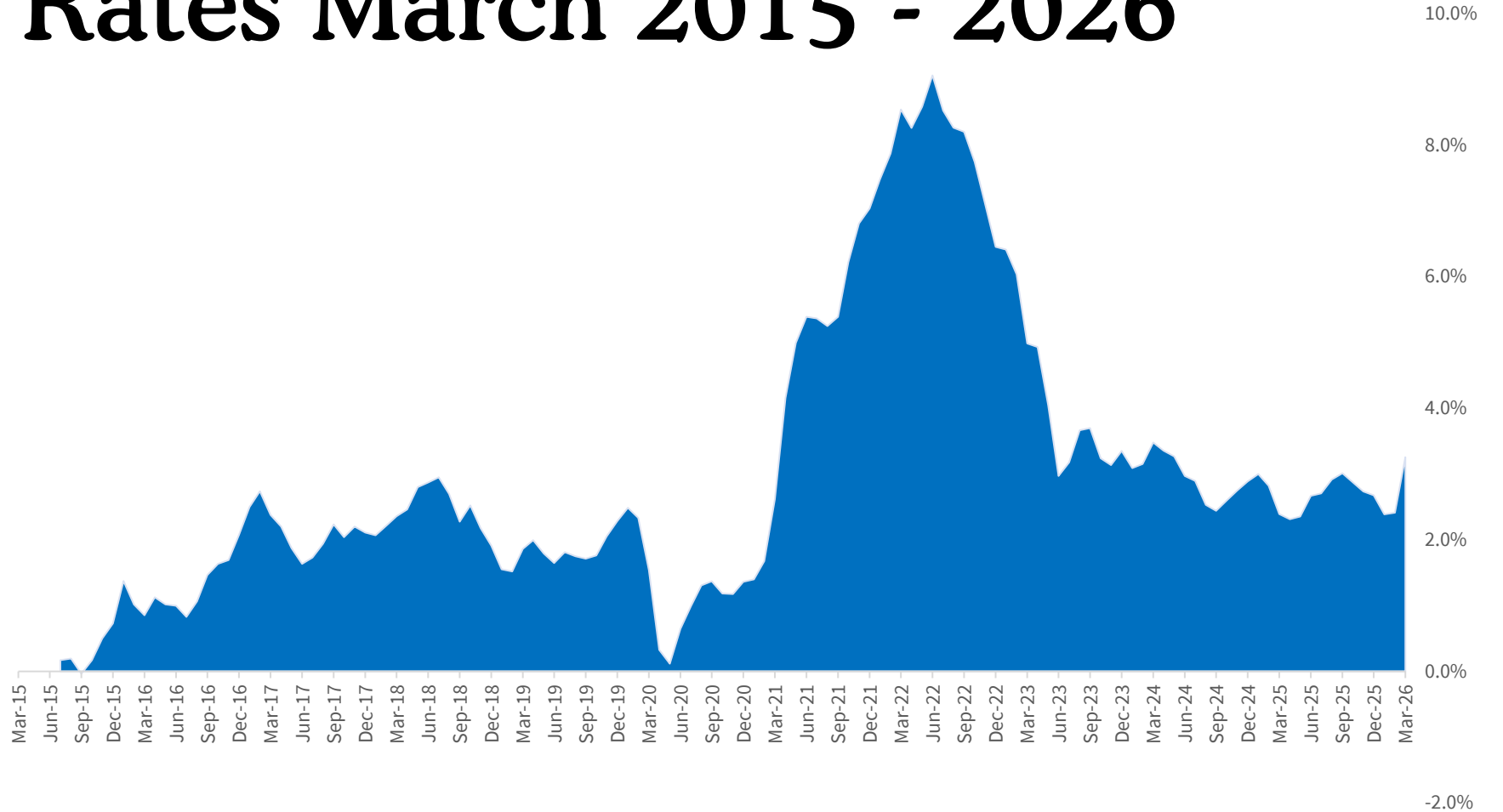


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Budget Retreat

Inflation Rates March 2015 - 2026

Mar 2025 to
2026 inflation
is 3.26%



U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



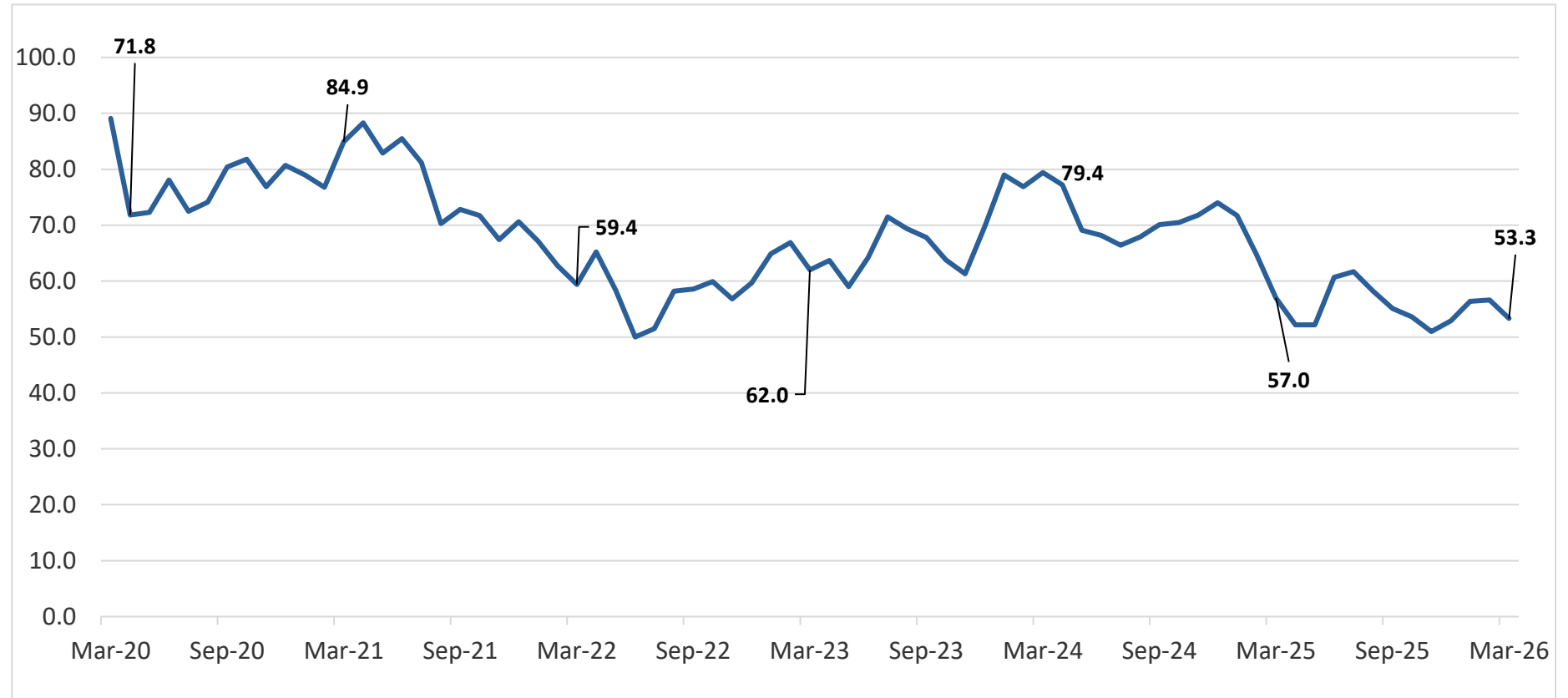
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Consumer Confidence

Mar 2020- Mar 2026

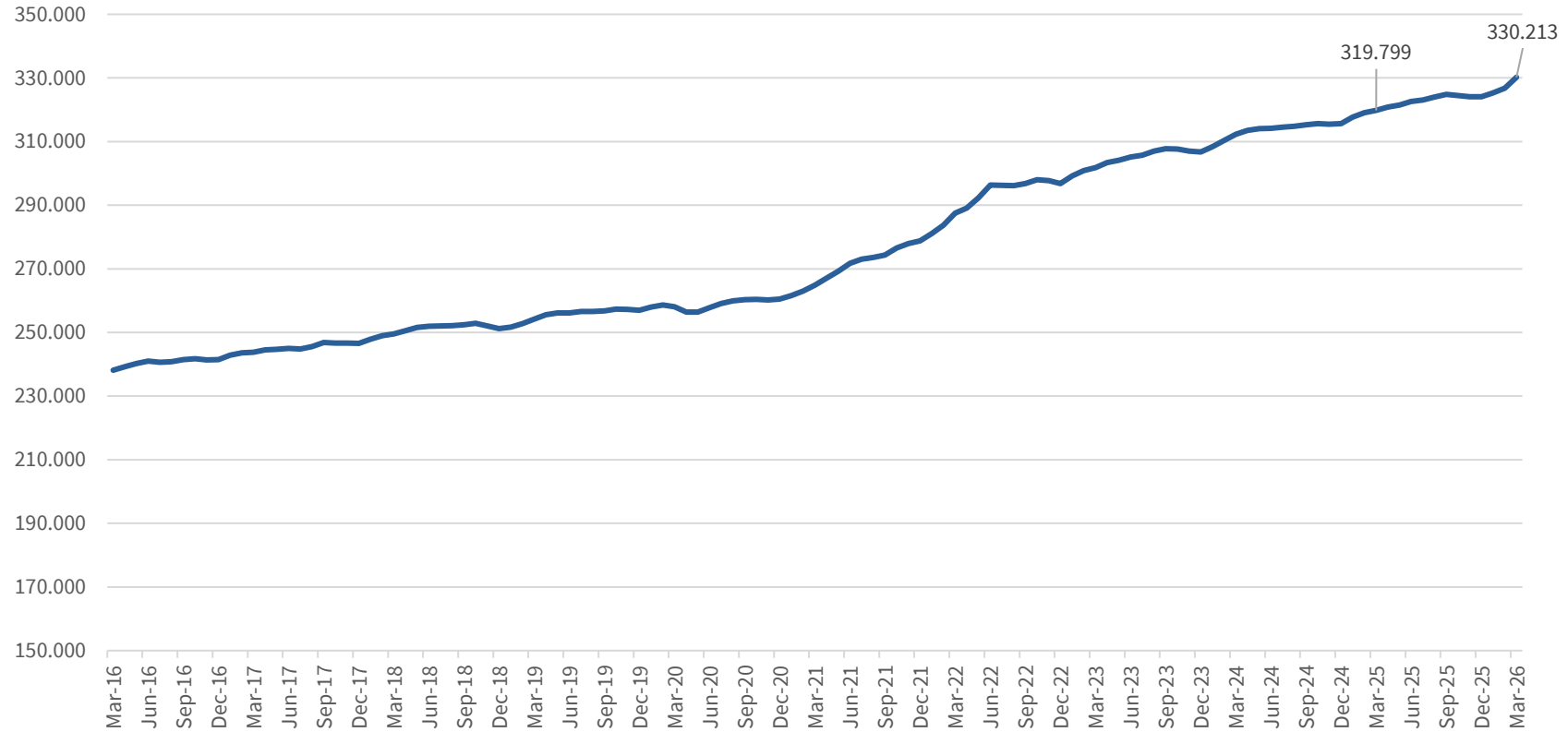
- U.S. Consumer Confidence has decreased after Mar 2025; 3.7 points lower than Mar 2025



Inflation Trends: A Decade of CPI Growth

Mar 2016- Mar 2026

U.S. Consumer Price Index has increased after March 2025; 10.41 points higher in March 2026



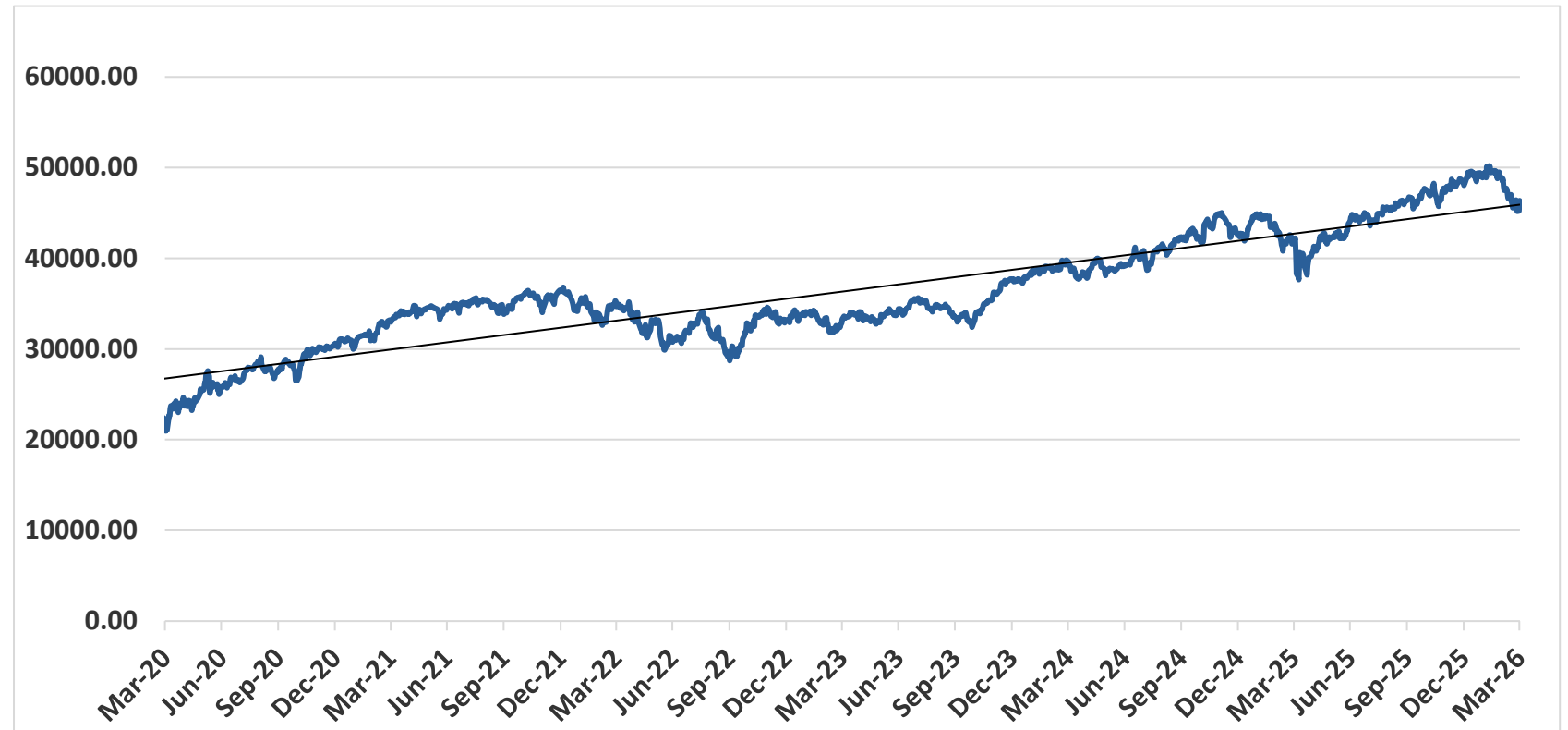
University of Michigan: Consumer Sentiment
Oct 25 : Data unavailable due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations



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Stock Market: Dow Jones Industrial Average April 2020-April 2025

11% higher in
March 2026
than a year
ago

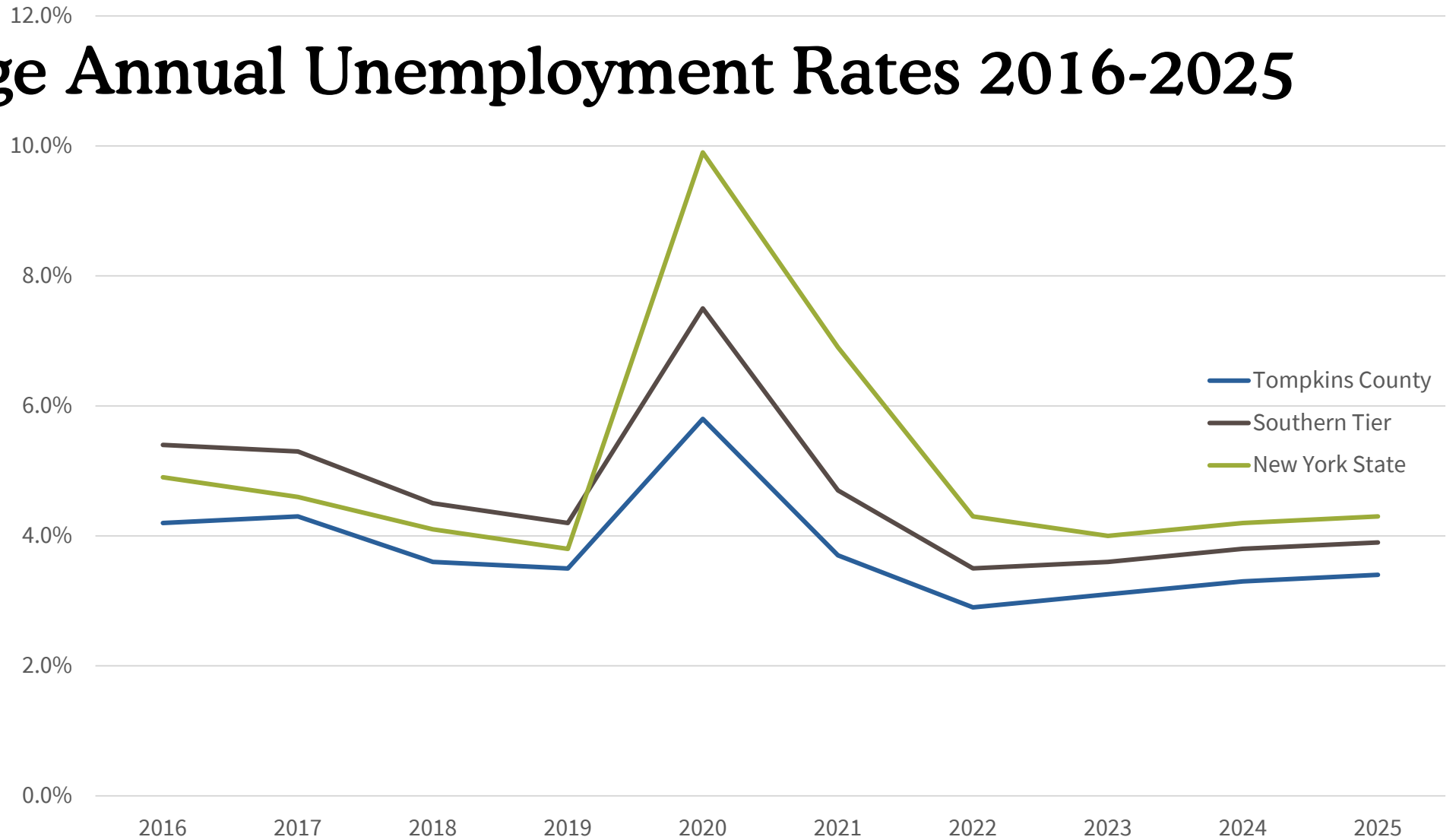


Source: Dow Jones Industrial Average



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Average Annual Unemployment Rates 2016-2025



2025

New York State – 4.3%

Southern Tier – 3.9%

Tompkins County – 3.4%



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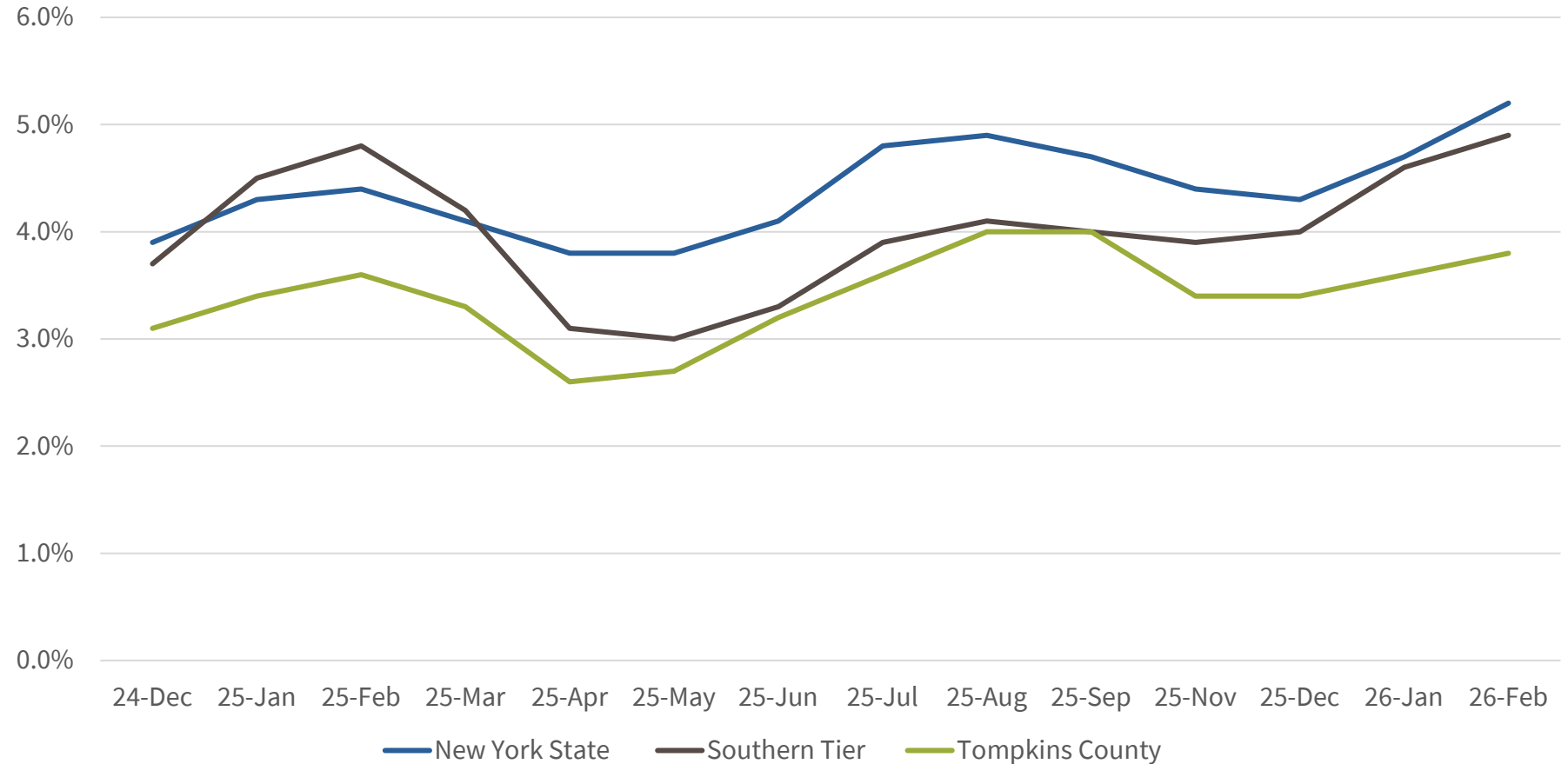
NYS Dept. of Labor

Budget Retreat

Monthly Unemployment Rates 12/24-2/26

As of February 2026

New York State – 5.2%
Southern Tier – 4.9%
Tompkins County – 3.8%



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NYS Dept. of Labor

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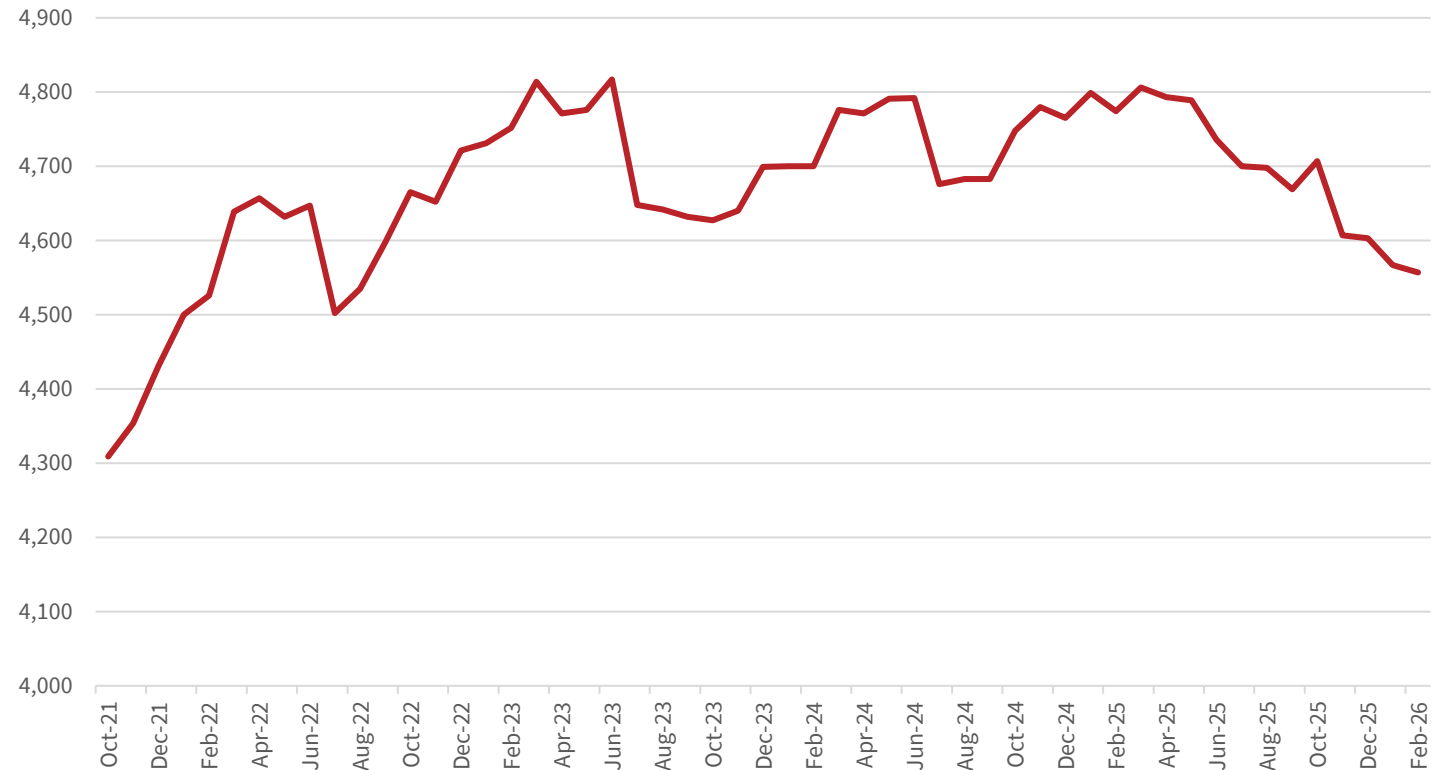
Indicators of Need

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Caseloads trending upward

- Up 5% since 2021
- Down 5% year over year
- Income thresholds \$2,510 monthly income for one individual, and \$5,200 monthly for a household of 4.

Tompkins County Households on SNAP
2021-2026



<http://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/>



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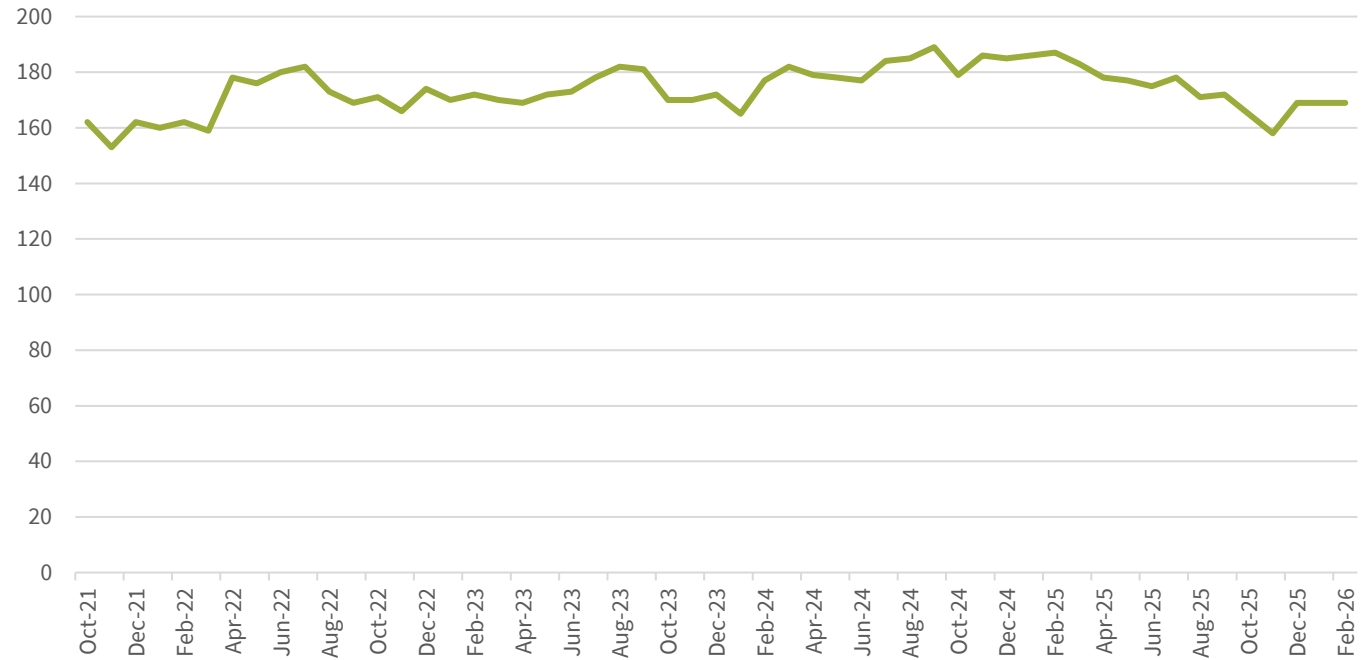
Indicators of Need

Temporary Assistance (TANF)

100% NYS funded

- Down 9% from February 2021
- Down 10% year over year
- No local cost (or savings)
- 5-year lifetime benefit

Tompkins County TANF Cases 2021-2026



<http://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/>



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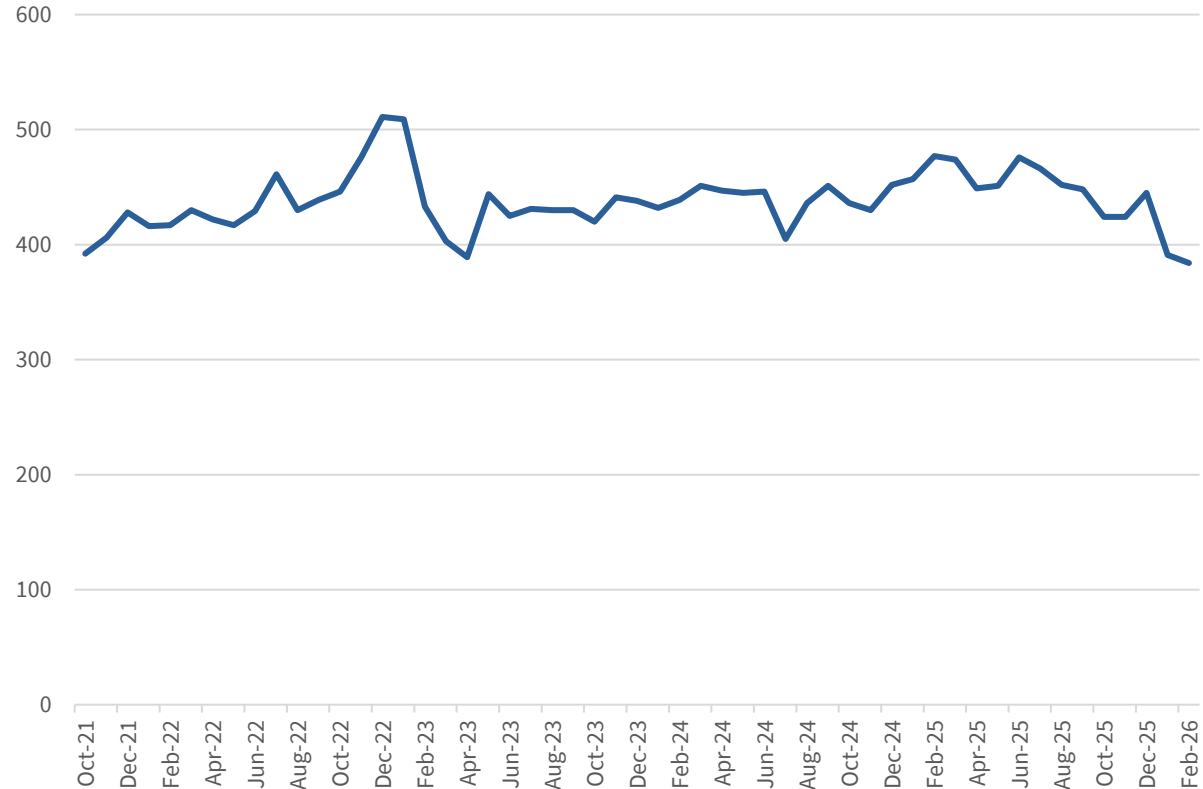
Indicators of Need

Safety Net

71% local funding/ 29% NYS

- 19% Decrease since last February

Tompkins County Safety Net Cases 2021-2026



<http://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/>



Administration

State Budget Highlights



Administration

Budget Retreat

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STATE BUDGET PROPOSAL AT A GLANCE

\$260B

Total All-Funds Spending

+ $\$1.7B$ (+0.7%) over SFY 2026

\$157B

State Operating Fund

+ $\$8.6B$ (+5.7%) over SFY 2026

\$27.5B

Combined Out-Year Gaps

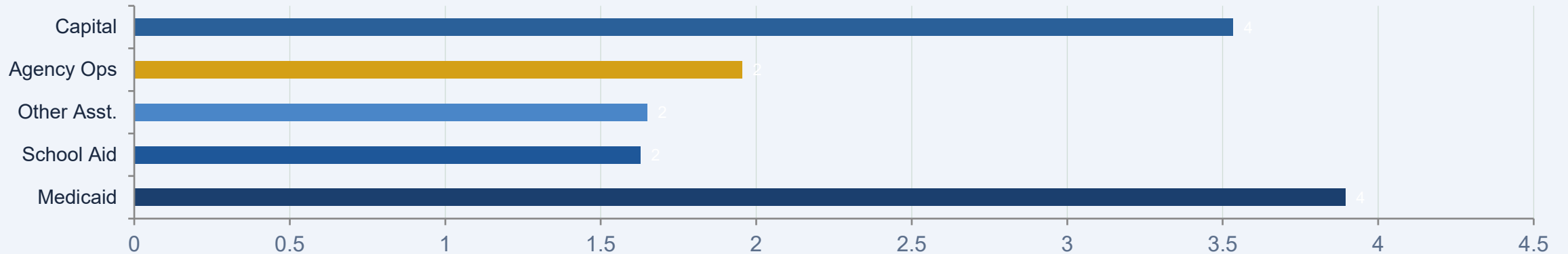
SFY 2028–2030 projected deficit

-\$10B

Federal Aid Reduction

Mainly ACA Essential Plan cuts

Key Year-over-Year Spending Increases (\$ Billions)



DIRECT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AID

Most direct aid programs held flat from SFY 2026. Total statewide direct local aid: \$889.7 million. The County Partnership Program maximum grant doubles to \$1.5M.

Program	SFY 2026	SFY 2027	Change
Aid & Incentives for Municipalities (AIM)	\$715.2M	\$715.2M	Flat
County Partnership Program ★	\$50.0M (max \$1M/grant)	\$50.0M (max \$1.5M/grant)	Max ↑\$500K
Temporary AIM	\$50.0M	\$50.0M	Flat
Citizens' Empowerment Grants	\$35.0M	\$35.0M	Flat
Local Govt. Efficiency Grants	\$8.0M	\$8.0M	Flat
VLT Aid	\$10.5M	\$10.5M	Flat
Commercial Gaming Offset Revenue	\$17.0M	\$17.0M	Flat

★ *Tompkins County is eligible to apply for the County Partnership Program.*

MEDICAID & HEALTH CARE

\$122.9B

Total Medicaid & Essential Plan SFY 2027

\$9.2B

Projected savings to local districts from Medicaid cap in FY 2027

\$62.8B

Cumulative county savings from Medicaid cap since 2015

3.5% cap

Annual growth limit on local Medicaid costs (FY 2027 continues cap)

What This Means for Tompkins County

- Local Medicaid cap preserved — county cost growth continues to be held at 2015 levels, saving millions annually.
- HCRA extended 3 years — continued hospital assessments and dedicated health care funding through March 2029.
- **Federal risk: ACA Essential Plan funding drops from \$14.5B to \$3.7B — pressure on state Medicaid budget could affect future county negotiations.**
- Community paramedicine programs extended — supports local EMS capacity and hospital diversion.
- Managed care changes and long-term care restorations may affect local LDSS case management workloads.

HUMAN SERVICES, AGING & CHILD WELFARE

Aging Services

- \$71.2M for county aging services (↑\$1.3M from SFY 2026)
- \$35M additional for non-medical in-home services — reduces waitlists
- \$4M each for NORCs and NNORCs to support aging-in-place
- COFA: To monitor formula changes for allocation impact

Child Care & Early Education

- \$1.23B additional for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Pilot childcare programs in Dutchess, Monroe, Broome — model for future expansion
- \$73M for 2-Care launch (NYC), \$11M for early ed. teacher incentive scholarships
- Childcare registration renewal extended 4→6 years; reduced administrative burden

Preschool Special Education

- \$1.27B to reimburse counties — ↑\$173M (15.8%) for preschool sp. ed. services
- \$437M for summer school special ed. services (↑\$24M, 5.8%)
- Approx. 80,000 preschool-age children with disabilities statewide benefit
- Counties pay upfront; state reimbursement improvement reduces cash flow strain

Human Services / Foster Care

- \$572K for luggage purchases for youth in foster care outside NYC
- Asylum seeker spending winds down: ~\$250M remaining (down from \$1.6B)
- Expanded reimbursable adoption window: 60 → 345 days post-placement
- SSI cost-of-living adjustments auto-passed through — no annual legislation needed

PUBLIC SAFETY, JUDICIARY & LEGAL SERVICES

Public Safety Highlights

- Raise the Age: \$250M new funding — affects county youth detention services and DSS case management.
- Body Scanners authorized for juvenile detention facilities — locally operated facilities may now use radiological scanners.
- Drone regulations: new criminal offenses for unlawful use; law enforcement authority expanded.
- Orders of Protection extended when defendants fail to appear — impacts local court operations.
- Sensitive Locations Act: limits civil immigration enforcement at courthouses, hospitals, and government buildings.

Indigent Legal Services

\$481.87M Total ILS Aid to Localities

\$92M ACP rate increase (50% county/NYC reimbursement)

\$274M Hurrell-Harring statewide reforms

\$9.9M Article 18-B Family Court / Parental Defense

⚠ \$234M ILS Fund sweep to General Fund proposed — NYSAC opposes.

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT

CHIPS + Marchiselli highway/bridge program: \$688M maintained (same as SFY 2026)

\$100M

Pave Our Potholes

\$150M

PAVE NY

\$200M

BRIDGE NY

\$100M

Extreme Winter Recovery

\$140M

State Touring Route

\$370M (+5.8%)

Upstate Transit Aid

Environment & Climate

- \$3.75B over 5 years for clean water infrastructure (\$750M/year) — includes \$250M for housing-related water projects; \$50M for rural communities
- \$425M Environmental Protection Fund for climate, conservation & agriculture
- \$300M POWER UP Fund — power-ready industrial sites
- SEQRA reforms: faster housing/infrastructure approvals, 1-yr EIS scoping deadline
- Municipal ZEV program caps removed — larger fleet electrification grants available to Tompkins County

EDUCATION, HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Colleges & SUNY

- Funding floor: 100% prior-year maintained (prevents \$101M / 16% formula cut from enrollment declines)
- Certificate of Residence reforms — SUNY may standardize late fees; counties still issue certificates
- \$12.5M Opportunity Promise Scholarships expanded to nursing & high-demand fields
- Non-resident tuition rate flexibility extended 3 academic years (2026–2029)

Economic Development

- \$150M Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) core funding
- \$100M Downtown Revitalization Initiative + \$100M NY Forward
- \$75M NY BRICKS (community centers, construction & renovation)
- \$2.45M local tourism promotion matching grants — consistent with SFY 2026

Housing

- \$170M for land banks (cap raised from 35 to 45 land banks statewide)
- \$100M Pro-Housing Communities capital + \$5.25M technical assistance
- \$50M Resilient & Ready Fund — flood repairs and proactive mitigation
- SEQRA reforms reduce environmental review timelines for housing projects

Agriculture & Nutrition

- \$83.97M local agriculture assistance (↑\$22M from SFY 2026)
- \$30M tariff relief for specialty crop, livestock & dairy farmers
- \$106M nutrition programs: \$51M HPNAP + \$55M Nourish NY
- \$15M Dairy Modernization Grants + 5-yr investment tax credit extension

FISCAL RISKS & COUNTY COST PRESSURES

ERS Pension Contribution Rates: 17.1% → 27.6% by 2030



Federal Aid Cliff

ACA Essential Plan federal support drops \$10.8B in SFY 2027. State budget pressure will grow, risking program cuts or cost shifts.

ERS Pension Costs

Average ERS rates rising at 11%/yr. Tompkins must plan for pension obligations increasing from ~17% to 27.6% of payroll by 2030.

Health Insurance Inflation

Health insurance costs projected to rise 7.6%/yr on average — well above general inflation. Major county budget pressure.

Out-Year Budget Gaps

\$27.5B combined state gaps SFY 2028–2030 may trigger aid freezes, mandate cost-shifts or new unfunded obligations.

The County must factor escalating pension/health insurance costs into multi-year financial planning beginning with the 2027 Budget cycle.

2027 Cost Drivers



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Mandates (Local \$)

Department	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projected	Change	Tax Levy Impact
Assigned Counsel	2,595,560	2,244,127	2,744,127	500,000	0.88
Social Services	17,903,581	20,941,338	21,630,531	689,193	1.21
Whole Health	3,029,623	2,620,370	3,665,095	1,044,725	1.84
Outside Colleges – Chargebacks	521,209	450,000	530,000	80,000	0.14
Jail Medical & Boarding	690,766	550,000	550,000	0	0.00
Total	24,740,739	26,913,848	29,119,753	2,313,918	4.07



Mandate Detail **Expense** – Dept Social Services

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projected	Change
Daycare	5,054,991	5,224,476	5,785,670	561,194
Childcare	7,681,308	7,345,721	7,820,294	474,573
Medicaid	12,130,064	12,297,896	12,297,896	0
Safety Net	5,922,589	6,525,059	5,991,289	-533,770
All Other	6,858,779	7,514,463	8,117,146	602,683
Total Impact	37,647,731	38,907,615	40,012,295	1,104,680

*DSS Administration Cost for 2025 was \$7.7M local share



Mandate Detail **Revenue** – Dept Social Services

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projected	Change
Daycare	5,614,363	4,480,167	4,255,103	(225,064)
Childcare	7,662,903	5,132,736	5,596,576	463,840
Medicaid	-	-	-	-
Safety Net	2,101,476	2,035,272	1,998,208	(37,064)
All Other	4,365,408	6,318,102	6,531,877	213,775
Total Impact	19,744,150	17,966,277	18,381,764	415,487



Mandate Detail **Expense** – Whole Health

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projected	Change
Medical Examiner	337,714	391,575	389,355	-2,220
Early Intervention	359,181	388,000	357,900	-30,100
Preschool	6,112,230	4,715,531	6,133,000	1,417,469
Psychiatric Expense	318,502	425,000	900,000	475,000
Total Impact	7,127,627	5,920,106	7,780,255	1,860,149

***Whole Health Administration Cost for 2025 was \$5.4M local share**



Mandate Detail **Revenue** – Whole Health

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projected	Change
Medical Examiner	\$1,815	\$3,000	\$900	-\$2,100
Early Intervention	\$219,912	\$150,000	\$205,100	\$55,100
Preschool	\$3,876,276	\$3,146,736	\$3,909,160	\$762,424
Psychiatric Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Impact	\$4,098,003	\$3,299,736	\$4,115,160	\$815,424



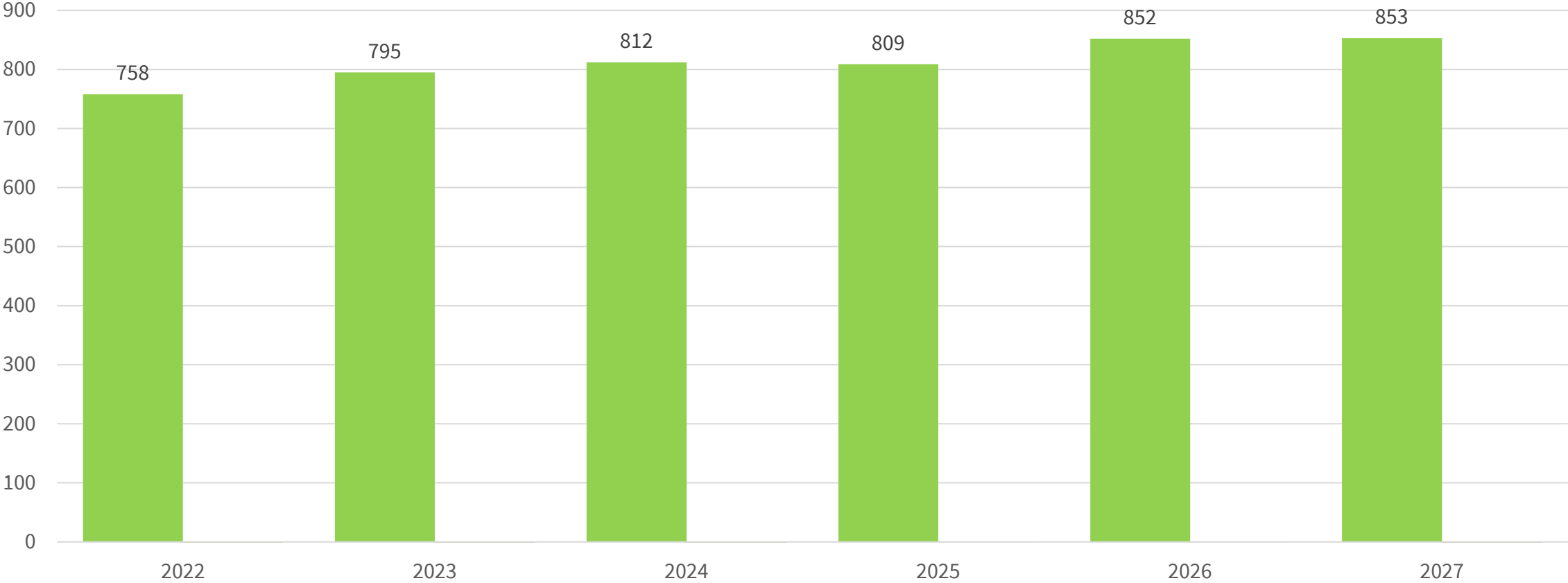
Gross Payroll Costs

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projected	Change
Wages	61,389,633	66,629,641	68,231,116	1,601,475
Fringe	26,881,827	28,282,191	32,651,131	4,368,940
Vacancy Factor		-1,878,418	-2,046,933	-168,515
Local Impact	88,271,460	93,033,414	98,835,314	5,801,990

- Incorporates all negotiated salary increases
- Include Overtime and Shift
- Assumes a nearly 47.01% fringe rate.
- 3% Vacancy Rate

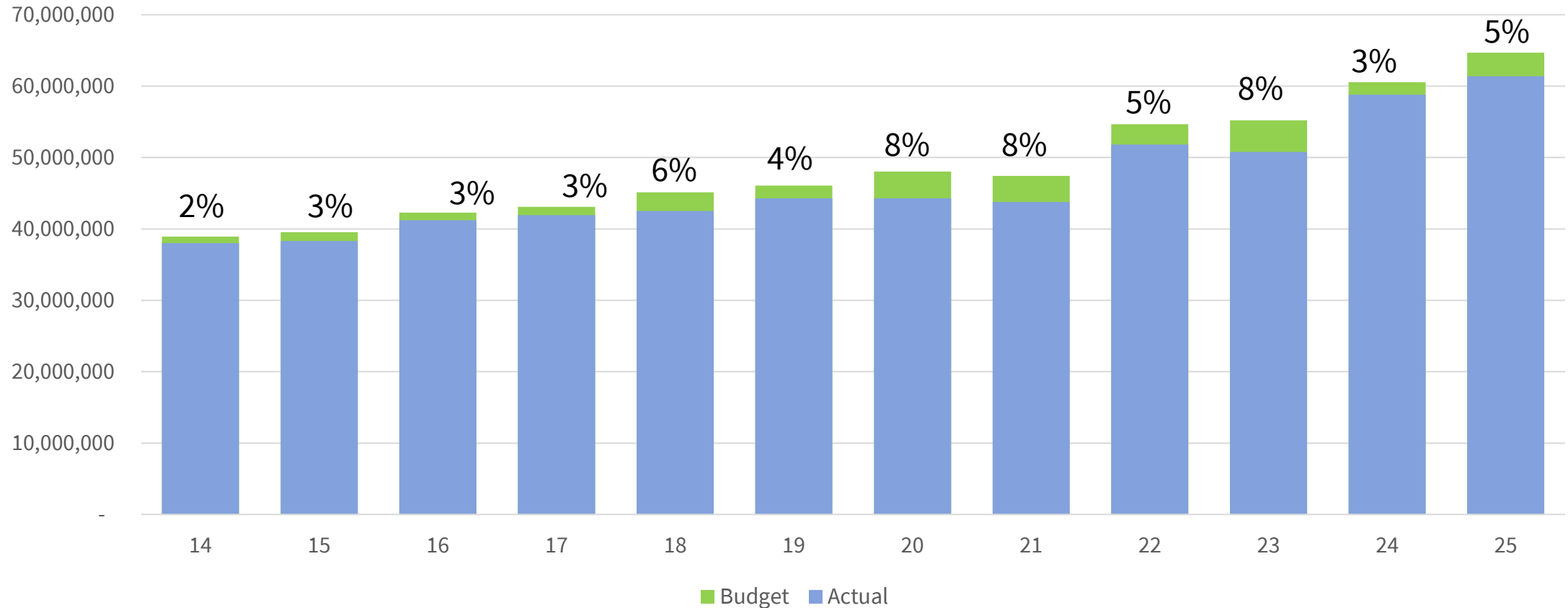


County Employee Budget FTE



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Gross Payroll Costs



Source: eFin 4/9/2025



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Other Costs

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projected	Change
Contingent Funds	\$1,433,432	\$1,399,000	\$2,200,000	\$801,000
Self Insurance Reserve	\$701,369	\$643,500	\$643,500	\$0
Utilities	\$1,321,253	\$1,448,260	\$1,698,260	\$250,000
IAED Agreement	\$315,570	\$340,500	\$367,400	\$26,900
Town Plowing	\$769,092	\$725,000	\$733,400	\$8,400
Local Impact	\$4,540,716	\$4,558,286	\$5,644,587	\$1,086,301



Capital and Debt Service Contribution (Local \$)

	Budget	Tax Levy Impact
2027	\$10,625,095	
2026	\$7,873,097	
Local Impact	\$2,751,998	4.84

Takes into consideration a \$1.26M increase to support infrastructure investments.



Capital Projects - Tax Levy

Debt Service

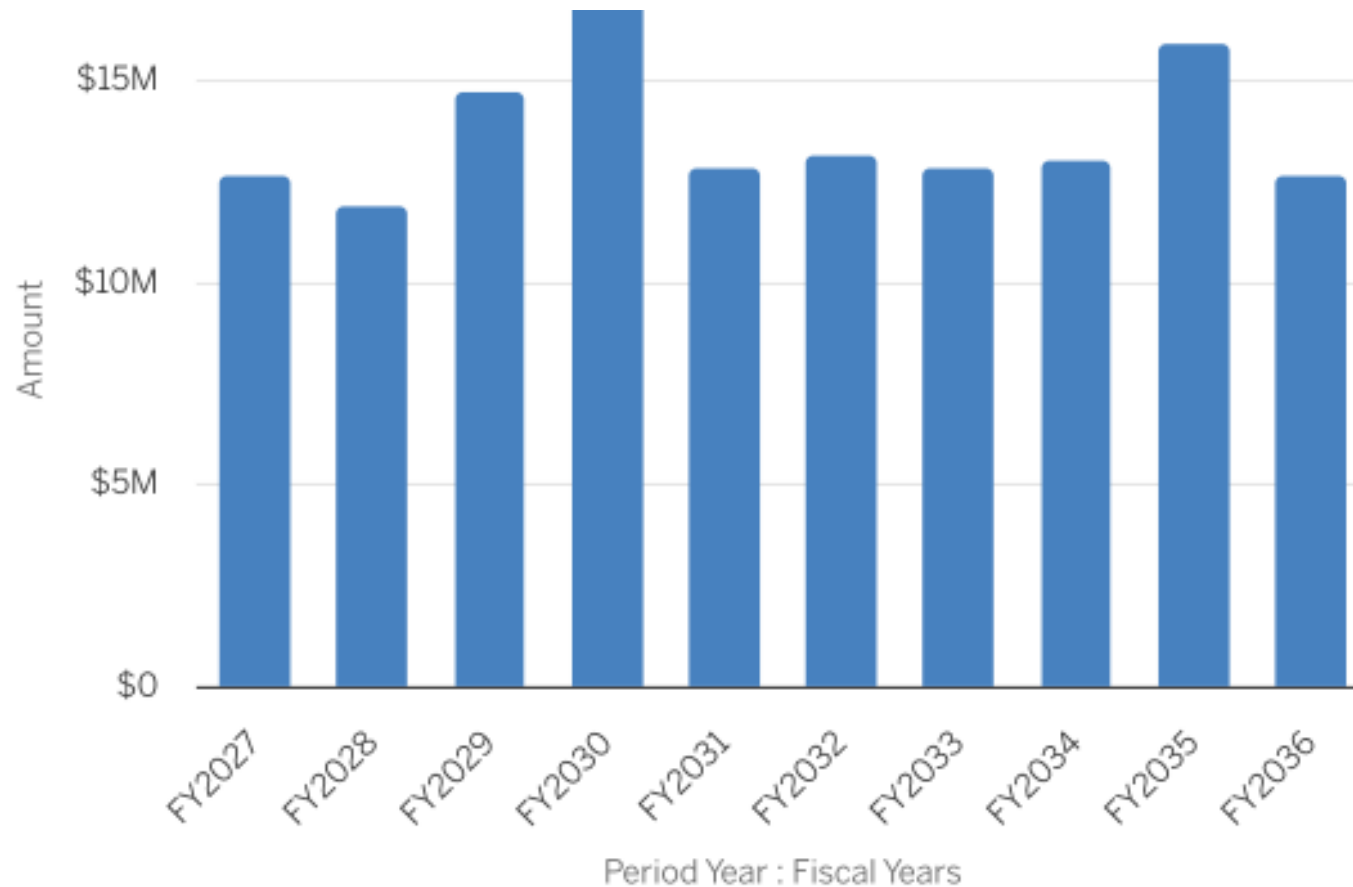
2012 Various Projects	\$114,423
2013 Various Projects	\$108,757
2014 Refunding of 2010	\$1,116,450
2014 Various Projects	\$264,290
2015 Various Projects	\$798,950
2018 Various Projects	\$207,625
2019 Various Projects	\$414,925
2020 Various Projects	\$196,538
2021 Various Projects	\$274,175
2022 - A Various Projects	\$398,643
2023 Various Projects	\$594,916
Capital Reserve - DEBT SERVICE RESERVE	\$1,550,000
Capital Reserve- BridgeNY Culvert Replacement	\$225,013
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$95,000
Cortland Street Bridge Replacement over Owasco Inlet	\$230,740
Total	\$6,590,445

Contribution to Construction

Facilities - Building Restoration Project	\$647,000
ITS Replacement	\$395,000
Highway - Falls Road Bridge over Taughannock Creek	\$210,850
Highway - Hines Road Bridge	\$100,200
Highway - Freese Road Bridge	\$815,600
Highway - Machinery Replacement Plan	\$400,000
Highway - Road Maintenance Program	\$446,000
Planning - Fleet Management	\$820,000
Planning - Natural Infrastructure	\$200,000
Total	\$4,034,650



Capital Program – Tax Levy



- INCLUDES:
 - Current Debt
 - Pending Bridge Projects
 - Capital Reserves
 - Center of Government
 - Facilities Restoration Projects
 - Green Facilities Program
 - Fleet Management
 - Highway Machinery
 - Natural Infrastructure
 - Public Safety Building Construction Project
 - Road Maintenance Program



Capital Projects – Other Funds

Outside Funds

2023 Various Projects - E911	\$359,939
2014 Various Projects - E911	\$35,210
2014 Various Projects - TC3	\$318,000
2012 Various Projects - Cooperative Extension	\$42,125
Highway – Cortland Street Bridge Replacement	\$2,840,000
Highway – Falls Road Bridge	\$4,006,159
Total	\$7,601,433

Enterprise Funds

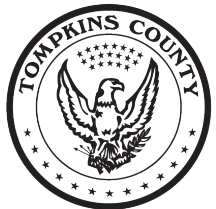
Airport – Rehabilitation General Aviation Apron	\$1,420,000
Airport – Obstruction Study and Removal	\$220,000
2013 Various Projects - RMM	\$177,043
2021-2025 RMM	\$60,562
2022 B Various Airport Projects	\$683,794
2012 Various Projects - Cooperative Extension	\$42,125
2025-2029 Landfill Site Improvements	\$42,388
RSWC Upgrades 2026-2030	\$364,067
Total	\$3,009,979



Fixed Cost Increases (Local \$)

	Budget	Tax Levy Impact
2027	\$500,000	.88

- Includes contracts and software



Recap: Expenses (Local)

Expense	Change	Tax Levy Change
NYS Mandates	\$2,313,918	4.07
Salary and Fringe	\$3,900,571	6.86
Other Costs	\$1,086,301	1.91
Fixed Cost Increase	\$500,000	0.88
Vacancy Factor	(\$168,515)	(0.30)
Capital	\$2,751,998	4.84
Total Expense Impact	\$10,384,273	18.25



2027 Challenges/ Opportunities: Potential Expense Impacts



ITH Airport

- ITH may require funding
- ITH enplanements down since COVID:
 - 2022 enplanements at 52.1% of 2019 levels
 - 2023 enplanements at 56.8% of 2019 levels
 - 2024 enplanements at 63.4% of 2019 levels
 - 2025 enplanements at 61.6% of 2019 levels

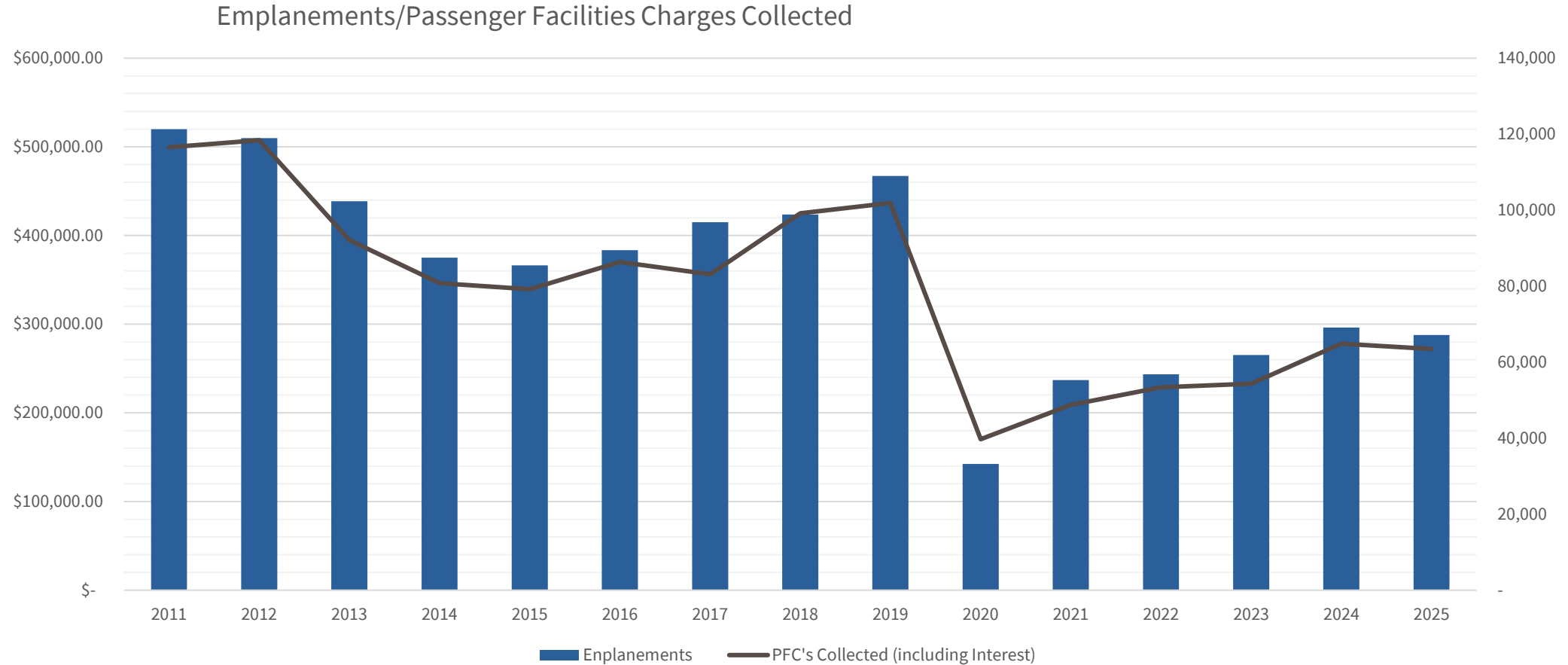
Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) directly tied to enplanements

- PFCs expected to pay debt on terminal project
-



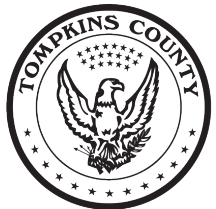
ITH Airport

Enplanements/Passenger Facilities Charges Collected



Emerging and Uncertain Costs

- County Employee living wage adjustment
 - Depending on what direction this goes could cost more than \$1M
- RMR Program Changes – increasing support for emergency response.
- District geothermal
- Shelter Services
- Federal and State funding
- Energy Cost (Gas and Diesel)



Maintenance of Effort Budget

- Does Not Include:
 - TCAT County Share Increase
 - TC3 County Share Increase
 - COLA for County supported agencies



2027 Revenue Drivers

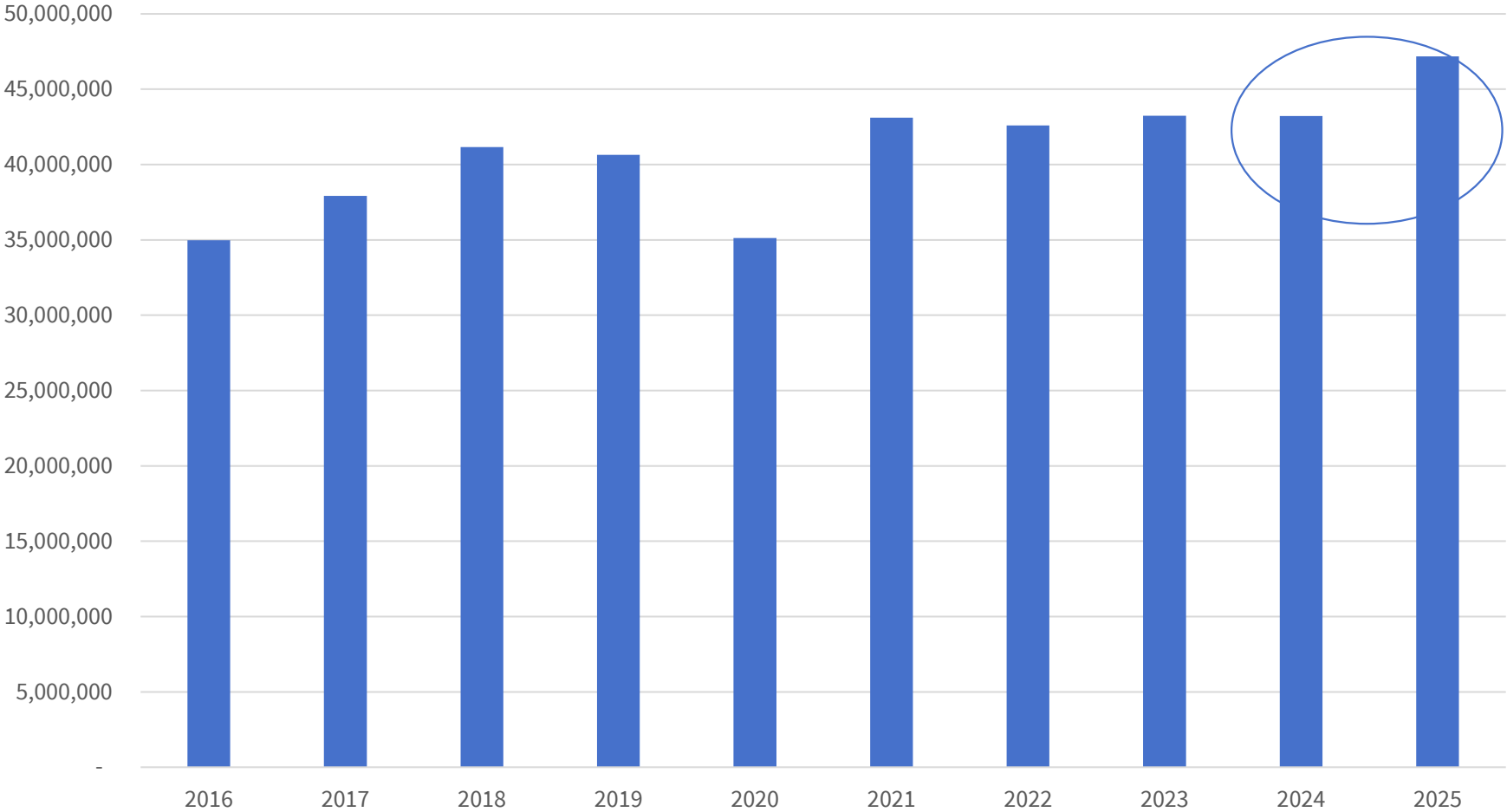


Administration

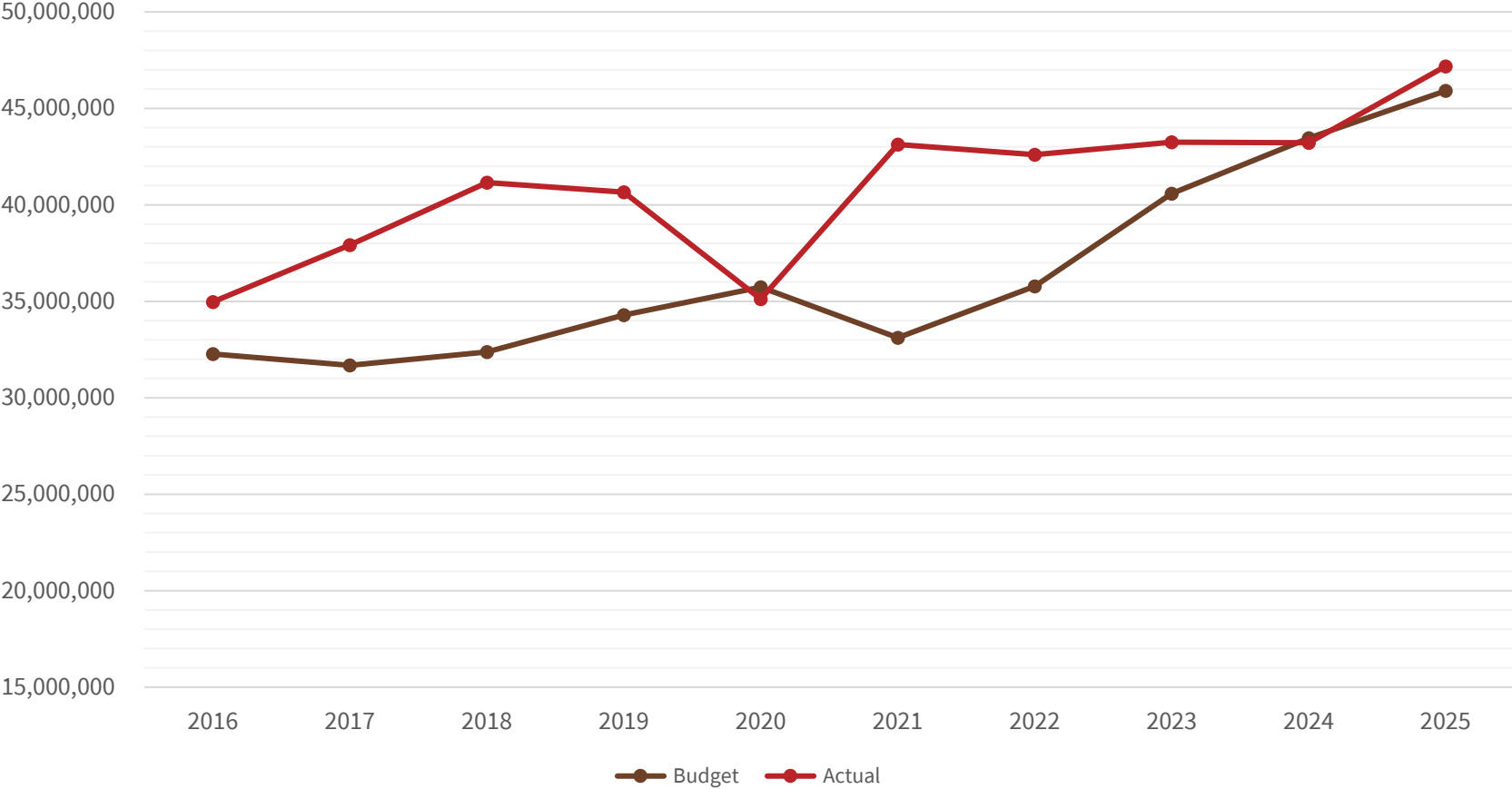
Budget Retreat

Sales Tax

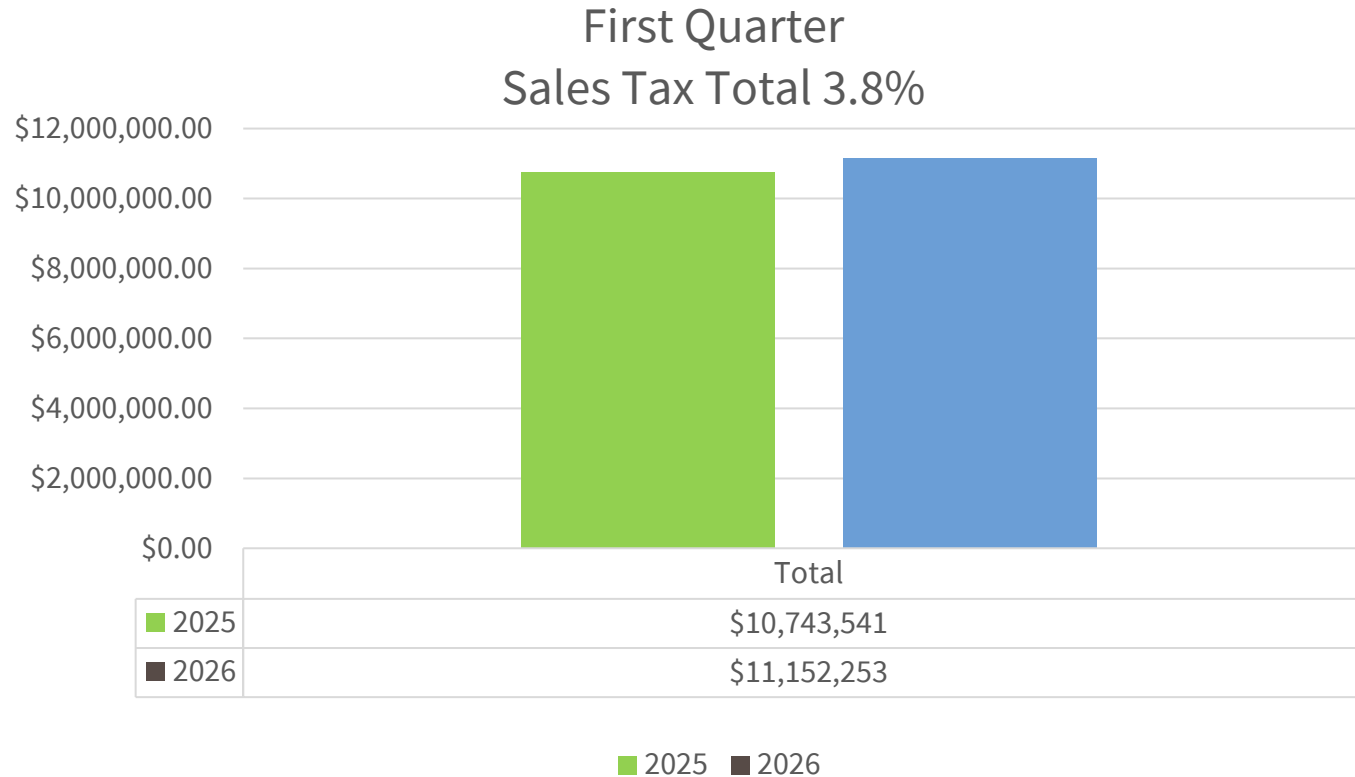
2.78% increase in sales tax from 2024 - 2025



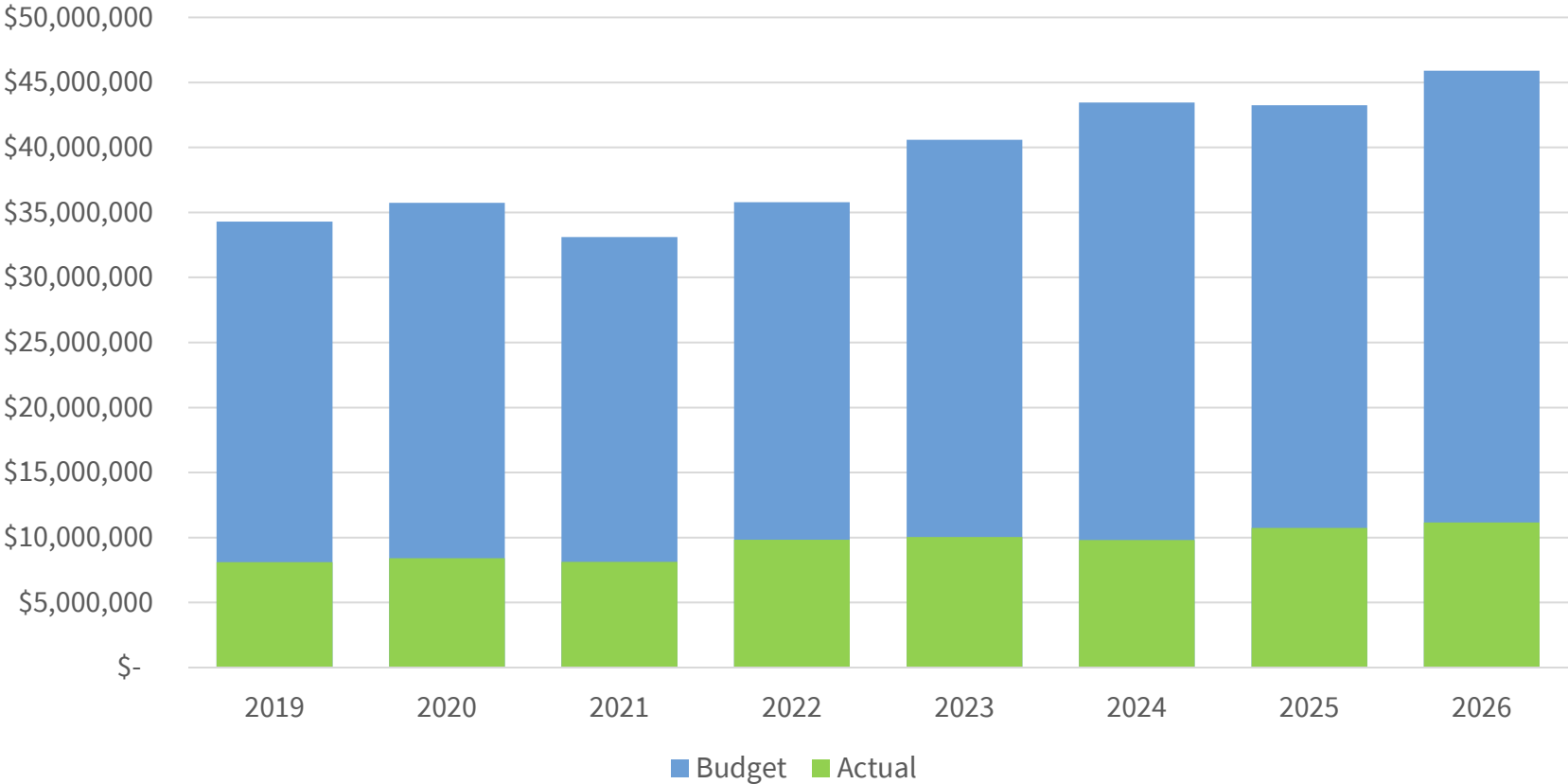
Tompkins County Sales Tax Budget vs. Actual



1st Quarter Sales Tax 2025 vs 2026 County Share



1st Quarter Sales Tax 2026 Actual to Budget



Sales Tax (Local \$)

	Budget	Tax Levy Impact
2027	\$45,905,828	
2026	\$45,905,828	
Local Impact	\$0	0%

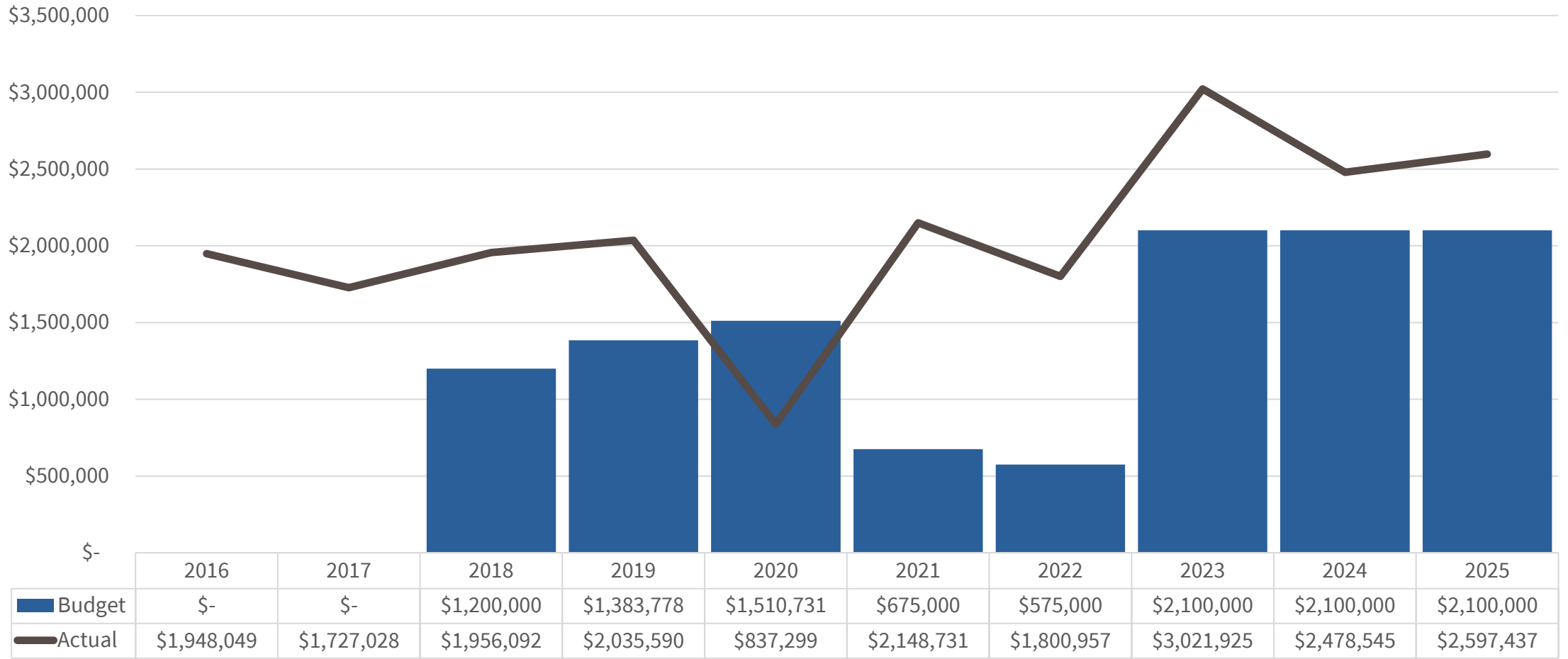


Other Revenue Drivers “Unallocated Revenues”

Unallocated Revenues	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Projection	Local Impact	Tax Levy Impact
Clerk Fees	\$1,056,933	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$0	0
Deed Transfer Tax	\$1,337,899	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$0	0
PILOT revenue	\$968,544	\$802,019	\$887,549	\$85,530	-0.15
Interest Earnings	\$2,362,870	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	0.00
Room Tax	\$318,997	\$288,361	\$287,826	(\$535)	0.00
Rents	\$185,331	\$275,999	\$183,999	(\$92,000)	0.16
Casino Revenues	\$2,597,437	\$2,100,000	\$2,500,000	\$400,000	-0.70
Total Unallocated Revenues	\$8,828,011	\$8,166,379	\$8,559,374	\$392,995	-0.69



Tompkins County Casino Revenue



■ Budget — Actual



Recap: Revenues

Revenue	Change	Tax Levy Impact
Casino Revenue	\$ 400,000	-0.70
Interest Earnings	\$0	0.00
Rents	(\$92,000)	0.16
Room Tax	(\$535)	0.00
PILOT Revenue	\$85,530	-0.15
Clerk Fees	0	0.00
Sales Tax Revenue	0	0.00
Total Revenue Impact	\$ 392,995	-0.69



Assumptions



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Assumptions – Tax Cap ESTIMATE

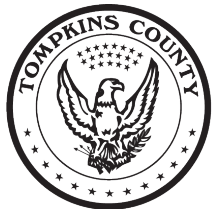
2027 Tax Cap Estimated at 2.75% (\$1.55M)

- Inflationary factor of 2% (limited to lesser of 2% or the Consumer Price Index).
- Sales tax credit offsets to towns
- Tax base growth factor for past 6 years
- Increase in PILOT revenue

Cap will change based on actual mid-year inflation and sales tax credit estimate

Explanations

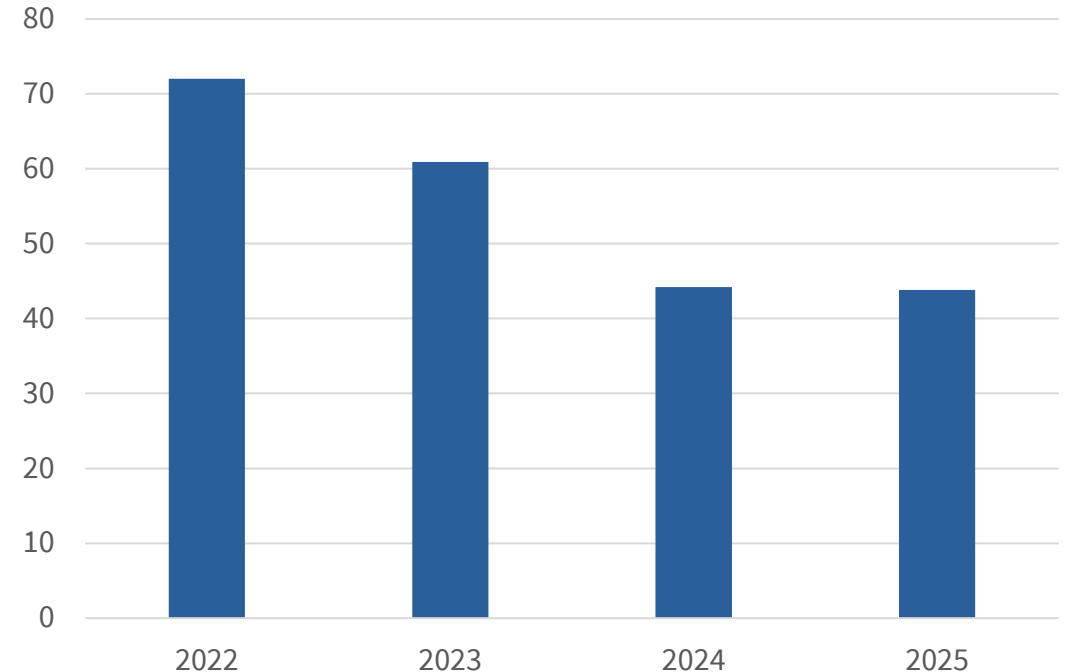
- Tax base growth factor or “new lumber”: amount of new tax base added by new construction
- Inflation comes from State: Lesser of 2% or CPI prior
- Sales tax credit is based on actual sales tax receipts mid-year



General Fund Balance History

Resolution 2024-6: Establishing Reserve Funds
(1/16/2024)

- Moved \$12,634,639 from unassigned fund balance to reserve accounts
 - Capital
 - Self-Insurance
 - Worker's Compensation
 - Unemployment
- Shifted target fund balance policy from 18% of Revenues to 25% of Expenditures



General Fund Balance as of 12/31/2025

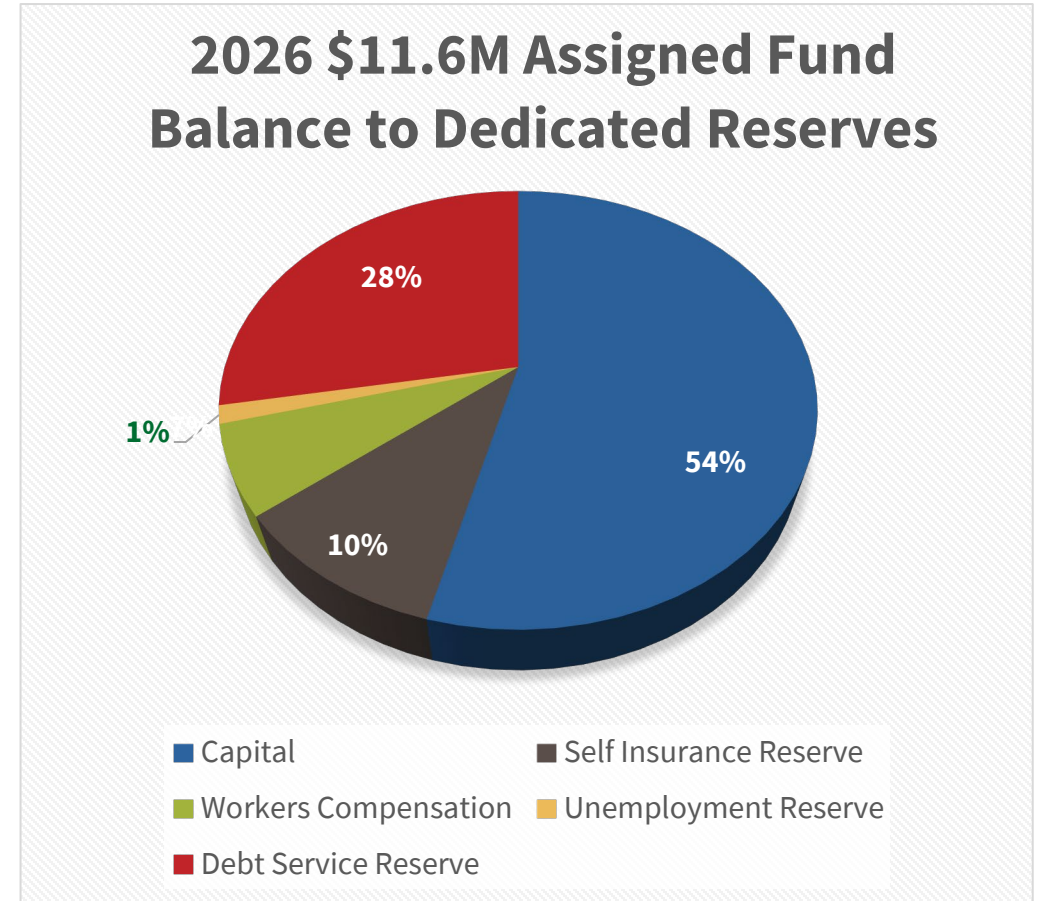
2025 General Fund	Estimate
Fund Balance (estimate end of 2025)	\$43,834,965
Target (25% of Expenses)	\$60,328,764
Deficit	(\$16,493,799)

Current fund balance 18.4%



RESERVE ACCOUNTS

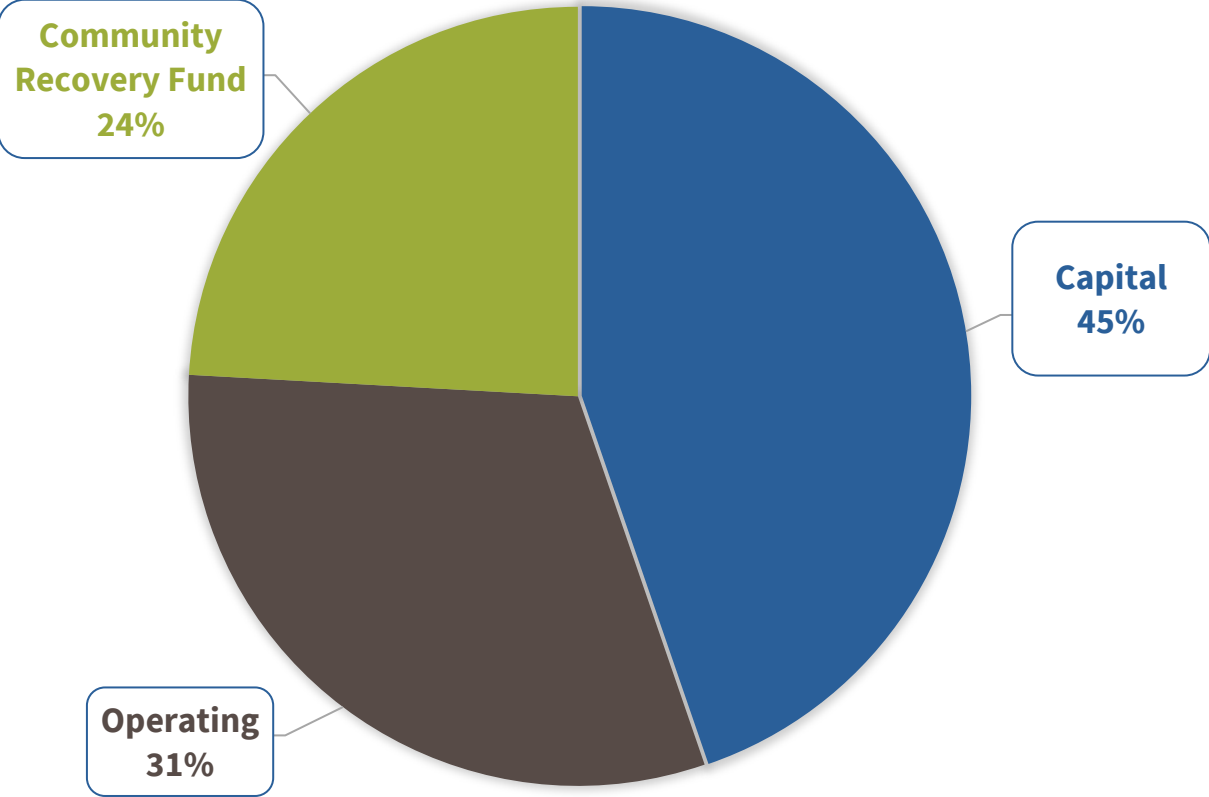
Reserve	Amount
Capital	\$6,264,289
Self Insurance	\$1,187,374
Workers' Compensation	\$760,000
Debt Service	\$3,221,121
Unemployment Reserve	\$154,059



Status of ARPA

\$19.8M

Use	Amount (Mil)
Capital Projects	\$8.9
Community Recovery	\$4.8
2022 Operating	\$2.7
2023 Operating	\$0.7
2024 Operating	\$0.3
2025 Operating	\$1.7
2026 Operating	\$0.1
2026 Unspent Operating	\$0.6
Total	\$19.8



Decision Points & Options

- Determine target tax levy
- What are goals and priorities?
- How much funding/cutting is needed to achieve goals?



Decision Points & Options

Levy Increased by:	Impact on Levy	Impact on Homeowner	Impact on Commercial	Amount needed to cut	Tax Rate/\$1000
17.56% MOE	\$9,876,831	\$187.80	\$375.58		\$5.71
10%	\$5,687,174	\$81.22	\$206.51	\$4,300,657	\$5.35
8%	\$4,549,434	\$53.02	\$53.02	\$5,438,397	\$5.25
5%	\$2,842,824	\$10.72	\$94.69	\$7,145,007	\$5.10
2.73% (Tax Cap)	\$1,554,449	-\$21.21	\$44.04	\$8,433,382	\$4.99

2026 median home value = \$290,000 ~ 2025 median home value = \$300,000

2026 median commercial value = \$460,000 ~ 2025 median commercial value = \$460,000

2026 Rate \$4.90/1000

2026 tax levy = \$56,870,844

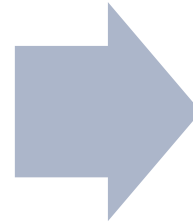
Each 1% tax levy increase is roughly equivalent to \$568,870



Budget Timeline

Tax Cap Override Local Law

- 7 days or message of Necessity and 2/3 Vote (60%)
- Notice of Public Hearing on Local Law (5 days)
- Public Hearing
- Adoption of Tax Cap Override Law



Budget Timeline

- **October 31**
 - Vote on Tentative Budget
- **November 10**
 - Resolution to implement the Tentative Budget
- **November 20th**
 - Notice of Public Hearing
- **December 1**
 - Public Hearing
- **December 10th**
 - Adoption of Budget

- The County may override the tax levy limit by first passing a local law.
 - The Secretary of State can reject the local law for filing because of technical reasons, and those technical reasons are not cured within a reasonable period of time, the amount of the tax levy that exceeded the tax levy limit (other than a levy for those items excluded from the tax levy limit) shall be placed in reserve pursuant to paragraph 6 of section 3-c of the General Municipal Law.

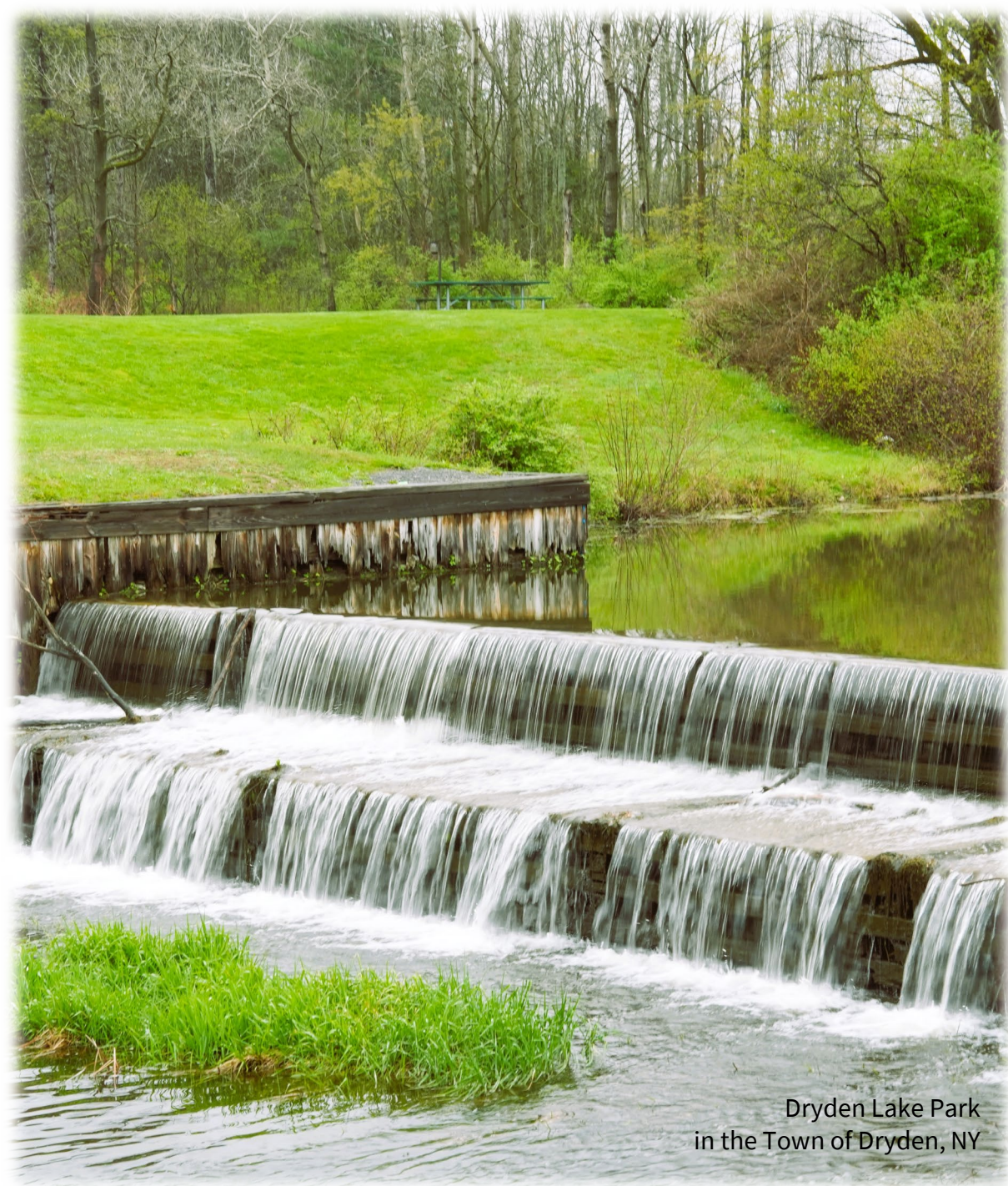


Questions?

Presentation to the Tompkins County
Legislature



Administration



Dryden Lake Park
in the Town of Dryden, NY