FONS Roundtable

Newtown April 22 Referendum

Newtown Senior Center

March 23, 2025

Ned Simpson

Agenda

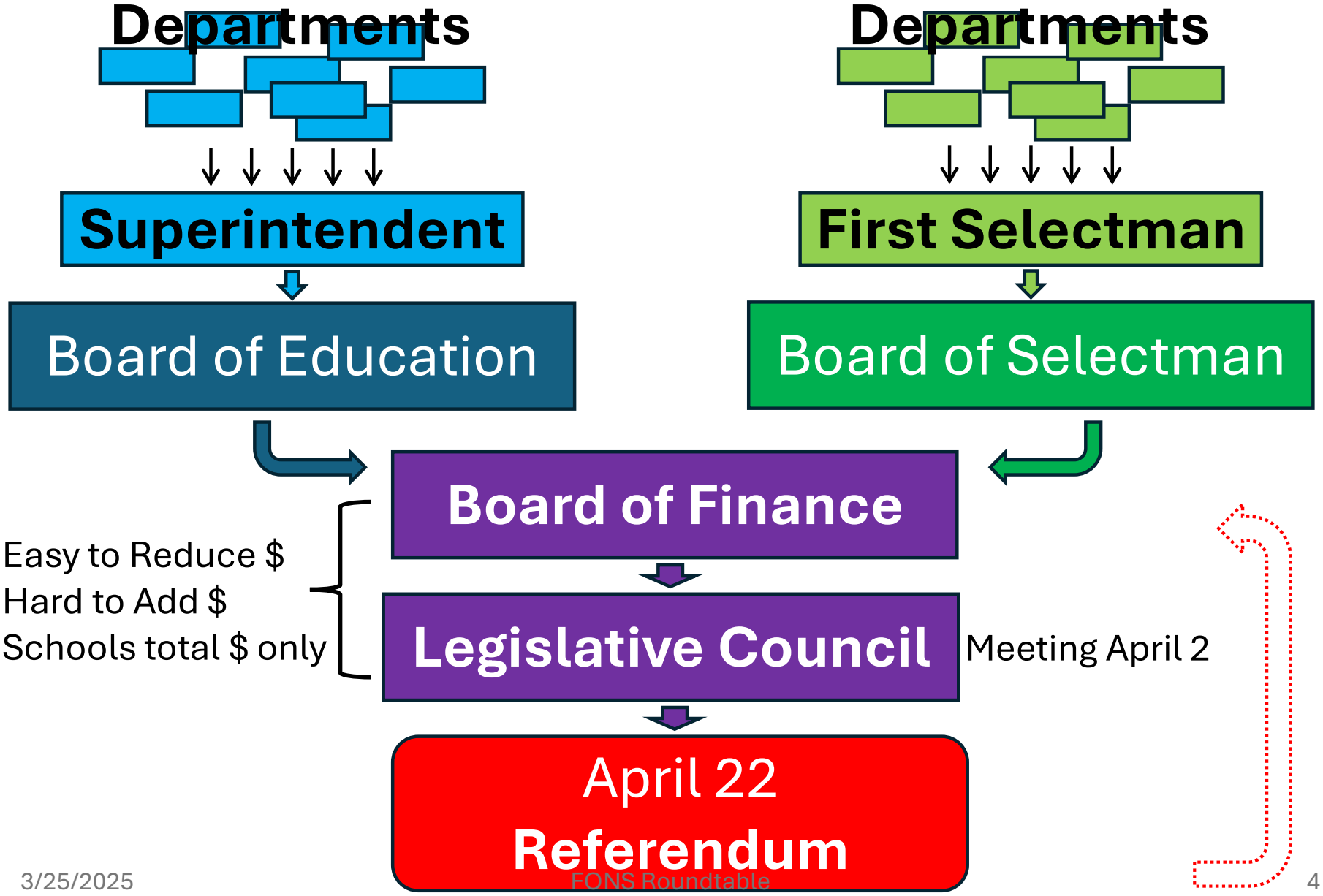
- CIP and Budget Process
- Schools & Municipal General Funds Budget
- Capital Projects
- Discussion

For Starters

Connecticut, and Newtown Finances and Processes

- Big!
- Complex!
- Arcane!
- Counter Intuitive

CIP & Budget Process



Proposed 2025-26 Budget

LC Approved for April 22 Referendum

LC Expense Budget	2025-26	2024-25	Percent
Municipal General Funds	**$ 49,866,665**	**$ 48,834,506**	2.11%
School District	**$ 91,744,644**	**$ 87,409,066**	4.96%
Total	**$141,611,309**	**$136,243,572**	3.94%

General Funds Budget Referendum Questions

Shall the sum of $_____ be appropriated for the Board of Selectmen for the fiscal year? Yes_____ No_____

Shall the sum of $_____ be appropriated for the Board of Education for the fiscal year? Yes_____ No_____

If the proposed sum of $_____ for the Board of Selectmen is not approved, should the revised budget be higher?"

Yes_____ No_____

If the proposed sum of $_____ for the Board of Education is not approved, should the revised budget be higher?"

Yes_____ No_____

Neighboring Towns Budget

	Percent Increase
New Fairfield	6.15
Bethel	5.21
Newtown	**3.94**
Brookfield	3.91
Fairfield	3.33
Monroe	2.80

These are snapshots of budget information available 3/10/2025. Each town has a different process and numbers will change.

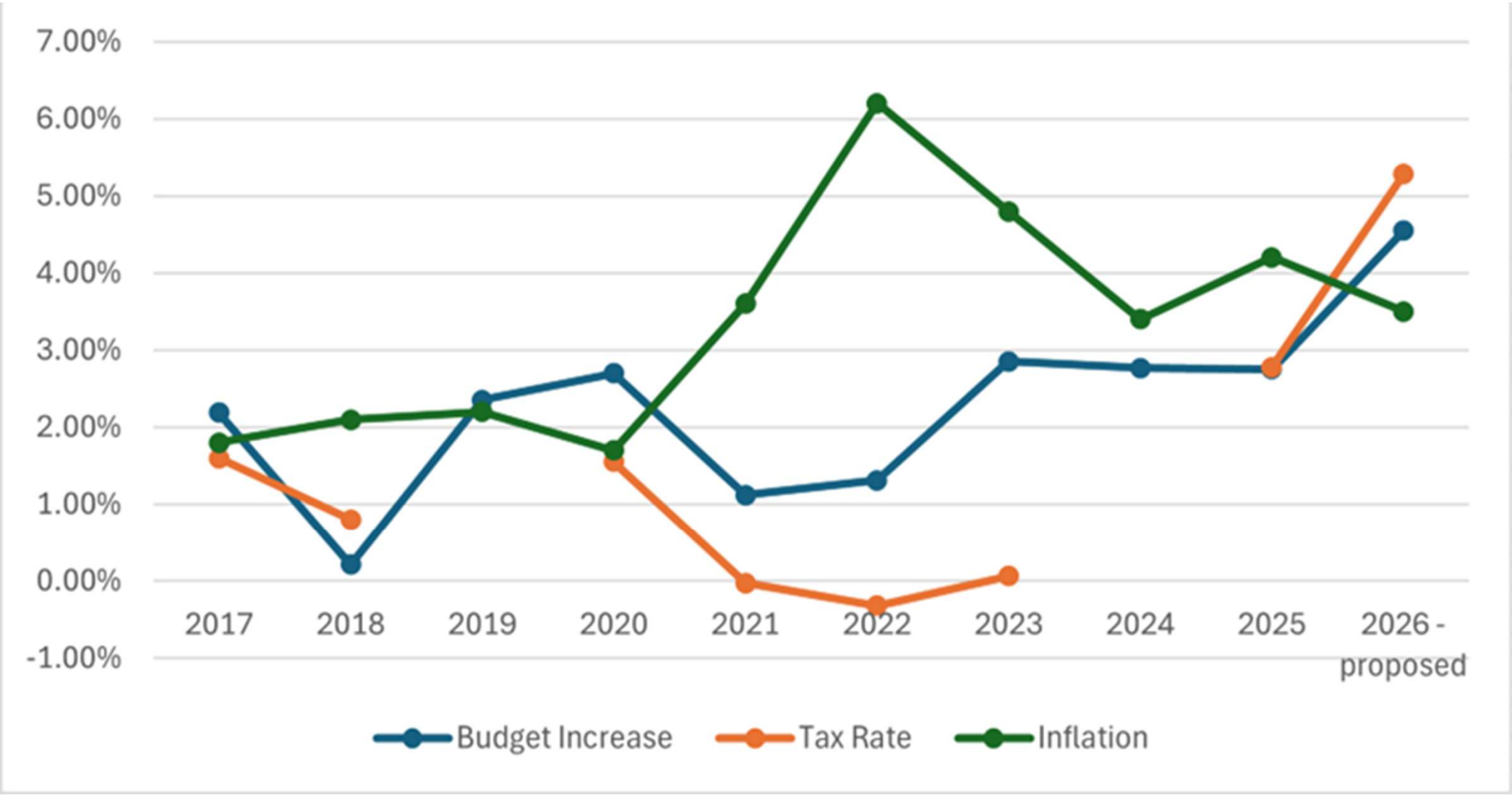
Property Tax Mill Rate

LC Approved for April 22 Referendum

	2025-26	2024-25	Percent
Total Grand List	**$4,521,509,130**	**$4,534,264,832**	-0.28%
Amount to be raised by Property Tax **BoF Subject to LC**	**$ 126,787,014**	**$ 119,614,368**	6.00%
Assumed Collection Rate	**98.8 %**	**99.3 %**	-0.5%
Mill Rate	**28.78**	**26.97**	6.71%

Expense Budget less Other Revenue

Budget Increases, Tax & Inflation



Drivers

Expenses up

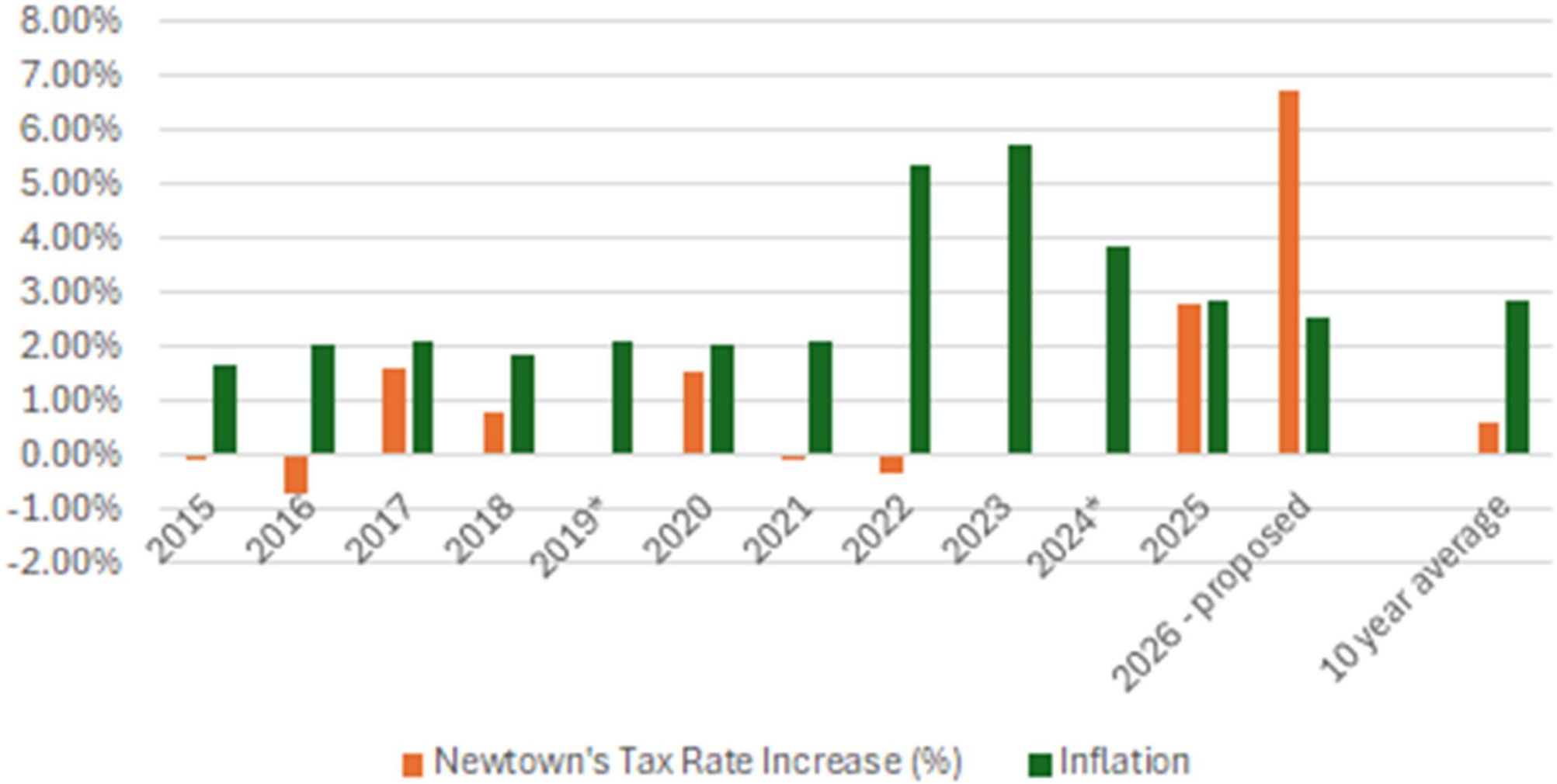
1. Health Benefits (Newtown is self-insured)
2. Pension Fund
3. Energy Costs

Revenue down $7,847,000 vs $6,934000 this budget

1. Municipal Stabilization Grant from the state (down $600,000)
2. Education Cost Sharing from the state (down $196,000)
3. Decreased automobile property tax revenue
4. Bankruptcy of a large taxpayer in town

One of CT highest proportion of Residential in Grand List

Tax Rate versus Inflation



Capital Expenditures Referendum Questions

1. High School - Roof Replacement - A, B & C Wings
   $4,300,000
2. Library HVAC
   $4,600,000
3. Community Center New Auxiliary Pool HVAC Unit
   $1,524,000
4. Bridge Replacement Program
   $1,000,000
5. Renovations & Upgrades Edmond Town Hall
   $ 855,000

Discussion

Thank You

A number of people provided data, graphics, and review of this presentation

- Michelle Embree Ku, Board of Selectmen
- Glenys Salas, Finance Firector
- John Fletcher, Board of Finance

Next RoundTable – April 22, 2025