



# **BUDGET LISTENING SESSION**

**In preparation for the FY2027 Budget season, the City Council Committee on Finance is hosting a ‘Listening Session.’**

<b>Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b>	
<b><u><a href="#">Virtual Meeting</a></u>, Zoom Only 6 p.m.</b>	
<b>Meeting ID: 856 6006 7321</b>	<b>Passcode:923835</b>

It has been said that a budget is not just a collection of numbers but an expression of a community’s values. State law requires a balanced budget, but communities hold distinctive values and therefore have unique priorities for spending residents’ limited tax dollars.

The process for how the city budget is created is determined by Massachusetts General Law and Northampton City Charter. The Mayor of Northampton creates the budget and presents it to the City Council for adoption at least 45 days before the beginning of the fiscal year (May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026).

This is a chance for residents to let City Councilors hear their priorities for spending [or not spending] on programs and services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. The ‘listening session’ is intended to allow participants to speak and be heard by the City Council. This listening session is separate from the budget meetings and hearings required by City Charter during the formal budget process led by the Mayor.

Please plan your comments for three minutes or less to ensure time for all to speak. Anyone unable to attend may submit comment by email to [citycouncil@northamptonma.gov](mailto:citycouncil@northamptonma.gov).