

City of Boston

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor

Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2014
Capital Plan Fiscal Years 2014-2018

Volume I - Overview of the Budget

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor

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GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

City of Boston

Massachusetts

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 1, 2012

Christopher P. Morvill

President

Jeffrey R. Ennis

Executive Director

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented an award of Distinguished Presentation to the City of Boston for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.

In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan and as a communication device.

The award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

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CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

June 17, 2013

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I retransmit herewith my Fiscal Year 2014 Recommended Budget for the City of Boston. The Recommended Operating Budget totals \$2.6 billion and represents an increase of \$128.5 million, or 5.2% over last year.

This is the twentieth Proposed Budget of my Administration and it shares a most important trait with the prior nineteen: it pushes us to try new things.

It supports our first digital school, our first smart parking sensors, our first bicycle helmet vending machines, our first iPad e-reading lending program, and our first universal teen membership to community centers.

It tests new “girls only” times at community centers so that young women can flourish and it backs new women’s efforts so their businesses can succeed and they with them.

It invests in the re-invention of the Johnson Building at Boston Public library, renews the fields at Millennium Park in West Roxbury, and creates a special park in the Charlestown Navy Yard for students with physical disabilities.

It funds the country’s first City Hall to Go mobile truck program.

It provides resources for innovative quality interventions in lower-performing schools so that all students can have quality schools, close to home.

It pushes the city forward in climate preparedness.

Throughout this budget you will find these and other investments that push us into new territories, anticipate new challenges, and test new approaches. If you look back to the nineteen documents that came before this one, you’ll find that same forward orientation. The story of our work together will be told in many places, but nowhere in more detail and with more credibility than in the budgets we crafted to support this city and push its progress.

Over twenty budgets, we have also kept this city at the forefront of municipal finance. We started by making leaders more accountable for results – we named them in the budget. We laid out new performance commitments. We instituted Boston About Results to track outcomes and then we opened it up to the public so they could, too. We made unprecedented commitments to meeting our long-term obligations; we put the city on the path to fully fund its pension obligations and we made the first ever down-payments on our health care commitments to our retirees. We formalized long term forecasting and multi-year budgeting. We have not only helped to reinvent the city time and again through our budgets, but we have helped to re-invent budgeting itself. The process is more thoughtful, more transparent, and more responsive every year. We continue that progress in this budget with the city's first Participatory Budgeting program. We have allocated \$1 million for our youth, and the process by which they allocate it will improve their neighborhoods and their own sense of civic participation.

With all the change, there has been one constant: balanced, responsible budgets. The financial principles that shaped the first budget have remained through this one:

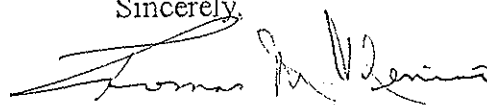
- We save for rainy days because they do come;
- We fund recurring operations only with recurring sources;
- We estimate revenues conservatively because balancing budgets on "hope so" is a recipe for trouble; and
- We make down payments on our future because our best days are ahead, but not if we mortgage them.

We also know the city's resources are for all people, not some people, so in this budget as in the nineteen prior we invest to raise up every neighborhood. We have worked to open up this city and the opportunities in it to people from all backgrounds and places. The annual budget process is essentially one of exercising the public trust. We have strived to meet that trust by being prudent and by being inventive, and most of all by being fair. The FY14 budget provides resources to help this administration share any lessons that might be sought by the next one. I am confident, however, that the pursuit of opportunity for all of our people would transfer in any event because it is at the root of who we are.

I thank you, the City Council, for your thoughtful and thorough review of the FY14 budget and for your continued commitment to meeting the needs of our citizens in a fiscally responsible manner. I also thank all of the employees of this City and the people they serve - their dedicated and special partnership has been key to our constant progress.

The Fiscal Year 2014 recommended budget is soundly balanced. I respectfully request your favorable action on the FY14 Operating Budget and the Five Year Capital Plan for FY14 to FY18.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

April 8, 2013

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith my Fiscal Year 2014 Recommended Budget for the City of Boston. The Recommended Operating Budget totals \$2.6 billion and represents an increase of \$138.7 million, or 5.6% over last year.

This is the twentieth Proposed Budget of my Administration and it shares a most important trait with the prior nineteen: it pushes us to try new things.

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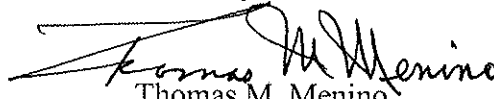
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I look forward to working with you during the budget review process, and I respectfully request your favorable action on the FY14 Operating Budget and the Five Year Capital Plan for FY14 to FY18.

Sincerely,


Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston