

# Granite State Priorities

## NH State Budget Local Impact Framework

Collect local government process info (to share with GSFTC and make your job easier).

Who develops budgets and who gets to weigh in and when?

Who's elected, who's appointed, which staff advises budget process (city manager, school superintendent)? Build out a contact list of these individuals, noting when their term of service is up, and their positions on tax and budget issues.

Calendar out over a year (or two if necessary) when citizens weigh in.

Do they vote for a city council who votes in the budget? Do they vote for a school district budget? Are there deliberative sessions? Regular/predictable public hearings?

Think back and talk to people about what's happened locally in the last few years.

What public works projects (library system or infrastructure, school construction or renovation, water and sewer systems, roads, community amenities, open space preservation, parks, etc.) have generated the most controversy and why? What role do cuts in funding from other levels of government play?

What changes in public services (schools, police and fire, libraries, parks, etc.) have generated controversy? Have programs been cut or scaled back; have people been laid off? Do cuts in funding from other levels of government play a role?

What needs are not being met? Are new or additional needs arising? What is creating them?

Are your local property taxes affordable? What percentage of income are people paying?

Use the survey tool to help gather the data needed to answer this question. Does your city have an exemption based on income?

Who else is—or could be—weighing in?

Does your city have a local Taxpayer's Association? Who are some of its leaders? How much traction do they have and in what ways do they command the mic?

What are the top 5-10 most influential or credible groups in your area (i.e., Portsmouth Listens, Chamber of Commerce or small business institute, Rotary/Exchange/Women's Clubs, churches, nonprofit boards that attract many local "influencers")?

Which local businesses demonstrate community involvement/benevolence?