

Fellow Ashford Citizens,

As many of you are aware, the state budget proposed by the Governor for fiscal year 2017-2018 would significantly affect Ashford as well as the majority of other Connecticut municipalities. Ashford's net funding would be reduced by over \$1,000,000 or 23.5%, which includes the impact of \$452,000 in teacher retirement pension contributions. Your Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Education are keenly aware of the potential impacts and are working together, as well as with our legislators and representatives, to influence the final funding outcome.

It is still early in the state's budget process, and counterproposals and compromises are expected prior to budget finalization. Based on the state's current budget calendar, we should have a better understanding of the level of funding that Ashford can anticipate by late April. As good information is essential to the preparation of a responsible town spending plan, the Board of Finance has adjusted the town's budget schedule as follows.

KEY BUDGET EVENT	REVISED DATE
Board of Finance Meeting: - Adopt Ashford Town Budget (General Government, Ashford School, Capital Improvement Plan)	Thursday, April 27
Region 19 Budget – Referendum	Tuesday, May 2 (date unchanged)
Ashford Town Budget – Public Hearing Special Board of Finance Meeting: - Final Ashford Town Budget Adjustments	Tuesday, May 9
Ashford Town Budget – Annual Town Meeting	Tuesday, May 23
Ashford Town Budget – Referendum	Tuesday, June 6

Please note, the Region 19 referendum and Ashford Town Budget referendum will be held on separate dates. The town's revised budget schedule has been posted on the Town of Ashford and Ashford School websites. We will post additional information as it becomes available.

Please contact our board at bofashford@ashfordtownhall.org or call me at (860) 487-6219 if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Cathryn Silver-Smith, Chair, Ashford Board of Finance