

A message from Mayor Barbara Desjardins

On behalf of Council, I am sharing an overview of the Township of Esquimalt's 2026–2030 Financial Plan. This plan reflects a careful balance between maintaining the high-quality services our community relies on today and making the necessary investments to support Esquimalt's future.

The 2026 budget includes an 11.32% increase in property taxes. This budget was not an easy one, but if we are not investing money now, we are pushing these costs down the road to another budget cycle and risk things costing more.

A portion of this increase is driven by factors largely outside of the Township's direct control, including inflationary pressures on goods and services, wages and benefits, and costs associated with policing and library services. The budget also includes amounts to support maintaining service levels and advancing Council priorities, including a 3% contribution to infrastructure reserves, 1.56% for staffing adjustments, and 0.61% for supplementary operating needs.

Council made a deliberate decision to strengthen our infrastructure reserves rather than defer investments. This approach helps close the gap between current funding levels and the true cost of replacing aging infrastructure

such as roads, pipes, and facilities. These decisions are guided by detailed, long-term planning documents, including asset management strategies, the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan, and pavement condition assessments, which help ensure our investments are both strategic and sustainable.

While property taxes fund day-to-day municipal operations—such as fire protection, recreation services, and public works—they are not used directly for capital projects. Instead, those projects are funded through reserves built up over time, as well as grants and external funding wherever possible. For example, the Township recently secured a \$500,000 grant to support Phase 2 of the Esquimalt Road Active Transportation Improvements.

The financial plan also supports Council's priority projects across key areas such as housing, climate action, the local economy, and healthy communities. At the same time, we continue to look for ways to deliver services efficiently while responding to the evolving needs of our residents.

It is important to note that municipalities are required by law to adopt balanced budgets each year. The municipal portion represents approximately 62% of your total property tax bill, with the

remaining 38% collected on behalf of other agencies, including the Capital Regional District, BC Transit, and the Province. In addition, Payments in Lieu of Taxes from the federal government—representing about 16% of our revenue—have declined this year, placing additional pressure on local taxation.

For the average Esquimalt household, this year's increase represents approximately \$420. While any increase is significant, it reflects the real costs of maintaining services, investing in infrastructure, and planning responsibly for the future.

Council carefully considered lower tax increase scenarios. However, options below 7% would have required reductions to existing services, while options below 10% would have resulted in underinvestment in critical infrastructure.

We remain committed to listening to our community. Results from the 2026 Community Satisfaction Survey will be shared later this spring and will help inform future decisions.



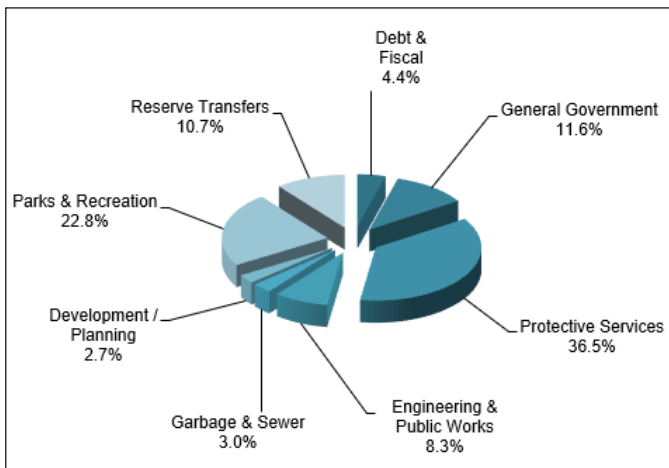
Barbara Desjardins

2026 TAX AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Visit [Esquimalt.ca](https://www.esquimalt.ca) to set up your MyEsquimalt online account where you can:

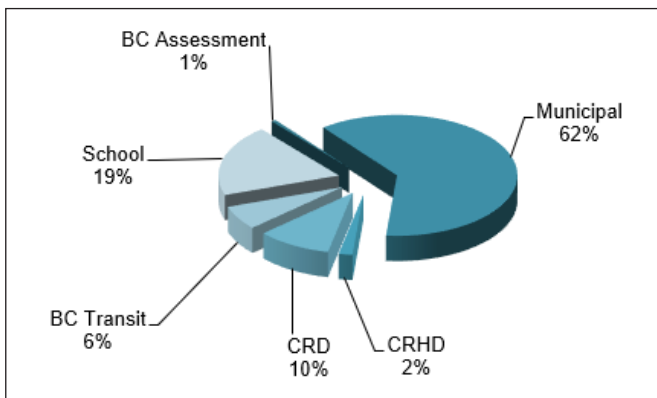
- ✓ Apply for dog and business licences.
- ✓ Choose to receive future tax notices & licence renewals electronically.
- ✓ Access your tax & licencing details anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Pay your property taxes by credit card.

2026 municipal property taxes



The above graph is based on the 2026 approved operating budget and demonstrates where your municipal tax dollars will be spent.

2026 total taxation



In addition to municipal levies, taxes are collected on behalf of other taxing authorities.

Your 2026 property tax notice covers the tax year from January 1 to December 31, 2026.

To balance the operating budget, the township must collect revenue through property taxes. For 2026, the revenue required to balance the budget is 11.32% higher than in 2025.

The amount required is converted to a rate, which is then applied to the taxable assessment of each property to determine the taxes payable.

You can pay your taxes:

- At most financial institutions either in person, online, or via telebanking
- By credit card through the MyEsquimalt portal
- By post-dated cheque (post-dated no later than July 2, 2026)
- Via the 24-hour secure municipal hall drop box outside the front entrance. **No cash** please.
- In person at Esquimalt Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Rd), Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- By mail. To avoid a late penalty, your mailed payment must be received by the township on or before July 2

Apply through the Province of B.C. for your Home Owner Grant. You must apply for the grant annually. If you miss the due date, you may apply for the home owner grant until December 31; however a 10 per cent penalty may apply.

You can claim your 2026 grant online at gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant as soon as you receive your property tax notice. Call 1-888-355-2700 (toll free) or visit Service B.C. at 403-771 Vernon Ave, Saanich.

You may qualify for provincial tax deferral programs.

Visit gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral or contact the Provincial Tax Deferral Office at 250-387-0555 for information.

Visit our website at [esquimalt.ca/tax](https://www.esquimalt.ca/tax) for more information on how you can apply for grants, deferrals and pay your taxes.

The property tax penalty deadline is July 2, 2026.

Township of
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