

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2026

Democratic Aldermen Express Disappointment Following Failure of FY27 City Budget Proposal

MANCHESTER, NH — Following tonight's vote on the FY27 City and School Budgets, the Democratic members of the Board of Aldermen (the Aldermen) expressed deep disappointment that the proposed budget did not receive the support necessary for passage.

The proposal came in approximately \$2.9 million under the expense cap and included a targeted revenue cap override that would have allowed the City to reinvest available revenues into essential municipal services, infrastructure, public safety, schools, parks, libraries, and community programs that directly impact residents' everyday quality of life. The modifications proposed by the Aldermen would have resulted in a projected tax rate of \$15.84 per thousand.

"This budget represented a balanced and responsible investment in Manchester and in the overall quality of life of our residents," the Aldermen said in a joint statement.

"Throughout this process, we worked collaboratively and in good faith with the Mayor to restore essential city services, support public safety, strengthen our schools, and invest in the infrastructure, programs, and neighborhoods residents rely on every day — all while remaining mindful of taxpayers and the city's long-term financial health."

The proposal restored departmental reductions included in the mayor's original budget, funded vacant public safety and city positions, increased road and infrastructure investments, maintained funding for the West Side Branch Library, expanded support for youth and senior programs, provided additional support for the Manchester School District, and supported our police as we negotiate competitive contracts.

"These are investments that improve daily life for Manchester residents," the statement continued. "From safer neighborhoods and better roads to stronger schools, libraries, recreation, and community services, this proposal reflected the priorities residents have consistently asked us to support."

The budget also restored funding for critical obligations omitted from the Mayor's default tax-cap budget, including healthcare costs, casualty and general liability insurance, and tax overlay accounts necessary to protect the City's financial stability and bonding capacity.

"We respect the intent of the tax cap and recognize that its allowable growth is designed to help municipalities keep pace with inflation and rising costs," the statement continued. "However, in the past two budget cycles, the City approved budgets significantly below the allowable cap. While fiscally cautious in the short term, those decisions contributed to many of the financial and operational challenges we are facing

today, including deferred investments in essential services, staffing, infrastructure, and overall quality of life improvements throughout the city.”

“Tonight’s outcome is disappointing, particularly given the significant work that went into developing a budget that balanced fiscal responsibility with the real needs of our community,” the Aldermen said. “Residents have made it clear that they value strong city services, safe neighborhoods, quality schools, and continued investment in Manchester’s future. We remain committed to protecting and improving the quality of life for everyone who calls Manchester home.”

“We respect that every Alderman has the right to propose a budget and we have received no additional options. We will not walk away from the responsibility to find balanced solutions that support our residents, protect essential services, improve quality of life, and meet the needs of both our city and our schools. Manchester deserves nothing less.”

The Aldermen also thank residents, department leaders, city staff, and school officials who participated throughout the budget process.

Democratic Alderman: Kaw-uh, Goonan, Dexter, Fajardo, Bonilla, Trisciani, O’Neil, Burkush, Barry