

Backgrounder: Mayor Fillmore's voting record during the 2026/27 municipal budget process

The following summarizes key budget initiatives made by Mayor Andy Fillmore during the 2026/27 municipal budget process, focusing on measures with material financial impact and policy direction. This also includes his voting record on Budget Adjustment List (BAL) items.

For more detailed information on specific budget items, including full reports and motions, visit halifax.ca/budget.

Overview of measures brought forward by Mayor Fillmore

During the 2026/27 budget process, Mayor Fillmore moved motions for debate at Budget Committee representing:

- **Over \$5 million** in cost reductions
- **Over \$3 million** in new revenue generation
- **Approximately \$750,000** in targeted investments
- **Key direction-setting measures** to strengthen cost control and long-term financial discipline

These measures are reflected throughout the summary below.

Cost control measures moved and/or supported by Mayor Fillmore

Directed staff to build the 2026/27 municipal budget with spending held flat, allowing increases only for unavoidable costs (*moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed on Apr. 8, 2025*)
Established a framework limiting increases to inflation, contractual obligations, and mandatory provincial contributions.


Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes 

Outcome: Approved 

Requested a comprehensive review of staffing and compensation costs (*moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed on Feb. 20, 2026*) ([Statement](#))

Sought options to reduce overall staffing and compensation costs by up to 7% annually over three years.

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes 

Outcome: Not approved 

Proposed deferring major capital spending and managing long-term debt exposure

(moved by Mayor Fillmore; Forum deferral discussed on Mar. 10, 2026 and debt framework motion discussed on Jan. 28, 2026) ([Statement](#))

Included deferring the Halifax Forum redevelopment and directing capital planning to maintain debt servicing below 12% over the next decade.

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes on both

Outcome: Forum deferral: not approved ; Debt framework: approved

Directed staff to identify additional cost-reduction opportunities, for discussion at BAL debate *(moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed on Nov. 19, 2025)* ([Statement](#))

Included options such as reducing program grants by 10%, lowering the Climate Action Tax, and exploring a potential staffing freeze.

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes

Outcome: Approved

Supported reductions to underutilized or unallocated program funding *(moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed during Budget Adjustment List debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026)*

Included reductions to unused allocations for Community Safety programs.

Estimated impact: ~\$740,000 in combined savings

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes

Outcome: Approved

Supported a broad set of operational and administrative cost reductions across departments *(includes measures moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026)*

Included reductions to consulting, advertising, vehicle maintenance and repairs, facility upgrades, staffing-related savings through vacancy management and attrition, and deferring select administrative initiatives.

Estimated impact: ~\$5+ million in combined savings

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes

Outcome: Approved

Advanced new revenue generation measures to offset tax pressures *(includes measures moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026)*

Included increases to on-street parking rates, introduction of Saturday paid parking (with first

hour free), increases to commuter permits, transit fare adjustments, tipping fee increases, and updates to municipal service fees.

Estimated impact: ~\$3+ million in additional revenue

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes

Outcome: Approved

Requested additional cost-reduction options for Council consideration, including adjustments to grants, contributions, and compensation approaches (*includes measures moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026*)

Included potential reductions to community and cultural grants, non-profit tax relief, library collections funding, external contribution agreements, and compensation frameworks.

Estimated impact: ~\$3 million potential savings

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes

Outcome: Not approved

Spending increases opposed by Mayor Fillmore

Opposed acceleration of planned transit service expansion to an earlier timeline (*discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026*)

Acceleration of planned transit service expansion to earlier implementation.

Estimated impact: ~\$14.1 million in additional spending

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: No

Outcome: Approved

Opposed additional spending on road safety program expansion and communications (*discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026*)

Included expediting the Road Safety Program and increasing funding for road safety communications and education.

Estimated impact: ~\$1.2 million in additional spending

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: No

Outcome: Approved

Opposed additional funding for transit terminal security enhancements (*discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026*)

Enhancements at Scotia Square and Mumford terminals.

Estimated impact: ~\$280,000 in additional spending

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: No ❌

Outcome: Approved ✅

Targeted investments supported by Mayor Fillmore

Supported hiring additional firefighters to maintain frontline capacity (*discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026*)

Funding for 10 firefighters at Station 11 in Sackville.

Estimated impact: ~\$215,000 in additional spending

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes ✅

Outcome: Approved ✅

Supported economic development investment in African Nova Scotian communities (*moved by Mayor Fillmore; discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026*)

Three-year funding commitment for the African Nova Scotia Road to Economic Prosperity.

Estimated impact: ~\$750,000 in additional spending

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes ✅

Outcome: Approved ✅

Supported prioritizing capital investments that maintain safety, reliability, and condition of existing infrastructure (*discussed on Jan. 28, 2026*)

Directed capital planning to prioritize maintaining core municipal assets and essential services.

Estimated impact: Not quantified (capital prioritization direction)

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: Yes ✅

Outcome: Approved ✅

Did not support proposed reductions impacting police services (*discussed during BAL debate between Mar. 3 and 10, 2026*)

Included reductions to Halifax Regional Police compensation and non-compensation budgets.

Estimated impact: ~\$1.1 million in potential savings

Mayor Fillmore's Vote: No ❌

Outcome: Not approved ❌
