



WHY WATERVILLE NEEDS A CHANGE

Five sourced facts about taxes, spending, and downtown decline in Waterville, straight from the public record.

1 Waterville's newest city budget raises the property tax rate about 5%, from \$17.00 to \$17.84 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

SOURCE: Kennebec Journal / Morning Sentinel, centralmaine.com · July 20, 2026

2 That budget grew city spending 9% in a single year and leaned on \$2 million in one-time reserve funds just to balance. Even Mayor Morris called it “unsustainable” when he vetoed it.

SOURCE: Kennebec Journal / Morning Sentinel, centralmaine.com · July 20, 2026

3 Weeks earlier, the City Council rejected its own amended budget outright and ordered deeper cuts after disputes over staffing and reserve fund draws.

SOURCE: The Maine Monitor, themainemonitor.org · June 5, 2026

4 A state certified needle exchange has had every site it proposed in Waterville turned down for years, leaving pickup limited to mobile outreach in homeless encampments.

SOURCE: Maine Morning Star, mainemorningstar.com · November 25, 2024

5 Two Main Street businesses that anchored downtown Waterville for 44 years, Lebanese Cuisine and Paragon Shop, closed for good, with owners pointing to downtown decline and rising costs.

SOURCE: Kennebec Journal / Morning Sentinel, centralmaine.com · January 15, 2024

Waterville deserves better than this.

See the sources, read the coverage, and add your name to the pledge for change at:

MaineForKeeps.org/Waterville

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