



MAYOR'S update²⁰²⁵



Why are Your Taxes so High? A Message from Mayor Carolyn Parrish

As Mayor, I have a responsibility to balance the needs of our community while managing your taxpayer dollars responsibly. Each year, tough decisions are made to ensure we deliver the services you depend on. Our 2025 Budget prioritizes seniors, families and youth, balancing immediate needs with long-term goals for growth, sustainability, and quality of life.

At the same time, these are difficult times for our residents and city. I fully recognize the frustration caused by the 9.2 per cent property tax increase, especially during an affordability crisis. It's important to break down where this increase is coming from and explain factors that are beyond our control as a City.

Mississauga Heavily Subsidizes Peel Region

Mississauga is a strong, mature city with a skilled workforce, a booming economy, and the ability to stand on its own. That's why both former Mayors Hazel McCallion and Bonnie Crombie fought to separate Mississauga from Peel Region. They knew our residents were paying more than their fair share and getting less in return.

Right now, Mississauga taxpayers are footing the bill for services in Brampton and Caledon. This year alone, more than \$30 million of your tax dollars are going to fund Regional road services outside our city. Mississauga residents also fund Brampton's share of the Peel Police Services budget by more than \$90 million a year. The 2025 Peel Police budget approved in January 2025 was their largest increase in history.

This is simply not fair to our residents

Unlike cities like Hamilton or London, which control their own police, fire, roads, and waste services, Mississauga is

stuck in a Regional system that drains our resources. We've outgrown this model. It's costing our taxpayers hundreds of dollars each year and limiting our ability to invest directly in services for Mississauga residents. That's why I continue to push for a fairer deal and more local control, so that every dollar you pay in taxes benefits you and our community.

Through my leadership, Mississauga successfully secured control over waste collection services from the Region of Peel, an important step that will save taxpayers money, eliminate duplication, and allow us to deliver better, more efficient services directly to our residents.

Peel Regional Police Budget

A significant portion of the tax increase, 5.9 per cent, goes to the Region of Peel for services like public health, waste collection, housing, and paramedics. Of this, 4.6 per cent is allocated to a historic 23.3 per cent increase in the Peel Police budget. For the typical residential property with an assessment value of \$730,000, the total tax bill increase is around \$633, of which around half, or \$319 is directly due to the Peel Police budget increase. For a home with an assessment value of \$1.2 million, the total tax bill impact would be more than \$1,000.

Community safety remains a top priority for our city, especially with rising concerns like car thefts, petty crime, and domestic violence. Residents deserve effective and responsive policing to combat crime on our streets. However, we must examine the effectiveness of our approach. Improved public safety requires smarter investments in crime prevention, not just funding increases.

Earlier this year, I proposed an alternative 14 per cent increase at Regional Council, aimed at adding 150 new officers without overburdening taxpayers. While this motion was supported by most Mississauga councillors, it was outvoted by Brampton and Caledon. Mississauga taxpayers contribute 62 per cent of the Peel Police budget, despite a smaller population than Brampton, who pay 38 per cent.

Our residents can't continue bearing this disproportionate burden. Therefore, I remain committed to advocating for effective policing, greater budget transparency, and a fairer system, because you deserve a safe community and a budget that respects your hard-earned dollars.

City Initiatives and Programs

The remaining 3.3 per cent increase funds the City's portion of your tax bill, supporting services such as transit, fire and emergency services, community centres, and snow removal. The 2025 Budget includes free transit for seniors (65+) and children 12 and under, improved snow clearing services with removal of windrows and the revitalization of public spaces like community centres and parks. We're also establishing flood relief programs to help residents adapt to extreme weather and make our community more resilient.

We're supporting our local businesses as we navigate tensions with the U.S., specifically in terms of how

they are affecting our trade relations and economy. Through proactive initiatives like the Partners in Trade U.S. Tariffs Response Plan, we're ensuring Mississauga remains Ontario's second-largest economy.

Our housing initiatives are tackling the housing crisis. In January, Council passed recommendations from the Mayor's Housing Task Force, leading to commitments for more than 14,000 new units submitted in under two months. Zoning By-law changes from earlier this year will also provide more housing options that are more affordable, and changes to the way our City has approached housing in the past.

Despite external pressures and funding gaps, we continue to use our resources as a City to support our families, seniors and youth. I remain committed to pushing for fairness in how we share the costs of Regional services and ensuring Mississauga gets the support our residents deserve from higher levels of government.

Together, we're building a city that fosters opportunity, equality and quality of life for all residents.



Carolyn Parrish
Mayor of Mississauga

Trusted Services that Meet Your Needs

Every time your street is plowed, you catch the bus, walk down the sidewalk, or visit a park – your tax dollars are hard at work.

- We're adding By-law Enforcement Officers for increased compliance inspections and elevating our Animal Services capacity to meet growing demands. We're also investing in fire prevention activities, new fire stations and additional fire staff.
- We're adding more than 120,000 transit service hours, offering free PRESTO fares for seniors (65+) and children 12 and under starting in July 2025, and improving cycling infrastructure.
- We're introducing a compassionate flood relief grant and providing rebates for installing flood prevention measures. We're also improving city-wide services like snow removal and vacuum leaf collection to keep our neighbourhoods safe and clean.

- We're investing in roads and sidewalks, renovating recreational and cultural centres, and building a new youth hub. There will be more tree plantings, upgrades to reduce carbon emissions and better flood protection.

Compassionate Flood Relief Grant:

one-time grant up to \$1,000 for damage from the July/August 2024 intense rainfall.

mississauga.ca/CompassionateFloodGrant

Flood Resilience Rebate:

for installation of water-resistant materials or other flood prevention measures up to \$3,000.

mississauga.ca/FloodResilienceRebate

Basement Flooding Prevention Rebate:

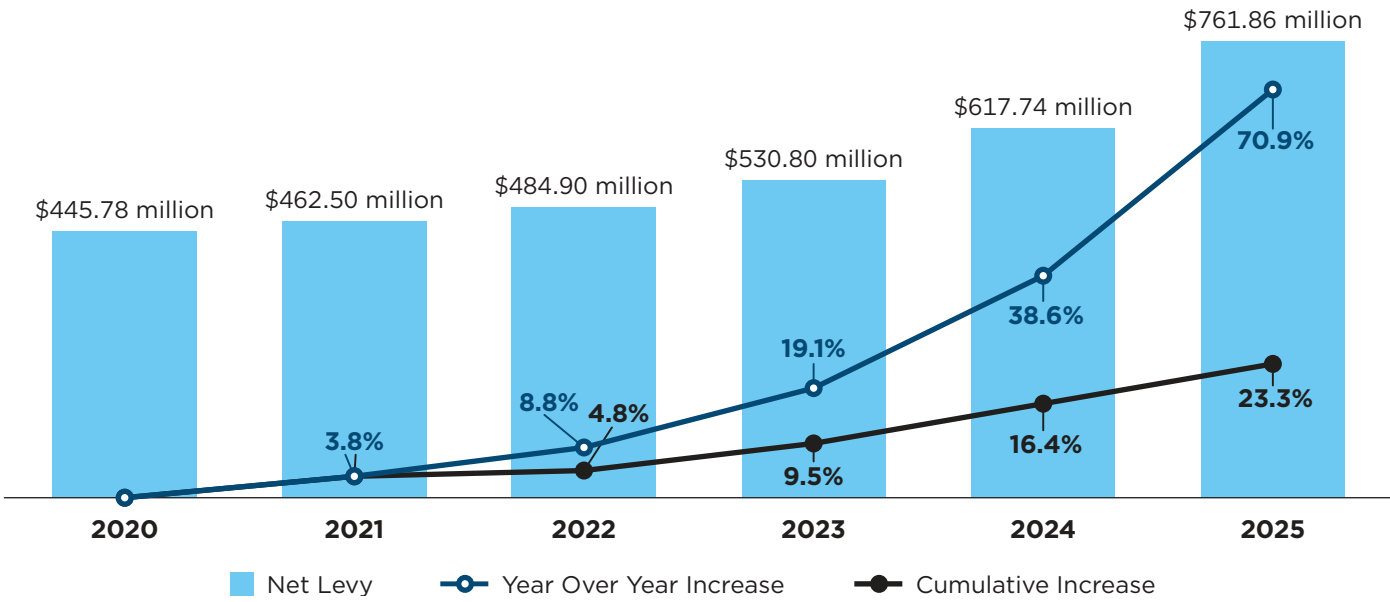
for installation of basement flooding prevention measures up to \$7,500.

mississauga.ca/BasementFloodRebate

Mississauga Taxpayers Overburdened by the Rising Cost of Public Safety

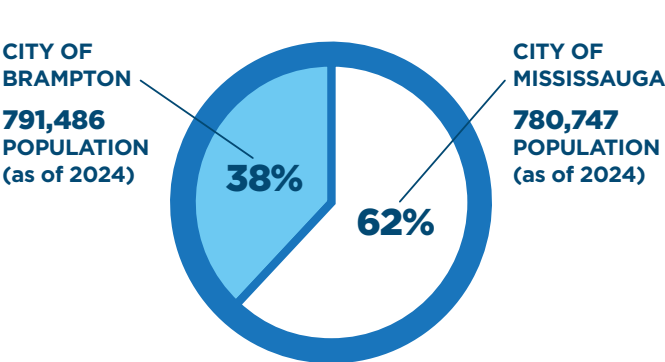
In 2025, 4.6 per cent of the City’s property tax bill is directly tied to a historic 23.3 per cent increase in the Peel Police budget. This spike alone will cost a Mississauga homeowner more than \$520 this year for a home with an assessment value of \$1.2 million and with another similar increase already projected for 2026. These decisions are made at the Regional level, where Mississauga has limited control, despite significantly funding our Regional policing costs.

Peel Regional Police Net Tax Levy: 2020-2025



Peel Regional Police services are essential – but so is accountability. Despite consistent and substantial budget increases, police clearance rates have declined. Robbery case resolutions have dropped 14.7 per cent since 2020, and home invasion clearances fell nearly 3 per cent from 2023 to 2024. This decline continues even as the force expands and receives growing financial support.

Contributions to Peel Police by Percentage



Mississauga currently contributes 62 per cent of the Peel Police budget, while Brampton pays just 38 per cent despite now having a larger population. This outdated funding formula is based on property values assessed by MPAC, not actual resident numbers or need. As a result, Mississauga residents are overpaying for a service they have little influence over.

Mayor Carolyn Parrish has been a strong opponent of this year’s police budget increase, having resigned from the Peel Police Services Board in protest of the lack of transparency and public consultation throughout the budget process. At Regional Council, she voted against the 23.3 per cent increase and instead supported a 14 per cent alternative that would have funded 150 new officers while limiting the impact on homeowners. This did not gain enough support to pass.

The City of Mississauga continues to advocate for a population-based funding model, increased budget accountability, and greater input from residents. The goal remains clear: to ensure safe communities without unfairly overburdening Mississauga taxpayers.

Mississauga Working to Reduce Costs at the Region

Under the leadership of Mayor Parrish, the City has been actively advocating for some Regional services to be transferred to the municipal level to increase efficiency and save you money.



Waste Collection

In March 2025, the City along with Regional Council approved a motion, introduced by Mayor Parrish, to transfer waste collection responsibilities from Peel Region to the cities of Mississauga, Brampton, and the Town of Caledon.

The transfer of waste collection responsibilities to Mississauga, set to take effect in 2026, will lead to long-term cost-savings, efficiencies and improved service delivery. Currently, the Region's funding approach does not account for different levels of services or operational costs at the local level.

Waste collection includes curbside collection of residential waste and organics as well as collection from multi-residential buildings.

The decision to move waste collection to Mississauga will ease the financial burden residents are facing and will allow for better co-ordination with other municipal services such as leaf pickup, seasonal cleanups and waste collection in parks, trails and bus stops and shelters. The transfer provides the City with an opportunity to gain efficiencies that have a potential for savings.

Maintaining Regional Roads

When it comes to maintaining Regional roads, our city is facing similar financial challenges as Mississauga taxpayers are subsidizing road maintenance in Caledon and Brampton. Road maintenance costs are spread across Peel Region, but Mississauga shoulders a higher tax load because of its density and smaller per capita road network.

There are approximately 1,700 lane-kilometres of Regional roads in Peel Region, 30 per cent are in Caledon, 41 per cent are in Brampton and just 29 per cent are in Mississauga. Right now, Mississauga pays 58 per cent of the tax levy associated with Regional roads. If lane-kilometres were used as a measure of projected costs instead, Mississauga is overpaying by more than \$30 million per year.

Right now, Mississauga is paying a \$24.8 million subsidy to Caledon and a \$6 million subsidy to Brampton (based on 2025 Budget). As the Region's operating cost increases each year, Mississauga's subsidy to Brampton and Caledon is likely to grow. These are clear examples of inefficiencies that cost Mississauga taxpayers. The City of Mississauga is committed to ensuring a seamless transfer of services. We also continue to advocate for the transfer of additional Regional services, like Regional roads, to Mississauga to support financial fairness and better governance.

For more information about the City's budget, visit mississauga.ca/budget

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