

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## Municipal COVID-19 Survey #1:

*Changes to Municipal Tax Collection and Budget Adoption Process, per Executive Orders 7S and 7I,  
and Number of Full-time Equivalent Municipal Employees*

### Questions:

- 1) Has your municipality adopted, or is your municipality considering adopting: a) the deferred payment of property taxes, or b) low interest rate program for the delinquent portion of the principal of any taxes pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 7S, section 6?
- 2) Has your municipality adopted, or is your municipality considering adopting, its budget without a town meeting/referendum, if normally required, as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order 7I?
- 3) Please provide the number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) employed by your municipality's a) general government, and b) Board of Education.

*Responses are current as of April 23, 2020. Some information may be out-of-date.*

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### Member Municipalities:

Bozrah \* Colchester \* East Lyme \* Franklin \* Griswold \* Borough of Jewett City \* City of Groton \* Town of Groton \* Lebanon \* Ledyard \* Lisbon \* Montville \* New London \* North Stonington \* Norwich \* Preston \* Salem \* Sprague \* Stonington \* Stonington Borough \* Waterford \* Windham

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## TOWN OF COLCHESTER

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- 1) Town has adopted both options. Deferment program requires an application but the Town will not vet applications.
- 2) Town is considering both options. If a referendum cannot be held by June 16th, the Board of Finance will approve the budget.
- 3) General Government: 85; Board of Education: 410.87.

## TOWN OF EAST LYME

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- 1) Town has adopted deferment program. Program requires an application but the Town will not vet applications.
- 2) Yes. The Town will follow the EO that prohibits town meetings and referenda. The Board of Finance has delayed deliberations and will begin to review and set the budget by mid-May. Mill rate is expected to be set around Memorial Day, in order for the Tax Collector to get the bills out on time.
- 3) General Government: ~140; Board of Education: ~400.

## TOWN OF FRANKLIN

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- 1) Town has adopted deferment program. All residents and businesses are eligible.
- 2) No. The Boards of Selectman, Education, and Finance have agreed to postpone the budget process, in order to hold a Town Meeting to approve the proposed budget. Mill rate change is not expected, so tax bills will go out in June. If a budget is not approved by 6/30, the town will run off of the 2019/2020 budget.
- 3) General Government: 4; Board of Education: 18.

## TOWN OF GRISWOLD

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- 1) The Town is considering a deferment program. Board of Selectmen will meet this week (week of 4/20) to adopt.
- 2) Undecided. Board of Finance is working to establish budget process.
- 3) General Government: 45; Board of Education: 330.

## CITY OF GROTON

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- 1) The City of Groton will follow the plan used by the Town of Groton due to the Town conducting tax collection and based on Executive Order 7W clarification.
- 2) The City will follow its normal timeline but the City Council will vote on the budget without approval from the Freeman's Meeting.
- 3) General Government: 93; Board of Education: NA; Groton Utilities: 123.

## TOWN OF GROTON

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- 3) General Government: 253; Board of Education: 900.

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## TOWN OF LEDYARD

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- 1) Town plans to adopt the deferment program on 4/22.
- 2) Yes. The Town plans to adopt the FY 2020-2021 budget in early June, following a virtual public hearing. The process was intentionally delayed to better understand potential revenue impacts. The proposed budget is flat, so there is little concern over not having a referendum.
- 3) General Government: 104; Board of Education 376.

## TOWN OF LISBON

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- 1) Town plans to adopt the deferment program.
- 2) Yes. Town expects to be in compliance with the EO and proceed accordingly.
- 3) General Government: 17; Board of Education (no response).

## TOWN OF MONTVILLE

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- 1) Town has adopted low interest rate program on 4/13.
- 2) Not applicable. Montville will continue with its budget adoption process (to be adopted by Town Council).
- 3) General Government: 115; Board of Education 420.4.

## TOWN OF NORTH STONINGTON

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- 1) Town has adopted deferment program. Program requires an application but the Town will not vet applications.
- 2) Undecided. The Town is following its normal budget timeline and plans to hold a virtual public hearing when needed. When it comes time to adopt a budget, the Town will consider its options.

## CITY OF NORWICH

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- 1) Town is considering both options. City Council will act on 4/20.
- 2) Not applicable. Norwich will continue with its budget adoption process, and expects to vote in early June (to be adopted by City Council).
- 3) General Government: 277; Board of Education: 866.

## TOWN OF PRESTON

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- 1) Undecided. Leaning toward adopting a deferment program, requiring an application, but not vetting applications.
- 2) No. The Town has delayed its budget process and Board of Selectmen will submit a budget to the Board of Finance by May 7th, with the hopes that conditions allow for a normal process.
- 3) General Government: ~25; Board of Education ~125.

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## TOWN OF SALEM

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- 1) Town has adopted deferment program.
- 2) Yes. The Town plans to adopt its budget by early June.
- 3) General Government: 20; Board of Education 65.

## TOWN OF SPRAGUE

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- 1) Town has adopted deferment program.
- 2) No. Board of Selectman is postponing to potentially allow for a normal process. Board of Finance is seeking guidance from the attorney.
- 3) General Government: 8; Board of Education 49.

## BOROUGH OF STONINGTON

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- 1) The Borough of Stonington will follow the plan used by the Town of Stonington.
- 2) Yes. The Board Of Warden & Burgesses, which also serves as the Board Of Finance, intends to adopt a budget for FY 2020-2021 at its May meeting. The Board will consider any public input received via e-mail and other means. There will be no public hearing or Annual Meeting this year.
- 3) General Government: 4; Board of Education: NA.

## TOWN OF WATERFORD

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- 1) Town is considering adopting the deferment program.
- 2) Not applicable. Waterford will continue with its budget adoption process (to be adopted by RTM).
- 3) General Government: 186; Board of Education: 463.

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