

CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Rd.
ABSECON, NJ 08201



Absecon Absolutely!

Thomas Marrone
Mayor

Phone (609) 641-0663 Ext. 106
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April 30, 2025

Re: Proposed 2025 Municipal Budget

Dear Absecon Residents,

We are writing to you today with honesty, transparency, and a shared commitment to the future of our community.

Over the past several months, we have worked closely with our new CFO to face some hard fiscal truths about the state of Absecon's finances—issues that we inherited and of which we are now taking full responsibility to address.

Between 2015 and 2023, Absecon's tax levy decreased by \$218,000—even as the cost of nearly everything around us continued to rise. Insurance premiums alone have gone up 10%, inflation has pushed up the cost of services and supplies, and essential areas like public safety demand sustained resources.

For years, previous administrations balanced the budget using unsustainable approaches. The last ten years we have had a substantial loss of surplus—funds that can no longer be replaced because we simply don't have the necessary revenue or ratables to support it. Additionally, emergency COVID funds received by the city were used to plug budget gaps and, unfortunately, no contingency plans were created for when those one-time funds ran out.

Now, it's our responsibility to fix it.

When we first began building this year's budget, we were facing a potential 21-cent tax increase. That was unacceptable to us. So we went line-by-line to find responsible ways to lessen the burden. We cut our road program in half, halted or streamlined capital projects, combined City

Hall positions, and expanded shared services with neighboring towns. The result: we reduced the proposed tax increase to 11 cents.

We know a tax increase is never easy, but this one is necessary. And it is only the first step in getting Absecon back on solid financial ground.

Here's what comes next:

- Adjusting permit, construction, and other municipal fees to reflect current values—many of which haven't been reviewed in over 20 years.
- Continuing to streamline government operations and limit non-essential spending.
- Expanding shared services with neighboring municipalities.
- Maintaining our pro-business approach to attract new ratables and help local businesses thrive.
- Prioritizing public safety in response to a growing population and regional challenges, including concerns about neighboring communities redirecting high-need populations to our city.

At the end of the day, Absecon is home. We raise our families here. We live, work and play here, just like you. And we're committed to keeping our city safe, strong, and financially responsible—not just for today, but for the future.

We're not here to kick the can down the road. We're here to lead, to act, and to build a better Absecon—for all of us.

With respect and commitment,



Thomas Marrone, Mayor

Along with the Absecon City Council