

**NOTICE OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

There will be a regular meeting of the City Council in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

**AGENDA**

1. Convene meeting
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Audit Bills
4. Act on regular Council minutes of the meeting held on January 20th
5. Open Forum/Public comment (3 to 5 minutes max.)
6. John Hannon, Albany Library Services Coordinator, Great River Regional Library system  
- present Albany Library circulation and activities report for year-end 2020
7. Jeremy Mathiasen, City Engineer - Project updates
8. Reports of Boards and Department Heads  
- Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm. - present bids received for 2000 Sterling Plow truck
9. Mayor's announcements and letters
  - COVID-19 update
10. Mayor to announce next regular Council meeting date (February 17th) and adjourn

Tom Schneider  
Clerk/Adm.

***Note: As per the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) public health guideline, face masked required, social distance of minimum six (6) feet per person will be followed at the meeting.***

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Council in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Tom Kasner at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Council members present were: Councilors John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, Al Amdahl, and Adam Rushmeyer. None were absent.

Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm., Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor, Tim Speir, Reporter, the Star Post, Ozzie Carbajal, Police Chief, and Jeremy Mathiasen, the City Engineer with the firm of Stantec, Inc., St. Cloud, MN. Others present: Jean Pundsack, 211 Railroad Avenue.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council took notice of approval of payment of bills. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by Keith Heitzman to authorize electronic payments (payroll), transfers, and the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers 70681 to 70721. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mayor Tom Kasner called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held on January 6th and hearing none declared them approved.

Open forum/public comments: none

Peggy Cremers, appeared before the Council on behalf of the Albany Area Jaycees, to request approval for an application for a Large Gathering permit for their annual Ice Cup Golf Challenge to be held on North Lake on Saturday, February 27th. Ms. Cremers noted there is approximately 20+/- teams that participate in the event on a make shift golf course on North Lake. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the participants should wear masks and social distance as per Governor Tim Walz Emergency Executive Order. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by John R. Harlander to approve an Event Permit for the aforesaid activity. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Mathiasen presented to the Council an engineering feasibility study for the 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvements and the 8<sup>th</sup> Street (TH238) and Shamrock Lane Sidewalk Improvements. Mr. Mathiasen noted the proposed project improvements include reconstruction of storm sewer, sewer and water service relocation, new sidewalk, and street. Mr. Mathiasen noted there will be special assessments levied for the benefitted properties for all or a portion of the cost of the improvement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429. Mr. Mathiasen noted the estimated cost for the aforesaid improvements is \$485,523; whereby the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will pay for nearly 60% of the project expenses. Mr. Mathiasen noted the proposed intersection improvements will include a splitter island for southbound to westbound turning movements, a free right/yield movement southbound to westbound traffic, and a stop sign added on the splitter island for southbound to eastbound traffic. Mr. Mathiasen also noted the proposed intersection improvements are not expected to impact the east leg of the intersection (CR54) and therefore not include Stearns County. Ms. Pundsack informed the Council the intersection is very confusing which has led to vehicle near miss accidents and requested an intersection drawing that is easy for the public to understand. Mayor Tom Kasner informed Ms. Pundsack a public hearing will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> to provide information to the public and abutting property owners. Mr. Mathiasen also noted the proposed sidewalk on the north side of Shamrock Lane and west side of 8<sup>th</sup> Street (TH238) will need to be constructed within the right-of-way with additional sidewalk work to be done at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue. Mayor Tom Kasner noted many options have been discussed over the years related to the said intersection improvements and the proposed design seems to be the best fit at this point in time. Ms. Pundsack questioned when the project would begin. Mr. Mathiasen noted MnDOT agreed to the proposed design in concept and construction may begin in the fall of 2021 or spring of 2022. Mr. Harlander noted he would be in favor of beginning the project in the spring of 2022 which would have less impact on school traffic and the City would receive more competitive bids. Mayor Tom Kasner directed Mr. Schneider to prepare a live stream of the public hearing

to allow members from the public to participate if they may be uncomfortable attending an in-person meeting. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander who introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-02  
RECEIVING PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT AND CALLING  
PUBLIC HEARING ON A LOCAL  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
(1<sup>st</sup> Street/Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvements)  
(8<sup>th</sup> Street (TH238) and Shamrock Lane Sidewalk Improvements)**

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by Keith Heitzman and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Al Amdahl, Adam Rushmeyer, John R. Harlander, and Keith Heitzman and none voted against the same whereupon the said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the said Resolution is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Administrator for public inspection during regular office hours. The public hearing will be scheduled at 6:30 o'clock in the evening or as soon as thereafter on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at City Hall, to consider the aforesaid improvement project.

Mr. Mathiasen informed the Council the plans and specifications for the 2021 Capital Improvement Project (Lake Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Church Avenue and trunk storm sewer west of 7<sup>th</sup> Street) is nearly completed. Mr. Mathiasen noted the reconstruction improvements are similar as previous improvements and there are no major issues with the project. Mr. Mathiasen noted bids will be opened at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. After due discussion, a motion was made by Al Amdahl who introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-03  
RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
AND ORDERING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
2021 Capital Improvement Project**

The motion for the foregoing Resolution was seconded by Keith Heitzman and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, John R. Harlander, Al Amdahl, and Keith Heitzman, and none voted against the same whereupon the said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. The full text of the said Resolution is on file at the office of the City Clerk/Administrator for public inspection during regular office hours.

Pursuant to due notice, Mayor Tom Kasner called the public hearing into session at 7:20 o'clock in the evening on a request by Jodi Tamm-Rajkowski, 116 Par Drive, Albany, MN, to vacate the drainage and utility as dedicated in ALBANY GOLF VISTAS, according to the recorded plat thereof, Stearns County, Minnesota, bounded as follows:

- On the Northeast by a line measured 10.00 feet Southwesterly of, as measured at a right angle to and parallel with the Northeasterly lines of Lot 8 and Lot 9, Block 1, said ALBANY GOLF VISTAS.
- On the Southeast by a line measured 5.00 feet Southeasterly of, as measured at a right angle to and parallel with the Northwest line of said Lot 8.
- On the Northwest by a line measured 5.00 feet Northwesterly of, as measured at a right angle to and parallel with the Southeasterly line of said Lot 9.
- On the Southwest by the following described line: Commencing at the most northerly corner of said Lot 9; thence South 20 degrees 45 minutes 11 seconds West, assumed bearing, along the northwesterly line of said Lot 9, a distance of 107.62 feet, to the point of beginning of the line to be described; thence South 66 degrees 36 minutes 28 seconds East, 76.27 feet, to said southeasterly line of Lot 9; thence South 69 degrees 22 minutes 16 seconds East, 76.40 feet, to the southeasterly line of said Lot 8 and said line there terminating.

Mr. Schneider noted a public notice was published in the Star Post on December 30<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup> and no written comments were received. Mr. Schneider informed the Council all utility companies were given notice and no utilities are located within the proposed described easement to be vacated. Mr. Schneider also noted the purpose of the request is to construct a new home. Mayor Tom Kasner closed the public hearing at 7:25 PM. After due discussion, a motion was made by Adam Rushmeyer and seconded by John R. Harlander to vacate the public drainage and utility easement as per the aforesaid legal description and to authorize Mayor Tom Kasner to execute a Notice of Completion of the said vacation. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Councilor Keith Heitzman, Albany Golf Club Liaison, presented to the Council the Albany Golf Club's checkbook register. After due discussion, a motion was made by Keith Heitzman and seconded by Al Amdahl to approve electronic payments, transfers, and the payment of the following: checks 39755-39767. Voting for the motion were Councilors John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, Adam Rushmeyer, and Al Amdahl, and none voted against. Mayor Tom Kasner abstained and the motion carried.

Councilor Al Amdahl informed the Council the Albany Area Community Education Program activities are beginning to be advertised to the public being several COVID-19 restrictions have been modified. Mr. Amdahl noted many individuals are excited to participate in the program activities.

Councilor Adam Rushmeyer, Planning Commission Liaison, informed the Council three individuals submitted applications for the Planning Commission board vacancy; whereby each will be interviewed in the coming weeks and a recommendation will be presented to the Council in the near future. Mr. Rushmeyer noted a notice was published in the Star Post on January 6<sup>th</sup> seeking candidates for the five-year board position.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Council proposed ordinance amendment to Ordinance 30, Section 30.19, Subd. 5, Water Access Flat Fee. Mr. Schneider noted the purpose of the amendment is to clarify the said fee shall apply on a per water meter bases, except for water meters used to measure lawn irrigation use only. Mr. Schneider noted in the past only one water meter had served a single building and over the past year or two property owners have requested multiple water meters being there is more than one use in the building which fee shall apply to each water meter. Mr. Schneider noted properties have been charged a water access flat fee per water meter and the language in the ordinance should be consistent. After due discussion, a motion was made by John R. Harlander and seconded by Keith Heitzman to approve the amendment to Ordinance 30, Section 30.19, Subd. 5. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Council took notice of a MN Lawful Gambling Application submitted by the Albany Area Gymnastics Association for the purpose of conducting a raffle. Mr. Schneider noted the Council approved a resolution in November for the said organization to conduct a raffle on February 19<sup>th</sup>, but the date of the raffle was changed by the organization to March 26<sup>th</sup>. After due discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Tom Kasner who introduced the following Resolution and moved their adoption:

RESOLUTION 2021-04  
APPROVING MINNESOTA  
LAWFUL GAMBLING LG220 APPLICATION  
(Albany Area Gymnastics Association)

The motion for the foregoing Resolution were seconded by Adam Rushmeyer and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl, and none voted against the same; whereupon the said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

The Council also took notice of a MN Lawful Gambling Application submitted by the Albany Sportsmen Club for the purpose of conducting a raffle on January 7, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05  
APPROVING MINNESOTA  
LAWFUL GAMBLING LG220 APPLICATION  
(Albany Sportsmen Club)

The motion for the foregoing Resolution were seconded by Keith Heitzman and after a full discussion thereon and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Mayor Tom Kasner, Councilors Adam Rushmeyer, John R. Harlander, Keith Heitzman, and Al Amdahl, and none voted against the same; whereupon the said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Mayor Tom Kasner updated the Council on the Governor Tim Walz COVID-19 regulations and restrictions. Mayor Tom Kasner noted the public can go to <https://staysafemn.gov> for more details.

Mayor Tom Kasner announced the next regular Council meeting for 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, and adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

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Tom Schneider  
Clerk/Adm.

Month: February Year: 2020

## Statistics

-Circulation (number of physical items checked out) in 2020 was 49,604 items, a decrease of 33.2% from 2019. This was slightly better than the overall regional decrease of 34.7%. January and February were both on track to exceed 2019, but after the system wide closure on March 16<sup>th</sup>, those gains were lost. Since reopening for curbside services in May Albany has had monthly increases in circulation.

-System wide GRRL saw a total digital circulation of 259,014 eBooks, audio books, streaming music and videos downloaded from our digital platforms, a 21.6% increase from 2019. Some of the increase comes from the addition of our Hoopla streaming service, which added music and movies to our digital collection. The majority of the increase from 4,300 active digital users in December 2019 to 15,603 active digital users in December of 2020 was likely due to the COVID-19 closure forcing users to get library materials digitally.

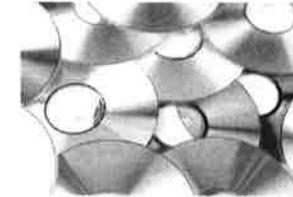
## Programs

Local programming in Albany was cancelled along with all GRRL in-person programs in early March. In-person programs are still suspended at this point. The exception is the Albany Adult Book Club. Thanks to Library Assistant Irene Gruber, who attended her first Zoom meeting and then started hosting them in the same month, our Book Club continued to meet virtually throughout 2020 and into 2021.

Our 2020 Winter Reading Program concluded in February 2020 with only about half as many participants as 2019. Most related events had little or no attendance with patrons sighting COVID-19 concerns as their reason for not attending. The 2020 Summer Reading Program also had greatly reduced participation due to the library still being closed to the public at the beginning of the program, and the inability of families to spend time in the library when we reopened.

## News

2020 Library news was much the same as 2020 news everywhere else. COVID-19 redirected most of our goals and efforts. The library closure in March may have been almost two months for the public, but we started bringing staff back in by the end of the March. At all 32 locations, procedures for almost all library activities were reviewed and rewritten to conform to social distancing and mitigation strategies from



the State and CDC. GRRL's IT department made temporary changes to our Library Management Software and reservation systems; making new services like curbside checkout possible, and existing services like public internet stations, safer. Staff trainings on the newest fiction and customer service were replaced with learning new procedures, sanitizing techniques and best practices for enforcing social distancing and mask use. Time normally spent locating staff and presenters for special events was instead used scheduling subs to cover staff quarantines. 2020 became a year of figuring out how to provide the basic services we already provided in new ways. 2021 will be focused on identifying and correcting any services, or patrons, that we missed.

Due to the retirement of the Library Services Coordinator in Melrose after 31 years, the Albany Public Library and Melrose Public Library staff have been combined into one department. All other aspects of each library will remain separate and distinct. This increases the staff available to work in each location, which has already made covering staff quarantines easier, and will make staffing events more effective in the future.

### **Building/Maintenance Issues**

None to report.

On behalf of the library and the community we serve, I would like to thank the City of Albany and City staff for their continual support of the library and their flexibility and dedication in getting through the past year.

John Hannon- Library Services Coordinator  
Albany/Melrose Public Libraries  
320-845-4843

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To:	Mr. Tom Schneider and Albany City Council City of Albany	From:	Jeremy Mathiasen St. Cloud Office
File:	193801690	Date:	January 29, 2021

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**Reference:    Engineering Update for the 2/3/21 Council Meeting**

**2020 Capital Improvement Project**

Work is suspended for the winter months. Record plan preparation is continuing and we expect that punch list work will resume on site in late April or May.

**2021 Capital Improvement Project**

The construction project advertising process is underway and a bid opening has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**1<sup>st</sup> Street (TH 238) Intersection Improvements**

A public hearing has been posted for the February 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting to review the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Intersection and 8<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk improvements with the adjacent property owners and other members of the public. A short presentation is planned.

Feel free to contact me at any time with project related questions.

[Jeremy.mathiasen@stantec.com](mailto:Jeremy.mathiasen@stantec.com)    320.529.4366



# The Star Post

## PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION STATE OF MINNESOTA)

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COUNTY OF STEARNS)

**CITY OF ALBANY**  
**SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**  
 The City of Albany has for sale a 2000 single-axle Sterling Dump/plow Truck with the following:

- 250 horse power 3126 CAT engine
- 38,173 miles - 3330 engine hours
- 6 speed Allison automatic transmission
- Air conditioning
- Am/Fm radio
- 10ft J-Craft dump box
- Road salt/sander
- 10ft fix angle under-belly blade
- 12 foot hydro turn Falls plow
- 10 foot Falls wing with rear push out cylinder
- 60 gallon brine tank

• Whelen strobe lights  
 Sealed Bids for will be opened at 2:00 PM, on Friday, January 29, 2021, at the Albany City Hall, 400 Railroad Avenue. A fax or email will not be accepted. Bids must be marked on the outside envelope "2000 Sterling" mailed to the City of Albany, P.O. Box 370, Albany, MN 56307 or dropped off at City Hall. If you have any questions or would like to view the 2000 Sterling Dump Truck, please contact Joe Mergen, Public Works Supervisor at 320-980-2990 during business hours. The City of Albany reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.

Tom Schneider  
 Clerk/Adm.  
 P-2-1B

Published in the Star Post, January 13, 2021.

Emily Hoium, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the The Star Post, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows: Wednesday, 1/13/2021, and was thereafter printed and published on every Wednesday, to and including Wednesday, 1/13/2021.

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:

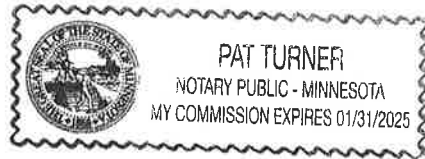
5. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Stearns County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 20 21 by Emily Hoium

Pat Turner  
 TITLE: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Pat Turner  
 Pat Turner,  
 Notary Public



**Dave Gerads  
Construction**

I Dave Gerads would like to offer a bid of \$12,500 for the "2000 Sterling".

Thank You,

**X** *Dave Gerads*

Dave Gerads  
Owner

**DAVE GERADS  
CONSTRUCTION**

- BASEMENTS
- LANDSCAPING
- TOWNSHIP ROADS
- DEVELOPMENT
- COMMERCIAL
- SITE PREPARATION



CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE!

320-836-2253 BUS.  
320-250-2253 CELL.

42837 248TH AVENUE  
FREEPORT, MN 56331

# Governor Unveils Biennial Budget Recommendations

January 27, 2021

**The governor's proposal includes funding for several programs of interest to cities, including those related to economic development, housing, the environment, and employment.**

The \$52.4 billion "COVID-19 Recovery Budget" Gov. Tim Walz released on Jan. 26 supports the current level of local government aid (LGA) and provides funding for a variety of other items of interest to cities.

Under state law, the governor must submit budget recommendations to the Legislature by the fourth Tuesday in January.

The budget recommendations, which are for the 2022-2023 biennium, are framed by a projected biennial budget deficit that, after the December pandemic relief package, is estimated to be \$882.7 million. According to the state November [Budget and Economic Forecast](#), inflation could add as much as \$1.3 billion in additional spending pressure.

Despite the projected deficit, the governor is proposing to maintain funding for LGA paid to cities. But, unlike his last budget proposal in 2019 for the current biennium, the governor's recommendation does not include the simplified construction sales tax exemption for local governments.

The recommendations also do not include any proposed increase in transportation funding through a gas tax increase or any funding for the Small Cities Assistance Account.

For cities, some recommendations of interest include:

## Economic development/recovery

- \$50 million in funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program.
- \$50 million for a new Small Business COVID Support forgivable loan program to support the cultural, entertainment, and hospitality industries.
- \$7.5 million for the Minnesota Investment Fund (previously funded at \$12 million) to better match actual program usage.
- \$7.5 million for the Job Creation Fund (previously funded at \$8 million) to better match actual program usage.
- \$5 million for the Launch Minnesota program to accelerate the growth of our startup ecosystem and attract top entrepreneurial talent to Minnesota.
- \$7 million for the Angel Tax Credit. The program is Minnesota's primary economic development tool to assist early stage businesses.
- \$3 million per year to provide technical assistance and equity support for nonprofit lenders and small business incubators for small businesses that have been hit especially hard by the pandemic.
- \$4 million increase to the Economic Development and Housing Challenge program to develop 60 to 100 new rental housing and single-family housing opportunities throughout the state.

- \$150 million one-time investment in Redevelopment Appropriations Bonds to support rebuilding efforts for small businesses and other private property in Minneapolis and St. Paul that were damaged in response to the death of George Floyd.

## Housing and families

- \$1.5 million in increased funding to the Workforce and Affordable Homeownership Program, which will create an additional 40 to 50 new ownership opportunities.
- \$21 million in increased investment in Department of Human Services programs that address the crisis of homelessness to support affordable housing and homeless prevention.
- \$4 million for the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program.
- \$1 million for the Homework Starts With Home grant program focused on housing stability for students and their families.
- \$750,000 to fund the creation of new and expansion of existing child care facilities for Minnesota families.

## Environment

- \$1.5 million per year for grants to local governments to assess local infrastructure, develop vulnerability assessments and climate resiliency plans, and for technical specifications for stormwater and wastewater infrastructure project proposals.
- \$1 million per year for wellhead protection grants for public water supplies.
- Significant new state efforts to identify sources, reduction practices, and levels of PFAS chemical compounds in wastewater treatment systems.

## Employment

The governor's recommendations include a statewide program, modeled after the state's Unemployment Insurance program, providing 12 weeks of paid leave for individuals who have a serious medical condition. The paid leave can also be used to care for a family member or bond with a new child.

## Additional proposed changes

To fund these and other initiatives in the recommendations, Gov. Walz is also proposing changes to the income tax that include a new fifth-tier income tax bracket for family incomes in excess of \$1 million. That increase is partly offset by an expansion of the first income tax tier that will provide an income tax reduction for those with lower incomes.

The recommendations also include changes in the estate tax, corporate taxes, the capital gains tax, and an increase in the cigarette tax and a new vapor products tax.

The governor's recommendations begin the legislative effort to develop a budget for the 2022-2023 state biennium. The Legislature and the Governor will await the February state Budget and Economic Forecast, which will provide updated projections and serve as the basis for final budget negotiations.

- [See an overview of the governor's budget](#)
- [Get detailed information about the governor's budget](#)