

City of Plainfield, New Jersey

Budget Process

The City is required by law to adopt an annual budget each year. The municipal budget and expenditures are regulated by New Jersey statutes and by regulations enacted by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. Plainfield operates on a calendar year basis, as do most municipalities, so the budget covers the period from January 1 through December 31.

The Mayor must introduce the budget to the City Council by February 10. This year the deadline was extended to March 14 because of the severe winter weather and resulting emergency declarations that closed local and state government offices.

The budget is developed in the Mayor's office with input from the City Council's Budget Committee. It is then presented to the City Council for approval, which means that the Council has accepted it and will begin their budget process.

As part of the City Council's process, the Budget Committee interviews directors and department heads from the City and holds public hearings on the Mayor's proposed budget. This may result in amendments to the budget. In order to increase any item in the introduced budget, a super majority vote of 5-2 is required. (A decrease of any item in the Mayor's proposed budget requires a simple majority, or a 4-3 vote). The final budget as amended can be adopted by a simple 4-3 majority vote. The deadline for the City Council to adopt the budget is March 20, but this year that deadline has also been extended to April 25.