



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. _____

RESOLUTION

R199 - 2025

Introduced by the City Council on December 30, 2025

Overrides Mayor's Veto of Bills 84-2025, 85-2025, 86-2025, 87-2025, 88-2025, 89-2025, 90-2025

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, Mayor Tuerk has vetoed Bills 84-2025, 85-2025, 86-2025, 87-2025, 88-2025, 89-2025, 90-2025 in a message noted below; and

WHEREAS, a majority of City Council members have approved and forwarded to the mayor a budget with no tax increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Allentown hereby overrides the Mayor's Veto of Bills 84-2025, 85-2025, 86-2025, 87-2025, 88-2025, 89-2025, and 90-2025.

Mayoral Veto of Bills 84-2025, 85-2025, 86-2025, 87-2025, 88-2025, 89-2025, 90-2025

Dear Members of City Council,

After careful review and consideration of your amended budget ordinance--which fails to increase City revenue, proposes no property tax rate increase, denies any relief to residents through reductions in originally proposed solid waste fees, and attempts to balance the budget by taking money from the City's General Fund cash balance--I have decided to exercise my veto power on all budget ordinances approved on December 17, 2025. My reasoning is simple: the amended budget does not adequately increase revenue to meet the City's rising costs, and we cannot jeopardize our financial health by using our limited cash reserves to balance our budget.

On December 17th, Council was presented with my compromise: a balanced budget proposal including a 3.96% tax increase and a \$50 decrease to the initially proposed trash fee. Under this proposal, the City would raise desperately needed revenue while minimizing the financial impact on approximately 23,000 of Allentown's 26,000 residential property owners. Council rejected my proposal and instead decided to balance the lack of new revenue in the budget by raiding the City's limited cash reserves.

The City of Allentown, like political subdivisions across the country, faces budgetary challenges posed by inflation and drastically reduced funding assistance from the federal government. Depleting limited cash reserves with no method to increase revenue would only put the City at greater risk.

Allentown must continue to keep our public spaces clean and our residents safe while also providing our employees with livable wages and competitive benefits--all while maintaining fiscal responsibility. We must raise revenue. A City that tries to live off cash cannot survive long.

As Mayor, I am eager to find a compromise with Council, and I ask that you explore and propose alternative solutions in the time that you have left in 2025. If no compromise is reached by December 31, 2025, the balanced budget presented on October 15, 2025, which includes the 3.96% tax increase, will go into effect.

I thank you for your service to our community and I am confident that you can propose an acceptable compromise by the end of this year.

