



# Welcome to Merrimack County

As a member of the County Delegation you will be responsible for appropriating the necessary funds that support the functions of County government and public spending. The County is excited to welcome and work with the Delegation on the County budget process, revenue/expenditure matters, long-term planning, and on subcommittees addressing specific County functions.

The following information includes highlights of the 2023 budget, introductions to the departments within the County, and a listing of the 27 communities within Merrimack County.

## Highlights of the 2023 Budget:

The proposed \$102,181,309 budget includes a 2.9% increase to property taxes – (prior to Delegation subcommittee analysis).

The 2023 budget reflects an overall increase of 2.95% or \$2,931,807, above the 2022 budget.

The 2023 budget utilizes \$5,498,577 of fund balance.

## An introduction to the departments of Merrimack County:

Merrimack County was organized in 1823 and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in NH with approximately 154,000 people amongst its 27 representative communities. Its county seat is Concord, the State capital. Merrimack County provides an array of services through its various departments including;

**Nursing Home** - a facility for the long term residential care including;

- Special Care - care for people with specific health conditions.
- Hospice - Focus on end of life services for people with serious illness; care, comfort, quality of life.
- Skilled Care - provided by registered nurses under the supervision of a doctor to address specific needs.
- Transitional - continuity of care where transfers between locations, or levels of care, occur.
- Independent/Assisted Living - designed for people who need various levels of care.
- Rehabilitation - designed to help those in need recover and restore function.

**Department of Corrections** - providing safety to the community through the detention and confinement of pre-trial detainees and post-trial confinement in a safe and secure condition. Services include;

- Community Corrections – offering alternative sentencing programs including intensive community supervision, comprehensive case management, and cognitive behavioral programming.
- Mental Health Court – providing alternative sentencing programs for individuals with mental illness and intensive and comprehensive court program that integrates treatment into resolution of the criminal case.
- Special Response Team – assists law enforcement with safely ending critical incidents by using special tactics and other necessary tools.
- K9 Services – assists other facilities in locating concealed contraband.
- Honor Guard – provides honor guard and color guard services for specific events.

**Sheriff's Office** – providing law enforcement on a county level, protecting people and property, and maintaining order. Services include;

- Civil - serves civil and criminal process documents.
- Warrants - receives and serves active warrants.
- Transports - safe and secure transportation of inmates to and from detention facilities.
- Investigations including criminal, internal, cybercrime, background, drug enforcement, and evidence processing.
- Communications - handling emergency calls for specific towns.
- County Security - providing court security, prisoner transports, and civil process.
- Specialty Units - sharing resources to address specific investigative, criminal, or other needs.
- Community Services – assists with community events to include D.A.R.E, Special Olympics, LEOSA, CIT, SOU, and other.

**County Attorney** - responsible for the prosecution of crimes committed within Merrimack County. Services include;

- Prosecution of felonies, misdemeanors, probation violations.
- Advice for law enforcement agencies concerning charging, search warrants, arrest warrants and officer training.
- Specialized services to include extradition proceedings, issuing subpoenas, civil commitment proceedings, attending and assisting interviews, and addressing habeas corpus petitions.

**Diversion Center** – providing an alternative to prosecution for non-violent and often youthful offenders. Services include;

- FAST [First-time Alcohol and Substance Training] program to address problems with substance abuse.
- DATA Program – offering low cost Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor evaluations to offenders and provides a supervision option for compliance.

**Pretrial Services** – providing supervision of persons who are awaiting trial in both the District and Superior Courts with supervision through home checks, telephone check-ins, drug and alcohol testing, and electronic monitoring.

**Advocacy Center** – providing, in a neutral environment, support services to victims and families of abuse. Services include;



- Conducting of forensic interviews.
- Case management.
- Adverse Childhood EXPERIENCES Response Team [ACERT] – assemble and visit homes where children were present during a call to police.

**Juvenile Services** – provides quality services to juveniles and their families, empowering them to make positive decisions, and become future productive adult citizens. Services include;

- Educational components to include, anger management, fire setter intervention, positive decision making, substance education and tobacco/vaping education.
- Community Restorative participation, offering youth strength based approach to understanding how actions have affected others.

**Registry of Deeds** – records and maintains public records and documents relative to real estate ownership.

**UNH Extension** - offering residents information, practical education, and high quality services that improve people’s lives, the economy, and communities of the county. Services include;

- 4-H (Head, Heart, Hands, Health) a youth development organization providing a supportive setting for all youth to pursue projects and interests, while serving the community and gaining valuable life-skills.
- Programs involving Nutrition Connections, Food Agriculture, Community & Economic Development, Natural Resources, and Youth & Family Resiliency.

**Facilities** – providing all services related to the maintenance and upkeep of all County buildings for health and safety for employees, residents, and visitors.

**Human Resources** – managing wages, benefits, personnel data, employment law compliance, and the application of policies and procedures for County employees.

**Finance** - is responsible for managing longer term and day-to-day financial and strategic planning operations for Merrimack County. The finance team oversees and provides the following services:

- Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Accounting & Reporting, Budget Preparation & Forecasting, Cash and Investment Management, Debt Management, Financial Accounting and Reporting, Internal Audit & Compliance, Payroll, Treasury Management

**Purchasing** - is responsible for the procurement of materials, supplies and services for all Merrimack County Departments with the objective of obtaining the best quality products and services for the best price or best value, to operate the organization effectively.

**Administration** - overseeing all the operations of all County government activities.

## **The cities/towns that make up Merrimack County:**

**First District:** Bow, Concord

**Second District:** Andover, Boscawen, Bradford, Canterbury, Chichester, Franklin, Danbury, Hill, Loudon, New London, Newbury, Northfield, Salisbury, Sutton, Warner, Webster, Wilmot

**Third District:** Allenstown, Dunbarton, Epsom, Henniker, Hooksett, Hopkinton, Pembroke, Pittsfield