



City of Waukesha
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City of Waukesha Cover Sheet

Committee: Finance Committee	Meeting Date: 09/30/2025
ID Number: ID#25-02230	Ordinance/Resolution Number (if applicable): 2025 -
Name of Submitter: Anthony W. Brown, City Administrator	Target Next Board/Council Meeting Date: 10/07/2025
Agenda Item Title: Review and possible action on Resolution Creating and Setting Fees for Residential Garbage and Recyclables Collection Services.	

Issue Before the Board/Council:

Starting in 2024, the executive management team developed a 5-year operating projection, which illustrated an operating funding shortfall in future years. To address these challenges, staff worked with the City Council to develop a financial management plan that addressed that shortfall by proposing expenditure decreases and non-tax levy revenue increases over the 2025 and 2026 budget cycles. One of the proposals included removing costs associated with the residential garbage and recycling contract and reducing tax levy associated with garbage collection services, in accordance with State laws, both from the General Fund. Shifting garbage/recycling costs to a separate fee reduces the City's overall property tax levy and creates additional capacity in the General Fund to support other essential services, such as public safety.

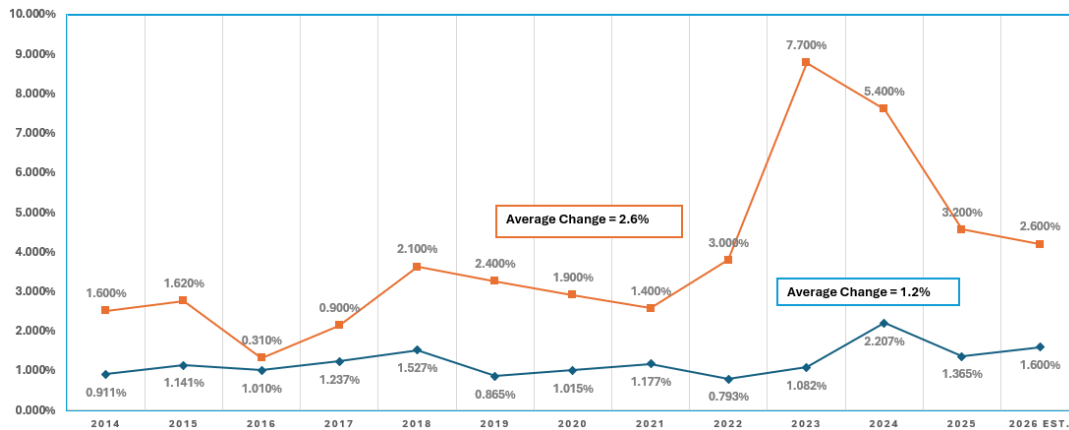
Options & Alternatives:

Option 1: Approve the resolution to establish garbage & recycling charge, as proposed.

Option 2: Reject the resolution. This would have a significant impact on the 2026 Proposed Budget as the City will then have to make determine how to fill the budget gap in the General Fund.

Additional Details:

Historically, the state-imposed levy limit laws have restricted revenue growth to a point that doesn't even keep pace with the annual inflation of costs to maintain the City's existing level of service. To illustrate this, please find the graph below comparing the City's levy limit and inflation, by year.



Additional Details (cont'd):

The City has worked to reduce spending levels each year, including \$1.3 million in reductions for 2025. Despite efficiencies, costs for supplies, labor, and contracts continue to rise beyond the City's ability to increase revenues under levy limits. This model also implements a user-based pay model so that only users of the garbage/recycling service will see the charge. This proposal provides for a sustainable funding solution for garbage/recycling services.

What is the Strategic Plan Priority this item relates to:

Financial Sustainability

What impact will this item have on the Strategic Plan Priority?

- 1) Develop a five-year financial plan that forecasts budget balancing challenges, opportunities for efficiencies, and capital investment needs.
- 2) Review all current revenue sources and identify possible new non-levy revenues to pursue.

This resolution for a special charge addresses each of these areas by providing for a sustainable funding solution for Garbage/Recycling services

Financial Remarks:

Based on the City's financial management plan, the Finance Director recommends the approval of this resolution.

Suggested Motion:

Move to Approve Resolution Creating and Setting Fees for Residential Garbage and Recyclables Collection Services, as presented.

Reviewed By:

Finance Director Joseph P. Ciarro	Date Reviewed 09/25/2025
City Attorney	Date Reviewed
City Administrator <i>Anthony Brown</i>	Date Reviewed 09/25/2025