



# City of Los Altos, CA

## 10-Year Budget Forecast Model – 2017 Update

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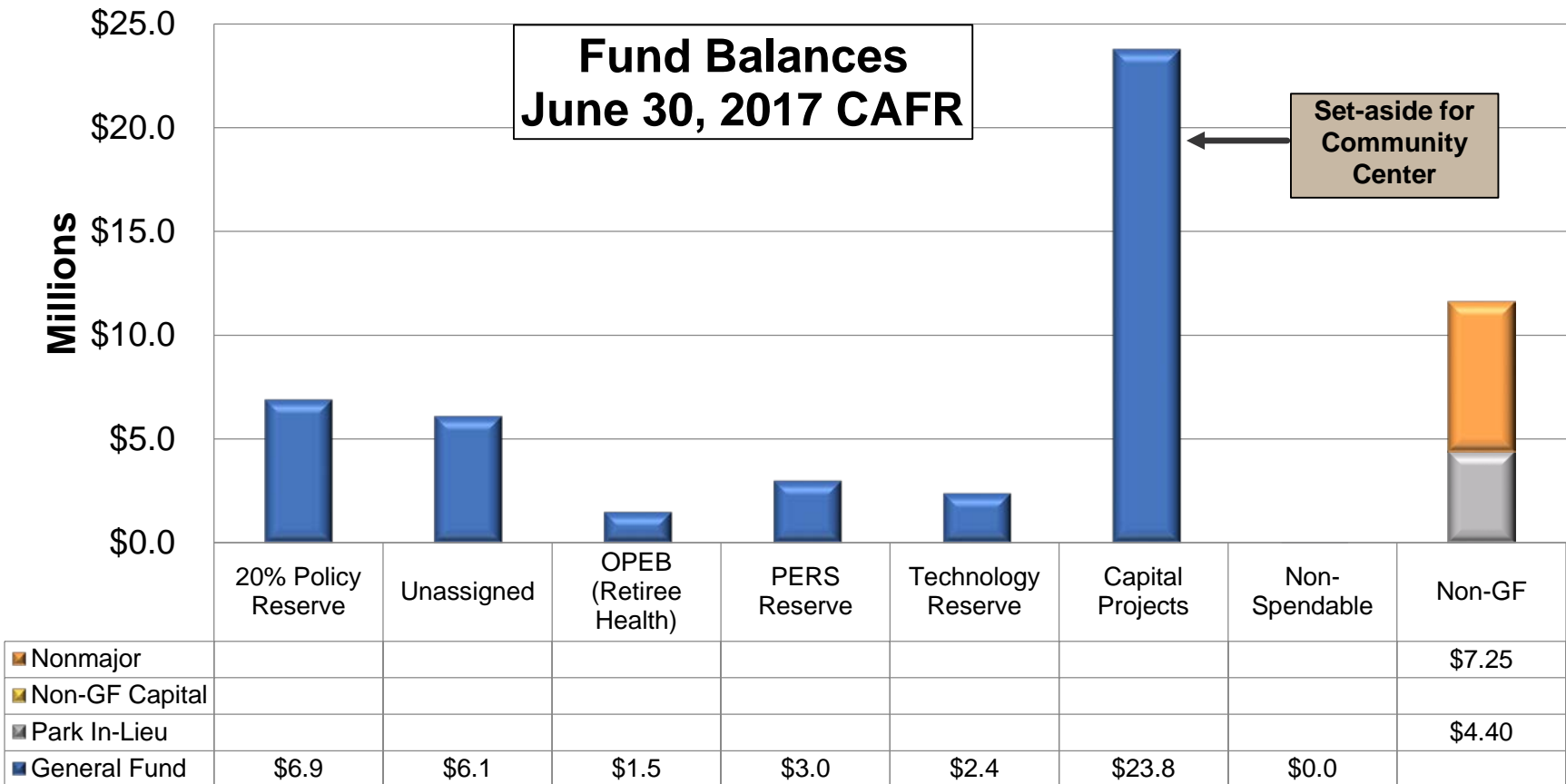
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415-393-7249 (direct)  
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## Total Fund Balances

- As documented in the FY17 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the City has several categories of reserves, including \$23.8 million set-aside for the proposed community center

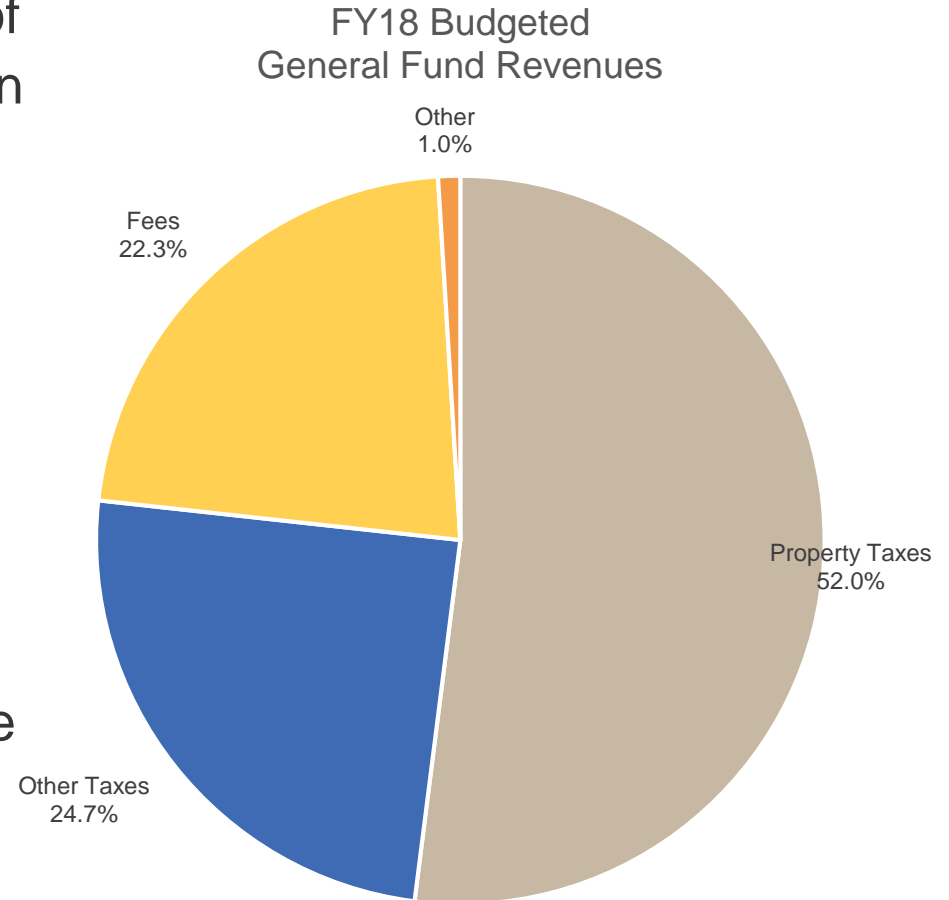


Source: City of Los Altos 2017 CAFR



## General Fund Revenues *Fiscal Year 2018 Budget*

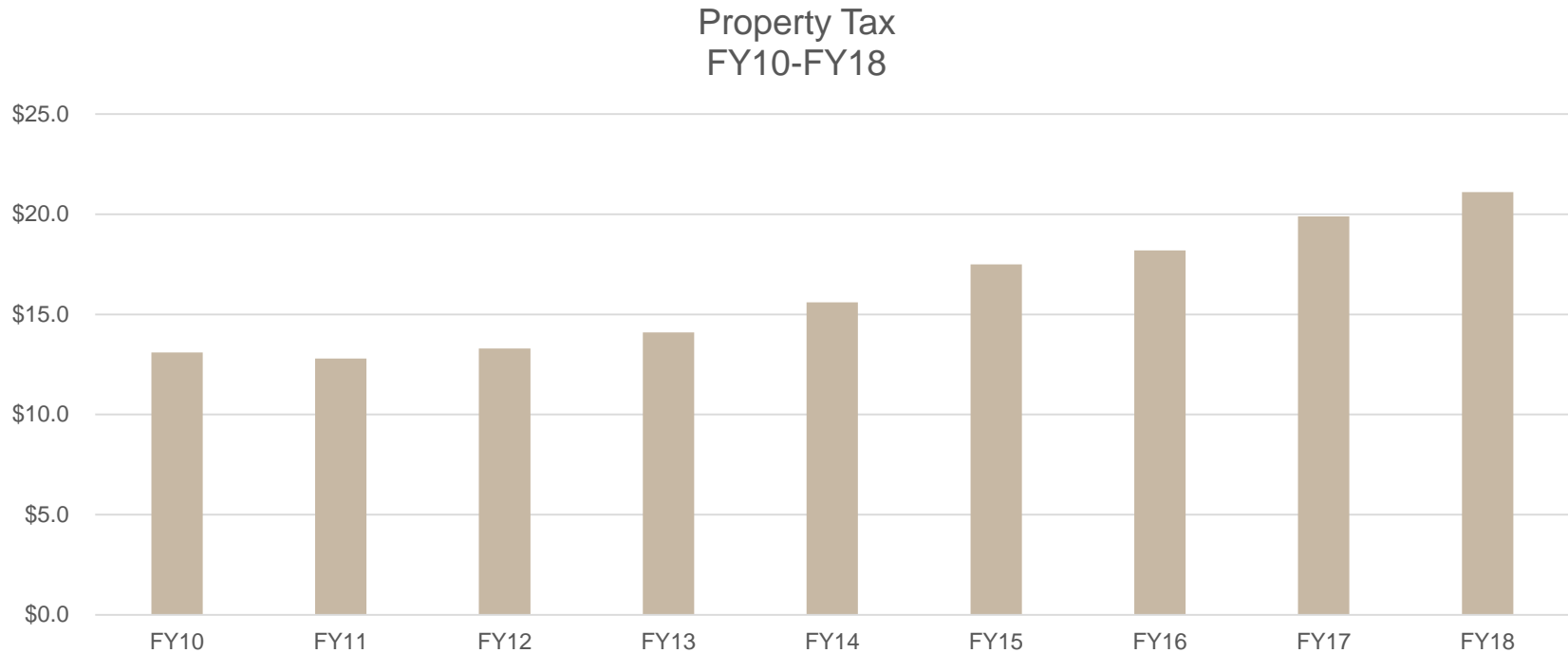
- Property taxes account for **52.0%** of total FY18 revenues of \$38.7 million
- Other taxes make up the next largest revenue sources at **24.7%**
- Fees comprise **22.3%** of total revenue
- Collectively, these three revenue sources, which are also linked to broader economic conditions, make up **99.0%** of total General Fund revenues





## General Fund Revenues | Property Taxes

- Total Property taxes had a compound annual growth rate of 6.1% from FY10 to FY18
- Property taxes comprise over 50% of the City General Fund revenues

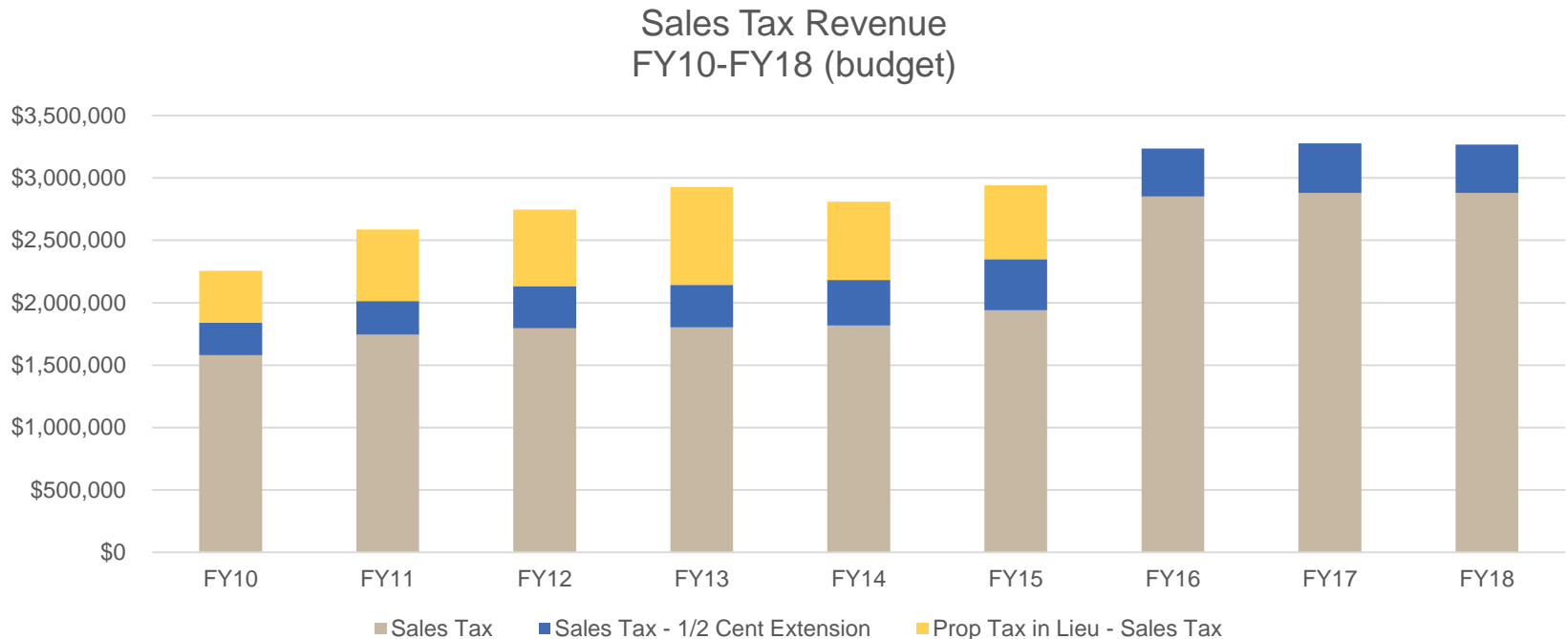


Source: City of Los Altos; Note: Includes current secured, unsecured, and supplemental and in-lieu of VLF



## General Fund Revenues | Sales Taxes

- Sales taxes increased over 4.7% per year from FY10 through FY18
- However, sales taxes remained flat in FY16 and FY17 and projected flat in FY18



Source: City of Los Altos

The "property tax in-lieu" ended in FY16



## Baseline Revenue | *Forecast Assumptions*

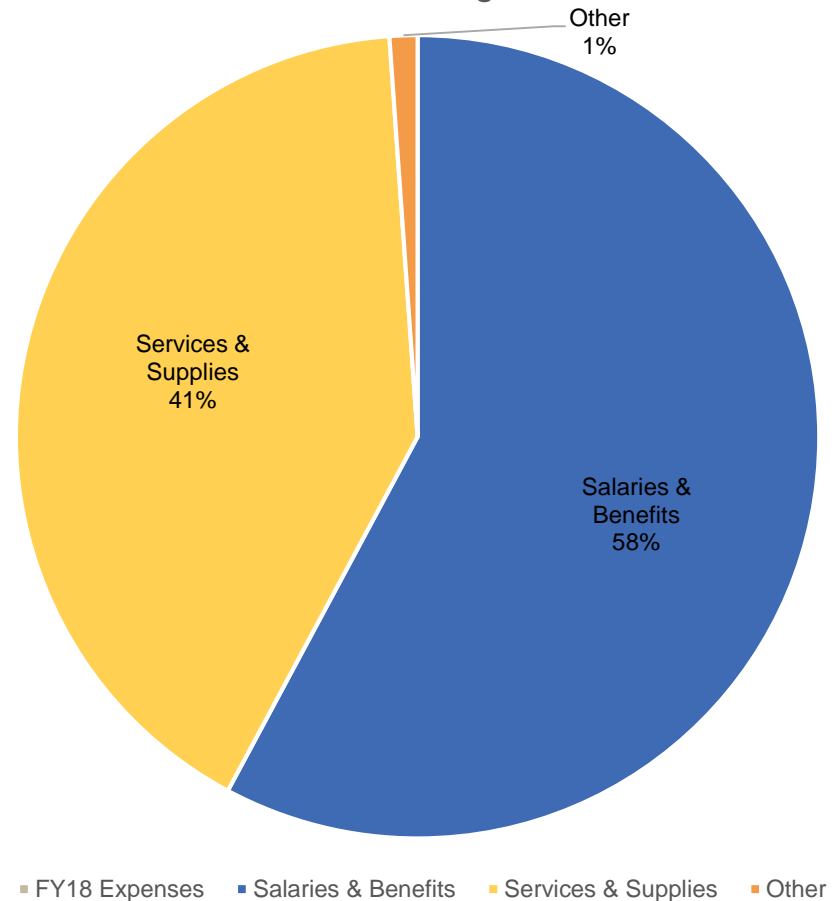
- ◆ **Overall Revenue Grows** at rate of **3.72% per year** for FY18-FY28
- ◆ **Secured Property Taxes:** 6.0% annually—compound growth rate over last eight years
- ◆ **Sales Taxes:** 1.0% annually, conservative projection based on recent growth trends
- ◆ **UUT and TOT:** Rates vary between 0% and 2% per year based on recent growth rates and expectations for expansion. TOT has grown recently with the addition of hotel rooms, but is held constant for the near future.
- ◆ **User Charges:** Recreation fees are projected to grow at 2% per year; however, planning and building fees have been held constant.



## General Fund Expenses *Fiscal Year 2018 Budget*

- Salaries and benefits account for **58%** of total General Fund expenditures in FY18 (*Note: Fire service is provided by contract and is included in Services & Supplies*)
- Services and Supplies expenses ranging from professional services to liability insurance—comprised **41%** of the FY18 budget
- Remaining expenses for other and capital vary significantly from year-to-year

General Fund Expenses  
FY18 Budget





## Baseline Expense | Forecast Assumptions

- **Overall Expense Growth** of 3.32% per year FY18-FY28
- **Salaries:** Includes known contracted raises through FY20, then 2% annually
- **PERS Normal Cost:** Grows an average of 4.6% (Miscellaneous) to 5.33% (Police) per year based on changes in salaries early-year PERS employer rate increases (FY18 - FY28)
- **PERS Unfunded Liabilities Cost:** Grows 10.74% per year for miscellaneous employees and 9.08% per year for Police (FY18-FY28) *(Note: subject to increase as CalPERS implements its full discount-rate change)*
- **Group Health Insurance:** Increase 7.5% per year based current MOUs and expected medical inflation (average growth FY10-FY18 was 10.5%)
- **Fire contract:** Increases at 3% per year, could range from 2% to 5%
- **Other revenue and expense items** include conservative estimates from 0% to 2%





# 10-Year Forecast



## 10-Year Forecast

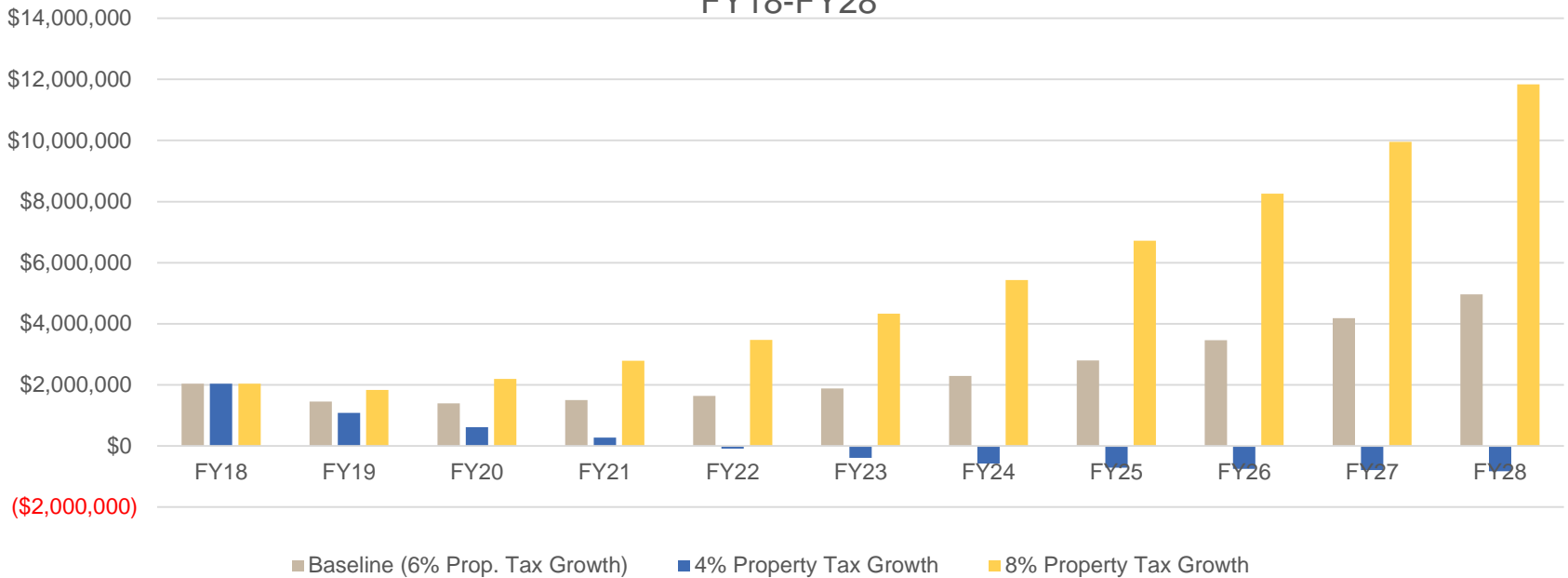
- The following slides summarize the “baseline” forecast, reflecting:
  - The City’s financial position on a carry-forward basis over the next ten years inclusive of the City’s proposed FY18 budget amounts
  - The baseline assumes continuation of current programs and financial policies
- It is important to note that while the City’s budget is balanced in the short term, it **does not** reflect the impact of setting aside revenue for long-term unfunded liabilities
  - Future building and parks recapitalization costs
  - Potential increases in CalPERS rates beyond current actuarial forecast
  - Additional set-asides for pension unfunded liabilities



## Net Revenue Impact from Property Tax Escalation | Key to Future Fiscal Health

- Property tax escalation has a major impact on the financial future of the City
  - Recent average growth of 6% per year meets City's basic financial needs (Baseline Forecast)
  - Growth of 4% per year will lead to deficit net revenue by FY23
  - Growth of 8% will provide the City increasing positive net revenue

Net Revenue with Changes in  
Property Tax Escalation Rates  
FY18-FY28



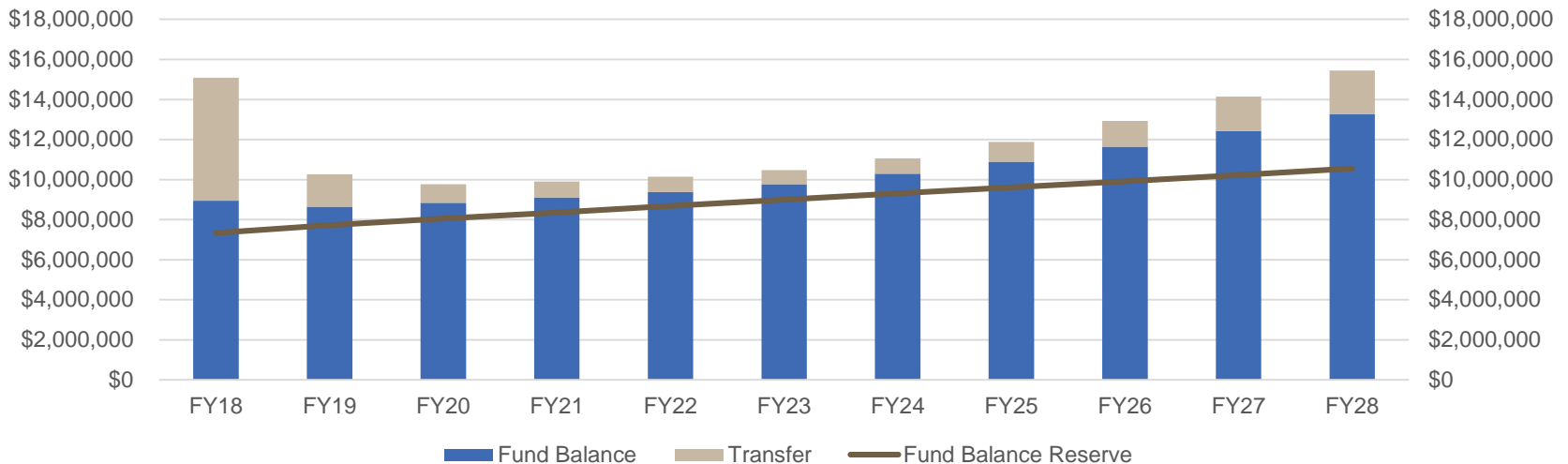
Note: General Fund net revenues are before any transfers to Capital Fund



## Baseline Forecast *CIP Transfer*

- The City can retain a 20% operating reserve and transfer surplus reserves to the Capital Improvement Fund starting in FY18
- Cumulative revenues available for CIP transfer total \$25.8 million from FY18 to FY28

Baseline Budget Model  
Projected Fund Balance With CIP Transfer

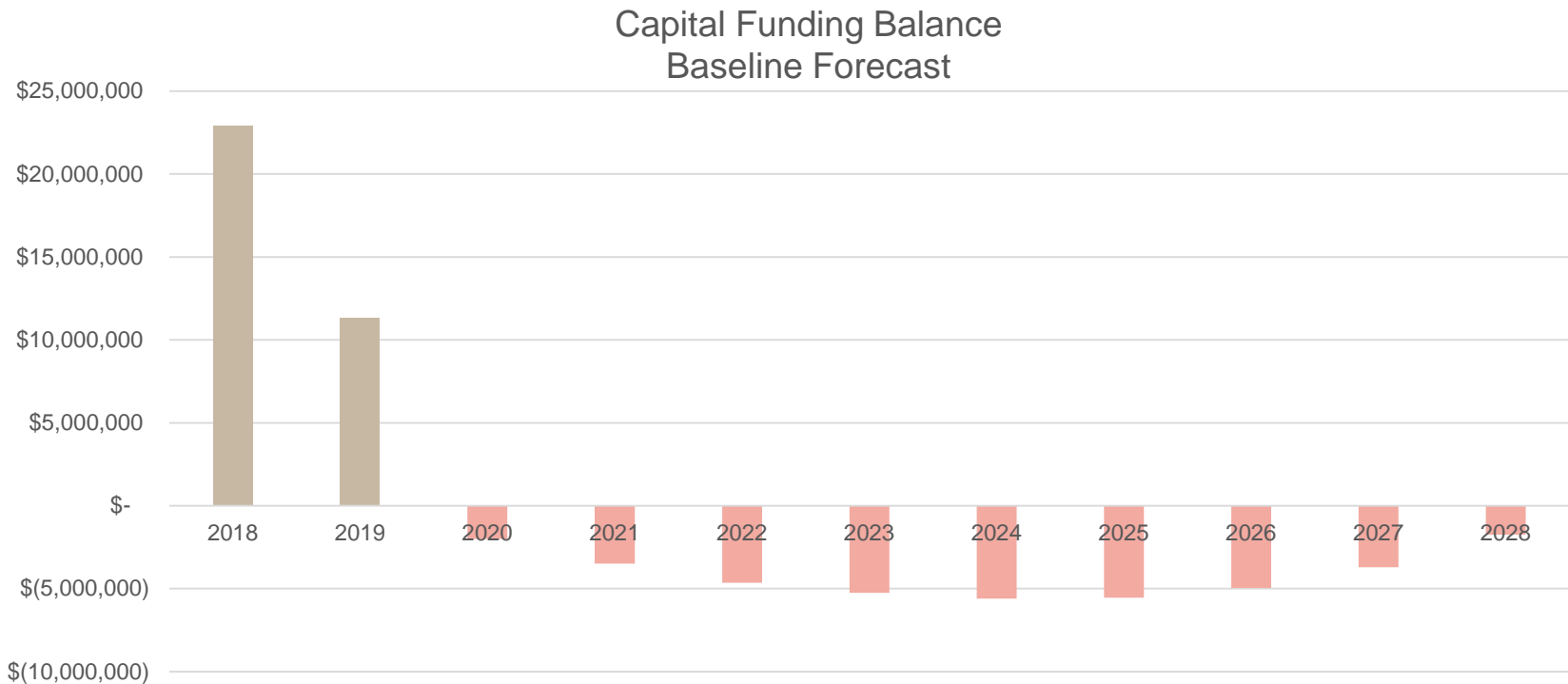


*Note: FY18 transfer includes unassigned General Fund amounts from FY17. Transfers are assumed to trail net revenue by one year.*



## Capital Funding is Insufficient | Under Baseline Assumptions

- Even with continued strong property tax growth of 6% per year, the City is not projected to be able to fund 100% of its capital program
  - Assumes \$25M community center plus FY18 Budget General Fund Capital Expenditures
  - By FY22 (end of 5-year CIP), City will be \$4.6M short of meeting its capital project needs
  - Funding after FY23 assumes \$1.9 million per year CIP investment





## Capital Funding Comparison | With and Without Debt Service

- The City has two primary sources of funding general fund capital projects
  - Pay-Go from accumulated reserves and future general fund net revenues
  - Debt secured by the City's general fund revenues
- The cost of debt necessarily reduces the net GF revenue transfer to capital, eroding the value of debt
- One positive of debt is that it erases early year deficits which would otherwise result in delays in capital projects

Funding Source	Baseline Forecast	With \$10M in Debt	With \$5M in Debt
Reserves	\$23.7M	\$23.7M	\$23.7M
Net GF Revenue	\$25.8M	\$18.1M	\$22.1M
Debt	\$0	\$10.0M	\$5.0M
<b>Total Available for Capital (FY18-FY28)</b>	<b>\$49.5M</b>	<b>\$51.8M</b>	<b>\$50.8M</b>
<i>Difference to Baseline</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>\$2.3M</i>	<i>\$1.3M</i>



## Capital Funding Comparison| Based on Property Tax Escalation

- The rate of property tax escalation will have a major impact on the City's ability to fund its capital plan
- The historical 6% rate of escalation will allow the City to mostly meet its capital funding goals
- Property tax escalation of 4% will severely limit the City's ability to fund capital over the next ten years

Funding Source	Baseline Forecast	4% Prop. Tax Escalation	8% Prop. Tax Escalation
Reserves	\$23.7M	\$23.8M	\$23.8M
Net GF Revenue	\$25.8M	\$8.8M	\$50.1M
<b>Total Available for Capital (FY18-FY28)</b>	<b>\$49.5M</b>	<b>\$32.5M</b>	<b>\$73.8M</b>
Capital Program Costs*	\$51.2M	\$51.2M	\$51.2M
<i>Over/(Under) Funded</i>	<i>(\$1.7M)</i>	<i>(\$18.7M)</i>	<i>\$22.6M</i>

\* Includes programmed costs plus estimate of \$1.9M per year in FY23-FY28



# What Will Change the Forecast?

## The economy

- Changes to revenues (either up or down) will change the City's budget future
- PERS rates and the impacts of future market returns and actuarial assumptions

## Council decisions on spending

- Total compensation (salaries, active and retiree health care, pension, leave, etc.)
- The number of staff needed to maintain service levels
- Long-term facilities rehabilitation (asset recapitalization)
- Spending on new Citywide facilities
- Addition of long-term debt to City's General Fund

## Voter-approved taxes or assessments

- Local-option taxes must be approved by voters, and could include sales tax, hotel tax, utility users tax, or business license tax
- Assessments must be property-related and are subject to Prop. 218

## Attraction of new or expanded businesses and retention of existing

- Expansion of retail sales outlets or hotels