



FUND BALANCE POLICY/GASB 54

I. PURPOSE

The City understands it has a responsibility to maintain prudent financial operations to ensure stable city operations for the benefit of city residents and businesses. Fund balance reserves are an important component in ensuring the overall financial health of a community, by giving the City cushion to meet contingency or cash-flow timing needs. The Office of the State Auditor recommends that at year-end, local governments maintain an unassigned fund balance in their general fund and special revenue funds of approximately 35 to 50% of fund operating revenues, or no less than five months of operating expenditures. While the bond rating agencies do not have recommended fund balance levels, the agencies look favorably on larger fund balances, which protect against contingencies and cash flow needs.

In addition, this policy integrates and further defines the City of Anoka's governmental fund balance classifications to be in compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 54: Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions.

II. POLICY

- The City will maintain an unassigned General Fund balance of not less than 30% of budgeted operating expenditures; however, this need could fluctuate with each year's budget objectives.
- Annual proposed budgets shall include this benchmark policy. Council shall review the amounts in fund balance in conjunction with the annual budget approval, and make adjustments as necessary to meet expected cash-flow needs.
- In the event the unassigned General Fund balance will be calculated to be less than the minimum requirement at the completion of any fiscal year, the City shall plan to adjust budget resources in the subsequent fiscal years to bring the fund balance into compliance with this policy.
- The appropriated budget is prepared by fund, department and object. The City's department heads, with the approval of the City Manager, may make transfers of appropriations within or between departments. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level.
- The City Council may consider appropriating (for authorized purposes) year-end fund balance in excess of the policy level or increasing the minimum fund balance. An example of preferred use of excess fund balance would be for one-time expenditures, such as capital expenditures, which do not result in recurring operating costs.
- Appropriation from the minimum fund balance shall require the approval of the City Council and shall be used only for non-recurring expenditures, unforeseen emergencies or immediate capital needs that cannot be accommodated through current year savings. Replenishment recommendations will accompany the decision to utilize fund balance.

- At the discretion of the City Council, fund balance may be committed for specific purposes by resolution designating the specific use of fund balance and the amount. The resolution would need to be approved no later than the close of the reporting period and will remain binding unless removed in the same manner.
- The City Council authorizes the Finance Director and/or City Manager to assign fund balance that reflects the City's intended use of those funds.
- When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the City's policy to first use restricted resources, then use unrestricted resources as they are needed. When committed, assigned or unassigned resources are available for use, it is the City's policy to use resources in the following order; 1. Committed 2. Assigned and 3. Unassigned.

III. **DEFINITIONS**

Governmental Fund Balance classifications are defined as follows:

Fund Balance — the difference between assets and liabilities reported in a governmental fund.

Nonspendable fund balance — amounts that are not in a spendable form or are required to be maintained intact. Examples include prepaid items, inventory, land held for resale, and long-term receivables that are not otherwise restricted, committed, assigned, or offset by deferred revenue.

Restricted fund balance — amounts subject to externally enforceable legal restrictions. Examples include fund balance related to unspent bond proceeds, tax increments and debt service fund balances.

Unrestricted fund balance — the total of committed fund balance, assigned fund balance and unassigned fund balance.

Committed fund balance — amounts that are constrained by City Council resolution for a specific purpose. Fund balance commitment resolutions must be completed before December 31st to be effective for that fiscal year and remain in effect until the commitment is changed or eliminated by Council resolution.

Assigned fund balance — amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the government body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority. This would include any remaining positive fund balance in all funds other than the general fund. The City Finance Director or his/her designee shall have the authority to assign fund balance. Examples include all special revenue fund balances that are not restricted or committed.

Unassigned fund balance — residual amounts that are available for any purpose in the general fund. Unassigned fund balance will occur only in the General Fund or in other funds when there is a negative fund balance that can't be eliminated by reducing restricted, committed or assigned fund balances.

Policy History

Initially Adopted: 11.21.2011

Revised: 06.26.2023