

As Town of Hempstead Supervisor, Laura Gillen's first proposed budget was criticized by councilmembers for raising property taxes by \$2 million.

In 2018, Town of Hempstead Supervisor Laura Gillen proposed a budget, her first, that councilmembers said would have increased property taxes by 0.74%, or \$2 million:

- **Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen proposed a 2019 budget that Town board members said would increase property taxes by 0.74 percent.** “On Monday, Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen, a Democrat, was expected to present her tentative 2019 budget to the Town Board. However, just before Monday’s special meeting began, the other six members of the Republican-controlled board held a news conference, announcing that they had their own spending plan, which they said would lower taxes by 4.2 percent. The board’s amendments reduced Gillen’s planned budget, proposing \$432 million in spending, versus Gillen’s proposed \$443 million... Town board members said their budget would reduce property taxes by \$11.6 million – 4.2 percent – versus Gillen’s budget, which included a 0.74-percent increase.” (Erik Hawkins, “Hempstead Town Board nixes Gillen’s proposed budget,” [LI Herald](#), 10/18/18)
 - **“In 2018, the levy went up by 1.9 percent – roughly \$20 per homeowner.”** (Erik Hawkins, “Hempstead Town budget talks begin, with \$443M plan,” [LI Herald](#), 10/11/18)
- **This was Laura Gillen’s first proposed budget as Hempstead Town Supervisor.** “Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen last week submitted her 2019 budget for the town. The roughly \$443-million spending plan – Gillen’s first – should make for a small tax reduction for 80 percent of residents, the supervisor said.” (Erik Hawkins, “Hempstead Town budget talks begin, with \$443M plan,” [LI Herald](#), 10/11/18)
- **Town councilmembers claimed Gillen’s budget levied “\$275.2 million in property taxes, up from the \$273.2 million figure for 2018,” an increase of \$2 million.** “Town councilmembers and Gillen clashed over whether or not the supervisor’s tentative budget raised town taxes by \$2 million. During the budget process, D’Esposito claimed that Gillen’s proposal contained a .74 percent tax increase, to which Gillen responded, ‘... he either did not read or does not understand my tentative budget.’ The councilmembers shot back that ‘fact checkers have confirmed that the supervisor’s 2019 Tentative Budget levies \$275.2 million in property taxes, up from the \$273.2 million figure for 2018.’” (Steve Mosco, “Budget Passes As Gillen, Board Clash Continues,” [Garden City Life](#), 11/7/18)