
PRESS RELEASE

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For More Information
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Senate Sends Spending Plan To Gov. Patrick

BOSTON – Senate Majority Whip Joan M. Menard (D-Fall River) is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Senate overwhelmingly passed the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2008. The budget, which earlier in the day cleared the House of Representatives, was a \$26.8 billion spending bill agreed upon by both branches in a month-long conference committee.

The FY 2008 budget, which now awaits Gov. Deval Patrick's approval, will be a 4.2% increase in spending over FY '07.

"I was happy to cast my vote in the affirmative for this budget proposal" said Senator Menard following the Senate Session. "This was a responsible, fair budget in a time of fiscal austerity. Greater Fall River and the SouthCoast will benefit from the many initiatives and programs in this budget."

Senator Menard is pleased to share the following local highlights:

- Local Aid
- "Chapter 70" Educational Funding:

<u>District</u>	<u>FY 06</u>	<u>FY 07</u>	<u>FY 08</u>
Fall River	\$88,654,097	\$90,065,583	\$91,119,662
Diman	\$11,587,076	\$12,983,299	\$13,901,536
Freetown	\$920,190	\$1,236,264	\$1,459,055
Somerset	\$2,685,723	\$3,559,416	\$4,521,167
Swansea	\$4,075,231	\$4,383,583	\$4,579,269
Westport	\$4,035,010	\$4,191,901	\$4,296,424

- Lottery Distribution:

<u>District</u>	<u>FY 06</u>	<u>FY 07</u>	<u>FY 08</u>
Fall River	\$22,340,906	\$27,001,554*	\$27,367,962
Freetown	\$966,659	\$1,164,825	\$1,181,812
Somerset	\$1,485,839	\$1,874,757	\$1,908,916
Swansea	\$1,902,642	\$2,304,948	\$2,337,597
Westport	\$1,265,913	\$1,494,508	\$1,514,205

* Fall River received \$2,290,951 in additional assistance in FY 2007, and will receive the same amount in FY 2008.