Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Local Services
Supporting a Commonwealth of Communities

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Cherry Sheets
Cherry Sheets

- Official notification from the Commissioner of Revenue of the upcoming fiscal year’s state aid and assessments
- Named for the cherry-colored paper on which it was originally printed
- Estimates posted on the DLS website
Cherry Sheets include receipts and assessments
  
  Receipt programs include those based on a formula and those based on reimbursement for a cost incurred by the community

  Examples of distributions include chapter 70, unrestricted general government aid (UGGA) and state-owned land

  Reimbursements include programs like veterans’ benefits, exemptions and charter reimbursements

Assessment programs are deductions to state aid for services provided through the Commonwealth or by another community

  State assessments included services like mosquito control and retiree health insurance premiums

  Transportation assessments

  Tuition assessments

  Annual charges for loan type programs
• DLS updates the estimates during each budget iteration
• How do I know when an updated version has been released?
• For my local planning purposes what is the state budget cycle?
  › Starts with the Governor’s budget proposal
  › Legislature makes their recommendations using the Governor’s budget as a base
  › Any differences between the two legislative bodies are compromised in a conference committee report
  › Once it lands on the Governor’s desk, he has 10 days to review, approve or make line-item vetoes and sign the bill into law
• The chart on the next slide graphically shows the budget cycle
Cherry Sheets

State Budget Cycle
Cherry Sheets

• Final budget has been signed
• Cherry sheets are updated to reflect final budget
• DLS alert prepared and sent
• Now what?

› Update the tax rate recapitulation sheet with final estimates
  » Page 2 of the tax recap is updated to show the final offsets (line IIb - 5), state and county charges (line IIc) and cherry sheet receipts (line IIIa – 1) see next slide
  » But wait, I already set my rate!

› Prepare for the upcoming Fiscal Year monthly local aid payments
## Cherry Sheets & The Recap

### II. Amounts to be raised

#### IIa. Appropriations (col.(b) through col.(g) from page 4)

#### IIb. Other amounts to be raised

1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes
2. Debt and interest charges not included on page 4
3. Final Awards
4. Retained Earnings Deficit
5. **Total cherry sheet offsets (see cherry sheet 1-ER)**
6. Revenue deficits
7. Offset receipts deficits Ch. 44, Sec. 53E
8. CPA other unappropriated/unreserved
9. Snow and ice deficit Ch. 44, Sec. 31D
10. Other:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amounts certified for tax title purposes</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt and interest charges not included on page 4</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Awards</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings Deficit</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cherry sheet offsets (see cherry sheet 1-ER)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue deficits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offset receipts deficits Ch. 44, Sec. 53E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snow and ice deficit Ch. 44, Sec. 31D</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL IIb (Total lines 1 through 10)**: 0.00

#### IIc. State and county cherry sheet charges (C.S. 1-EC)

#### IId. Allowance for abatements and exemptions (overlay)

#### IIe. Total amount to be raised (Total IIa through IId)

**TOTAL IIe**: 0.00

### III. Estimated receipts and other revenue sources

#### IIIa. Estimated receipts - State

1. **Cherry sheet estimated receipts (C.S. 1-ER Total)**
2. Massachusetts school building authority payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cherry sheet estimated receipts (C.S. 1-ER Total)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts school building authority payments</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL IIIa**: 0.00

#### IIIb. Estimated receipts - Local
Cherry Sheets

• What have we learned?
  • Cherry sheets are required under MGL
  • There is a picture of the state budget cycle, and once this is posted you will have it too
  • Cherry sheets are estimates and actual payments will be different
  • They really were printed on cherry color paper at one time
  • The updates should provide local officials guidance during the local budget process
  • The data is used by assessors when completing and submit the tax recap