

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island



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For Immediate Release
January 6, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Two Additional National Finance Awards for North Kingstown

From the Esteemed Government Finance Officers Association

North Kingstown, RI — Compounding achievements in our Finance Department in recent years now include two additional national awards from the esteemed Government Finance Officers Association. The first, an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR Award) for FY 2023, was awarded in mid-December 2024; the second, a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2025 Budget, announced on December 31, 2024, reflects the commitment of the Town of North Kingstown and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

The PAFR Award represents a significant achievement by the Department of Finance as eligibility for the consideration requires municipal governments also submit an annual comprehensive financial report to GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program. Each eligible PAFR is reviewed by judges who evaluate financial reports based on reader appeal, understandability, distribution methods, creativity, and other elements.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award signifies that the Town's FY2025 Budget is rated at least "proficient" in all four grading categories and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, related to how well the document serves as: (1) a policy document; (2) a financial plan; (3) an operations guide; (4) a communications device.

"Continuing news of these national awards signifies a deep and recognized commitment by the Town of North Kingstown to the best practices of municipal financial management and our continued dedication to transparency for our community," says A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager. "These awards and recognitions for the work and leadership of our Finance Department have become more of an expectation than a surprise these days. I am incredibly grateful for the attention to detail and level of work that Deb Bridgham and her team have put into these reports and documents; they are deserving of the national attention."

Deb Bridgham, Director of Finance, says of the awards, “We are collectively dedicated to publishing financial documents that can be easily understood by our community and that are indicative of the sound financial practices we have in place. Receipt of three GFOA awards in 2024 is gratifying for my entire department.” After receiving near-top marks in 75% of all graded categories overall, Bridgham looks forward to continuing work where efforts were strongly scored while continuing to improve future reports incorporating additional easy-to-read charts, graphs and budget trends graphics wherever possible.

- The Town of North Kingstown’s Popular Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023 is online, here:
<https://www.northkingstownri.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8255/FY23-PAFR-North-Kingstown-RI>
- The Town of North Kingstown’s FY2025 Budget is online, here:
<https://www.northkingstownri.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/234>

The Town of North Kingstown shared news it received a Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY2023 in October of 2024, which was the first of the three GFOA awards and recognitions received by the Town of North Kingstown for recent finance reports and publications.

For questions, please contact Kate Glass, Director of Communications and Executive Assistant, Office of the Town Manager: kglass@northkingstownri.gov.

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