Legislative Summary
Pat Cole, South County Huddle
June 21, 2021

Budget news: The 2021/22 budget is moving toward approval with House floor votes on portions of it to be held on Thursday and Friday beginning at 2pm.
(The House Finance Committee approved it)

Notable items: No increase in taxes on wealthy taxpayers; local car tax phase out continues (state reimburses cities/towns to cover lost revenue) With the help of the newest federal stimulus package, RI now has a budget surplus which allows for holding the line on taxes.

However, there are a few **tax/fee increases** - an increase in the real estate conveyance tax on all home sales over $800,000 with the revenue dedicated to affordable housing; a tax on businesses which received PPE over $250,000 and turned a profit.

Increases in funding: the monthly benefit for those in RI Works increases by 30% and the $100 clothing allowance now covers all children to age 18; increase in nursing home funds to help pay for additional caregivers.

Read the **highlights** of the budget here: Budget (scroll down to the copy.)

There will be **discussions on the best use of the remaining stimulus funds in the near future** acknowledging that the federal government has designated only certain ways the monies may be used.

There are several floor votes scheduled, including approving the Budget, before the Assembly adjourns on June 30, 2021.

Follow the action here: http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/