

Selectboard 12/18/23

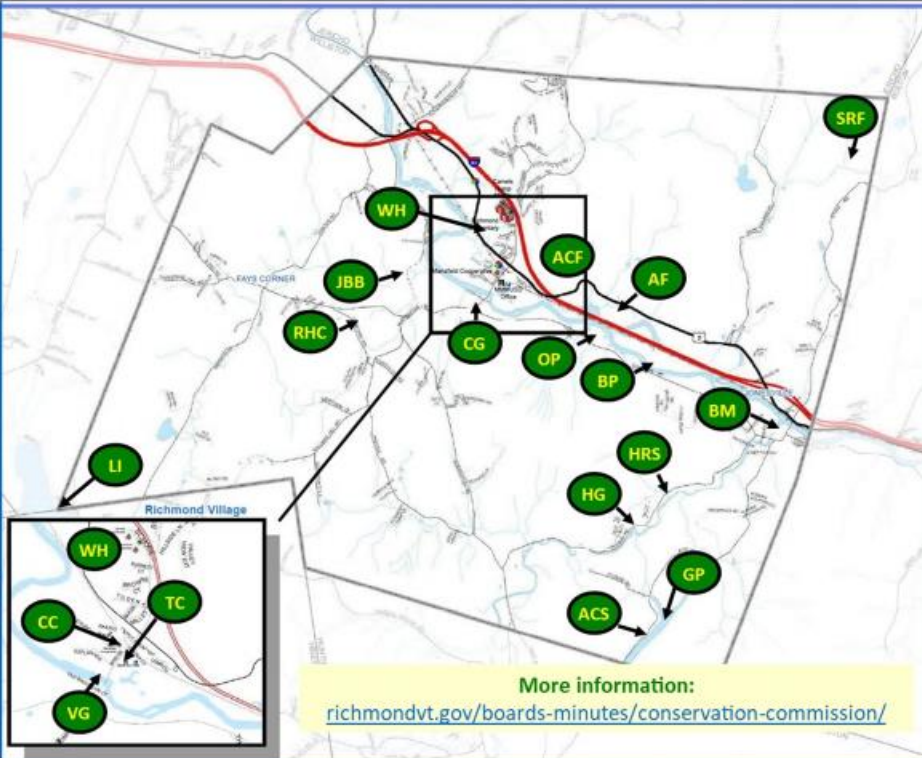
Funding the Conservation Reserve Fund

Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund

Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund
Supported Projects 2005-2023

ACF: Andrews Community Forest (purchase, benches)
ACS: Amphib. Crossing Signs
AF: Andrews Farmland
BM: Bombardier Meadow
BP: Beeken Preserve Erosion Engineering Study
CC: Congregational Church Window Restoration
CG: Community Garden
GP: Gillett Pond Dam Restoration
HG: Huntington Gorge
HRS: River Steward Program
JBB: Johnnie Brook Bridge
LI: Lake Iroquois Invasive Plant Surveys
OP: Overrockers Permitting
RHC: Richmond Hill Cemetery
SRF: Stage Rd Comm. Forest
TC: Town Center Portico Restoration
VG: Volunteers Green Riprap, Tree Plantings & Habitat Restoration
WH: Willis Hill

Town-Wide Projects
Large Habitat Block Survey
Science-to-Action Project
Master Naturalist Program
Emerald Ash Borer Survey



The map shows the geographical distribution of various conservation projects across Richmond, Virginia. Projects are marked with green circles containing their abbreviations: WH, ACF, AF, JBB, RHC, CG, OP, BP, BM, LI, HRS, HG, GP, ACS, SRF, CC, TC, and VG. An inset map labeled 'Richmond Village' provides a closer look at projects WH, CC, TC, and VG. A yellow box at the bottom of the map contains the text 'More information: richmondvt.gov/boards-minutes/conservation-commission/'.

A 19-year successful track record at protecting water and air quality, biodiversity, working farms and forests, outdoor recreation, historic resources and education.

- Enables the Town to move quickly to capture prime, time-sensitive funding opportunities.
- Brings in major support from outside funding sources (State, Federal, foundations)

- Established by voters 2005
- Last Renewed by voters 2023 (Yes – 560; No – 201)
- Has brought in over \$1.8 Million in outside support

www.tinyurl.com/CRF-2023

3.8X Return on Taxpayer Funding

To date:

- CRF grants: \$ 575, 903
- Additional \$ generated: \$2,199,533

Leverage: \$1 CRF brought in \$3.82

3.8X

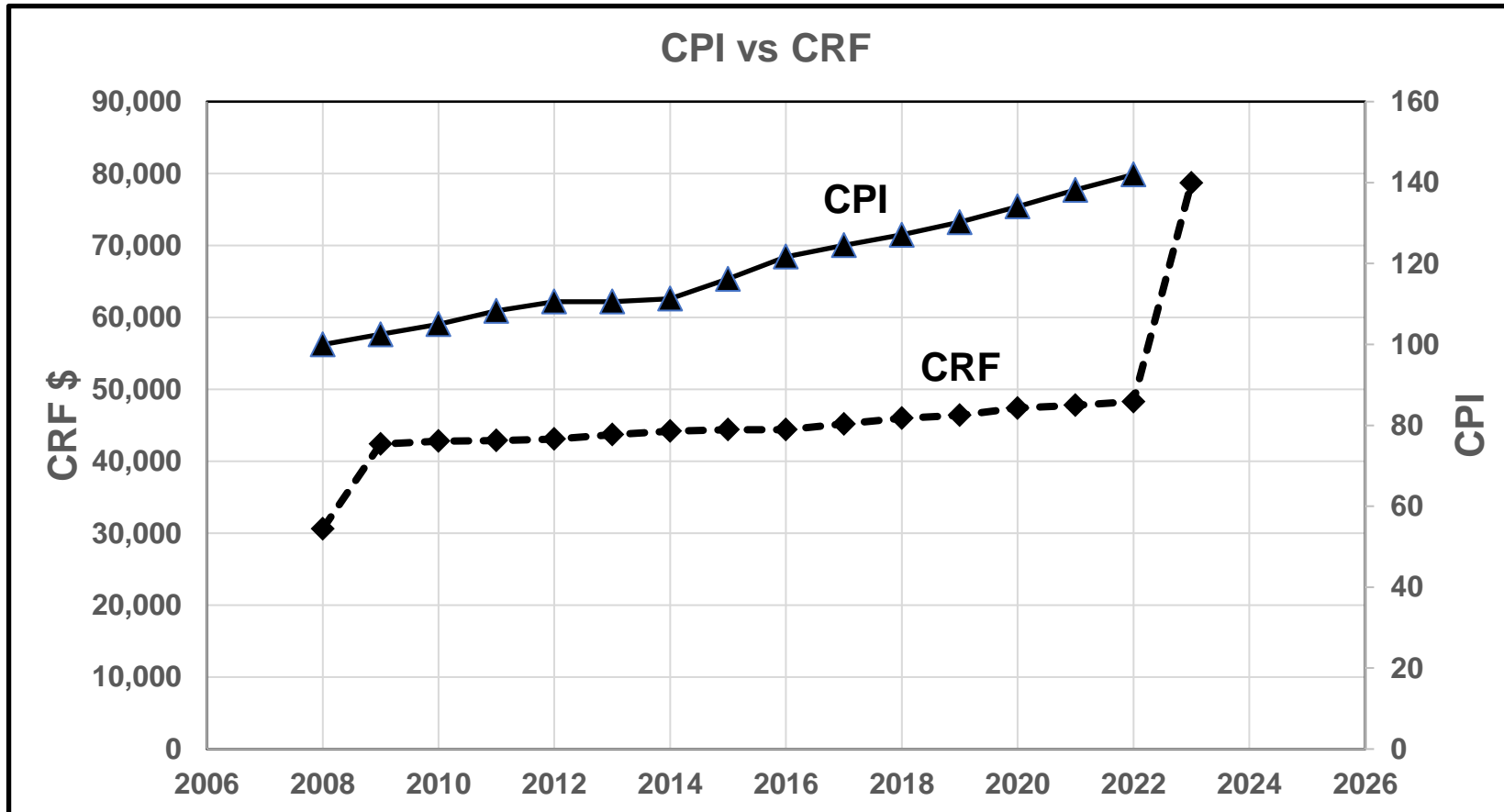
Historically

The Question on Australian Ballot

Article __. Shall the Town of Richmond vote to approve funding the Conservation Reserve Fund by adding one cent to the municipal tax rate in the 2024-2025 fiscal year? (To be voted by Australian ballot)

2023: Yes – 560 No – 201

The Problem: CRF Has Lost Value



Increased CRF allocation due to Grand List Reappraisal catches CRF back up

- **Until 2022: \$45,000 range**
- **2023-20??: \$78,000 range**

Alternatives

- **Stay the Course.**
- **Stay the course but at reduced allocation (now 1 cent on the Municipal tax rate).**
- **Budget Line Item**
- **Set amount**
- **Cap**

Evaluation

- **Stability**
- **Loss of CRF value**
- **Emerging large projects**
- **Impact on potential for match**
- **Maximal voter input**

Need Out There

- **Andrews Community Forest**
- **Winooski River**
- **Trail Repair – Flood damage**
- **Town Center Greenscaping**
- **VT's 30x30 Legislation**

Richmond Land Trust

Memo to Selectboard

- **Keep traditional Australian ballot voting.**
- **Past strong voter approval.**
- **Need to keep up with cost of doing business.**
- **Allocation correction enables capture of more matching funds.**
- **Significant resources required for what's ahead in the local conservation landscape.**

Alternatives Discussed

Conservation Commission
RLT

- **Stay the Course.**
- Stay the course but at reduced allocation (now 1cent on the Municipal tax rate).
- Budget Line Item
- Set amount
- Cap

Article __. Shall the Town of Richmond vote to approve funding the Conservation Reserve Fund by adding one cent to the municipal tax rate in the ____ fiscal year? (To be voted by Australian ballot)

Let the voters decide

Discussion

CRF Policy

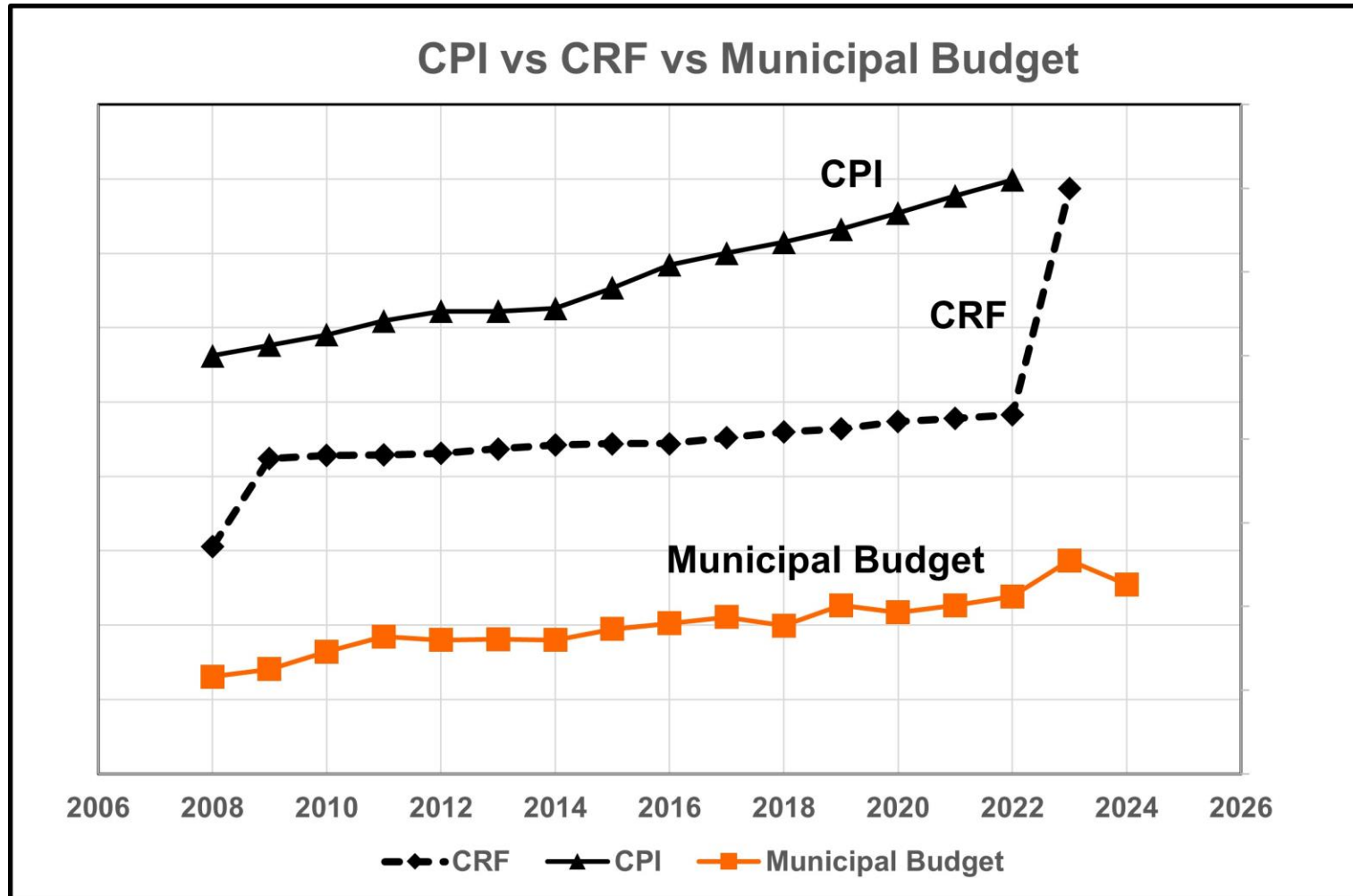
- **Current Mismatch.**
- **Criteria**
- **Process**

For Another Time

Working Group?

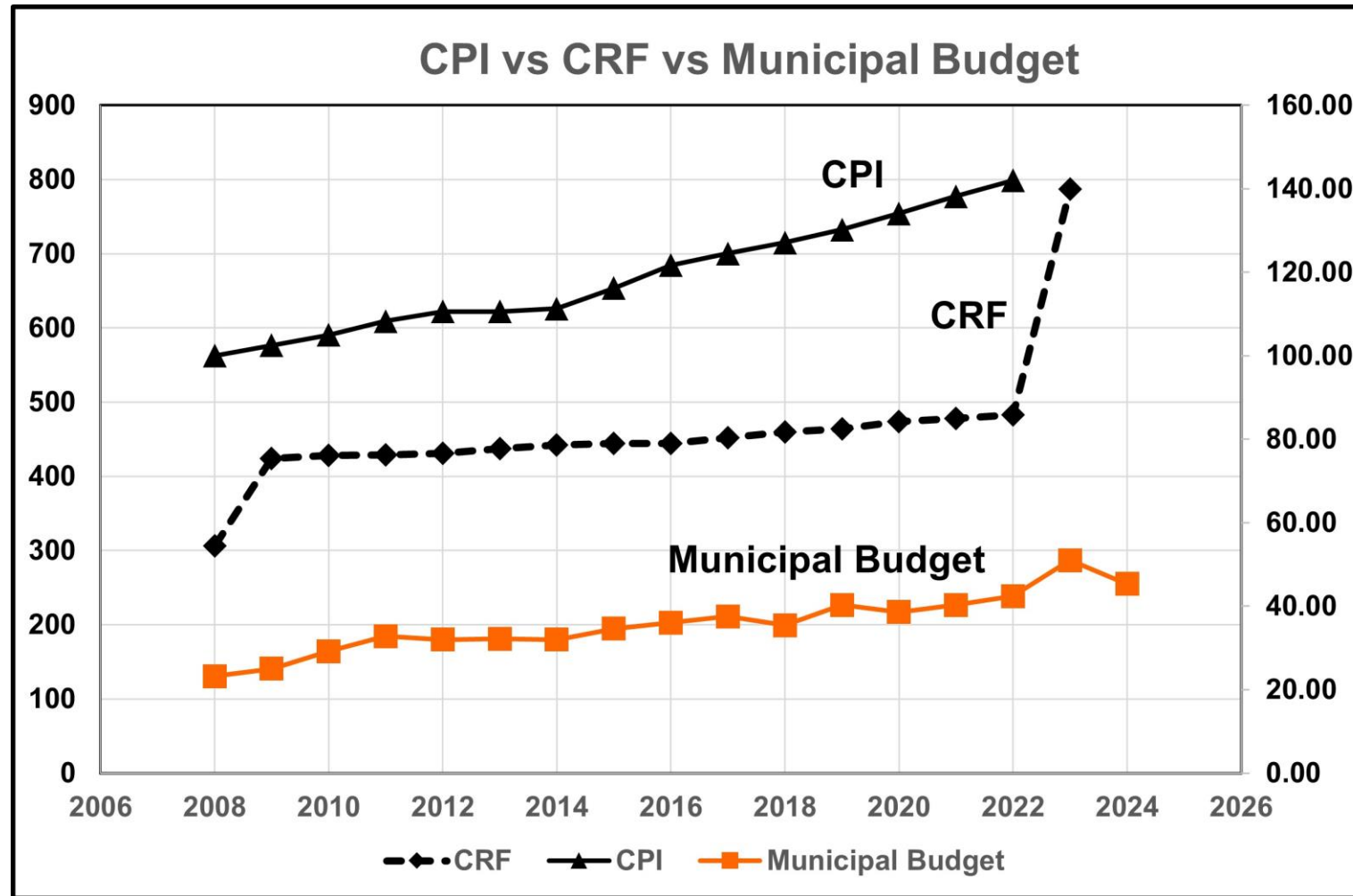
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The Problem: CRF Has Lost Value



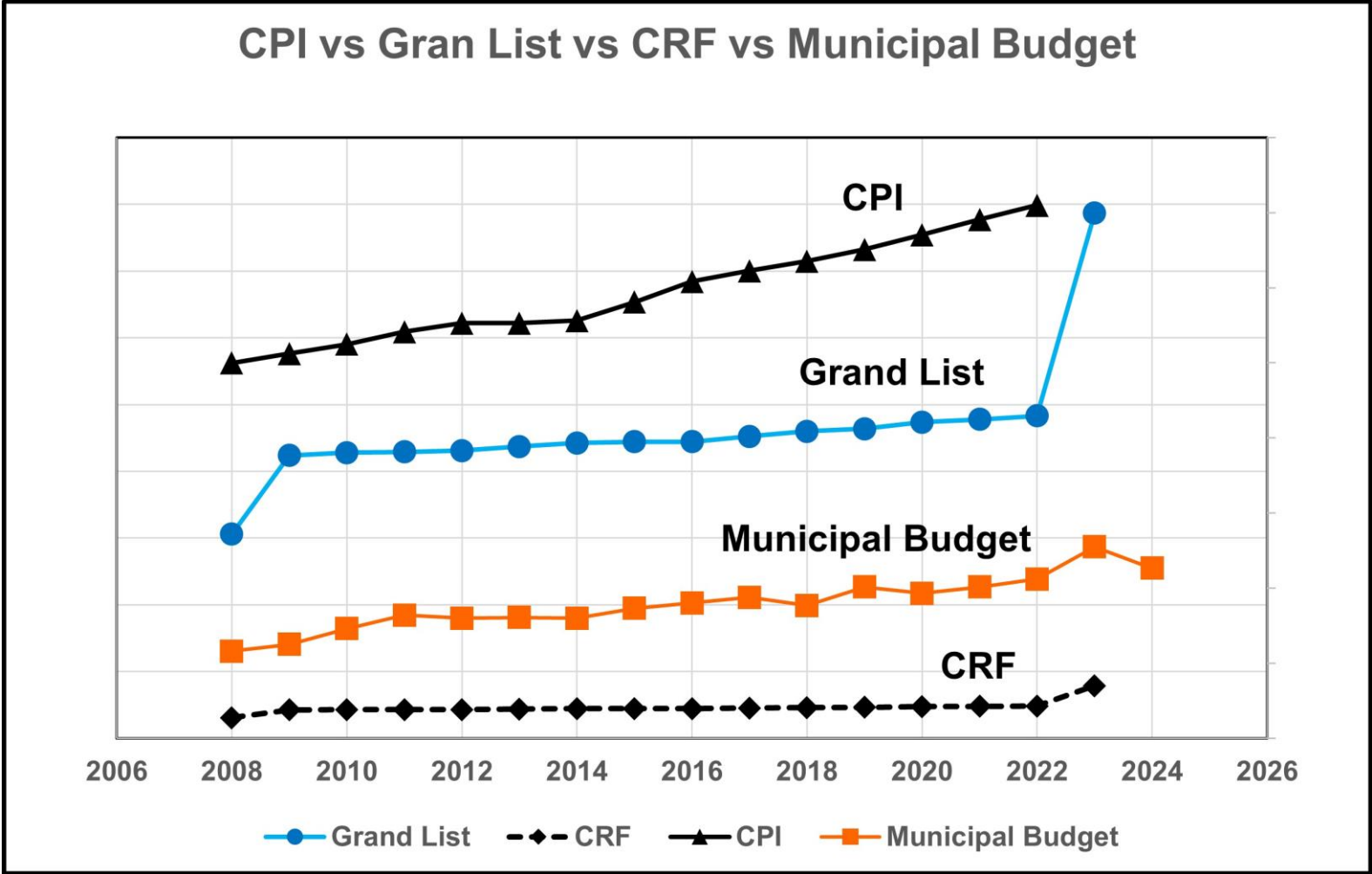
Increased CRF allocation due to Grand List Reappraisal catches CRF back up

The Problem: CRF Has Lost Value



Increased CRF allocation due to Grand List Reappraisal catches CF back up

The Problem: CRF Has Lost Value



Increased CRF allocation due to Grand List Reappraisal catches CRF back up

Australian Ballot

Historically

**Article __. Shall the Town of Richmond vote to approve funding the Conservation Reserve Fund by adding one cent to the municipal tax rate in the _____ fiscal year?
(To be voted by Australian ballot)**