

Dear Council Members,

A decision to increase the operating budget enough to raise taxes 10% indicates a lack of practical planning and setting of the relative importance of different priorities. (The Craig Rice situation, while small in proportion to the budget, demonstrates a less than responsible use of our tax dollars.) With continued increase in property values, Montgomery County residents can expect increases as is. The reality is with the reassessment every 3 years, we cannot know how much of an increase we may see. Next January, I will be reassessed. If my house value increases, say 21% (which is plausible, as houses in Rockville have been reassessed that much higher in the last two years), we will be looking at a 7% increase in tax each year for three years. Then 10% on top of that with the rate increase. And will the county executive propose yet a higher rate the following year?

Decline the tax rate increase.

Sincerely,

Richard Stumpf