

To: Montgomery County Council

From: Teresa Buescher, resident Montgomery County MD

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to express my opinion on the continued Montgomery County Property tax increases that have been occurring on a yearly basis. From the inflated re-valuation every 3 years to the recent increases to support the county schools, you are choking us in the middle class. I am retired Navy, living on a pension, my savings and a small part time job. I own a home in Montgomery county that I purchased 23 years ago. I have no children and no member of my immediate or previous family has ever used Montgomery County schools. We all went to Catholic schools which my parents felt were higher quality, which turned out to be true then and now. The continued property tax increases in the name of the schools are unfair. I understand the need for public schools, but please consider a basal tax rate that all pay, and then an increased tax rate to be levied on the actual users of the schools themselves. An end user tax, so to speak, to make up shortfalls created by those very people. This is probably the most fair solution you can come up with. If you do not want to do that, then you need to tax everyone, not just property owners. Plenty of people who rent use the schools too.

In short, if you must raise taxes, I ask that you primarily tax the people who use the resource and are creating the shortfall. If you insist that the social responsibility of education is the responsibility of all whether those people use the resource or not, then you have to tax ALL citizens of Montgomery County, no exceptions, property owners and renters alike. This applies to all projects that theoretically benefit all residents. If it benefits everyone, tax everyone. Find a way. You cannot keep preferentially targeting people who happen to own property as sources of funding for the entire County. That is grossly unfair. New Jersey should not be a role model for Maryland.

Thank you

Teresa Buescher