

Budget Proposal Position

Councilmembers,

I write to put forward my position on the proposed \$7.7 Billion budget proposal, and particularly, the proposed 3.5% increase in property taxes as part of that plan. In short, there is already a massive amount of financial pressure on working families. Raising property taxes by another 3.5% only adds to that pressure. Moreover, continuing to increase property taxes makes Montgomery County less desirable for people to live. There are many attractive places to live in the DC Metropolitan Area and residents/prospective residents consider the tax implications of living in a particular state/county. Moreover, making Montgomery County an attractive place to live from a tax perspective will attract new residents and keep current residents. Both of those things are good for tax revenue for the county.

I implore you to reconsider this proposed increase in property taxes and consider ways to reduce costs in other areas of the county government to account for any shortages. Or, at a minimum, only subject this tax increase to properties valued in excess of \$5,000,000.

Sincerely,

Robert Trumble