

## Testimony Against Proposed Property Tax Increase

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council,

My name is Kristin Crawley, and I am a resident of Montgomery County, where I own six properties. I want to express my strong opposition to the proposed 3.5 percent property tax increase put forth by County Executive Marc Elrich to fund Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

While I understand the importance of supporting our schools, it's crucial to consider the broader implications of such a tax increase. As a property owner, I have consistently paid all taxes on my properties and remain in good standing. However, none of my properties utilize public school services. Therefore, I find it unjust to impose additional financial burdens on those of us who do not benefit directly from the services provided by MCPS.


Furthermore, we must acknowledge the current economic climate. Many government employees in our community have recently faced layoffs, which has strained household budgets and diminished financial stability for numerous families. Increasing taxes during such challenging times is not a viable solution. Instead, we should be looking for ways to support our community without placing additional burdens on residents and property owners.

This proposed tax increase has caused me to seriously reconsider how I will vote in the upcoming election. It has also led me to question whether I want to continue living and owning property in Montgomery County given these unreasonable tax increases. The financial strain on residents cannot be ignored, and decisions like this only serve to drive away those of us who contribute to this community.

I urge the Council to reconsider this proposed tax increase. We need to explore alternative funding solutions that do not involve raising taxes on residents, especially those who are already struggling. Let us work together to find a path that supports our schools while also being mindful of the financial realities facing many in our community.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Crawley

  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
Montgomery County Resident