

**Testimony on the Proposed Fairfax County Budget & Tax Rate for  
FY2015 – Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations April 8,  
2014 (as prepared for delivery)**

Introduction – Rob Jackson president. Federation's budget review process – board resolution – membership resolution

Key Points the Federation wants to see in the final budget

- Maintain & don't increase the existing \$1.085 tax rate – the increased assessments constitute a significant tax increase that is much higher than the average (2.1%) increase in residents' income
  - Fairfax County cannot go back to the days where spending and tax increases annually outpaced growth in residents' income – this year must not be a precedent
- We support a 50/50 split of the increased revenues between FCPS and County services
  - Federation believes FCPS has justified a need for more funds
  - Federation recognizes that this decision would result in reductions on the County side from what Ed Long proposed
- Despite significant mismanagement of our Libraries, which we will address in a separate resolution, we support adding \$2 M to the Libraries' budget
- We urge continued caution in borrowing so as to keep debt service costs reasonable; matching recurring requirements with sustainable and recurring sources of revenue; and inclusion of debt service cost information about EDA bonds in future budgets
- We request the county appoint a blue ribbon commission to study the effect of increasing the retirement age on the near- and long-term pension costs and the impact on staffing
- Besides keeping the real estate tax rate flat, the BoS should
  - Look at all possible sources of revenue, including meals tax, BPOL, increasing residential permitting fees, SACC fees

- Use its statutory powers to impose a transportation impact fee to pay for the additional needs caused by development
- Ensure new transportation revenues collected from fuel and related taxes be used to alleviate congestion on county roads
- Process-wise,
  - Create a countywide citizens advisory committee on the budget and individual budget committees in those magisterial districts lacking them
  - Release the County Executive's proposed budget at least 60 days before budget hearings begin
  - Continue to hold a series of outreach meetings throughout the county to solicit community input on spending priorities
  - Publish five-year budget goals
  - Establish an inventory of all public-private partnerships that may expose taxpayers to unexpected budget obligations, and establish a process that ensures broad public discussion of any partnership that may entail hidden risks for taxpayers
  - Require all Performance Measurement results in departmental budgets and Lines of Business documents, the latter of which needs to be updated, be reported in terms of accomplishments/results