

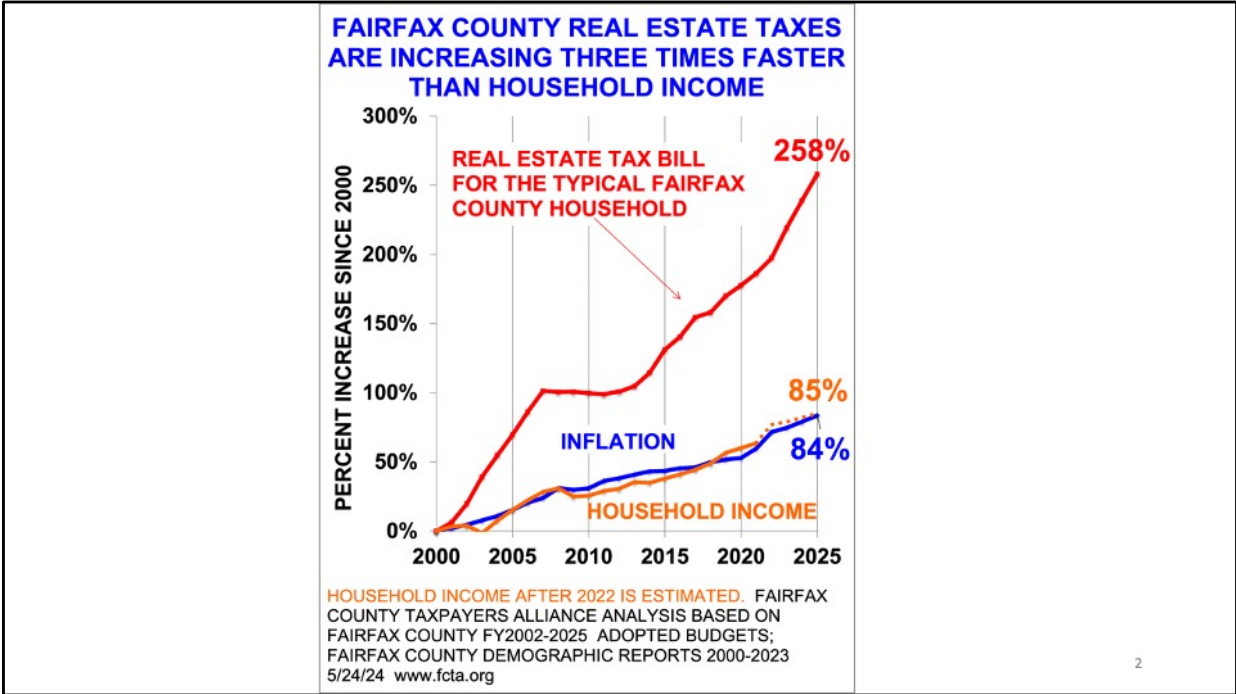
# MILKING METRO

PRESENTATION TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS  
ASSOCIATIONS

BY ARTHUR PURVES

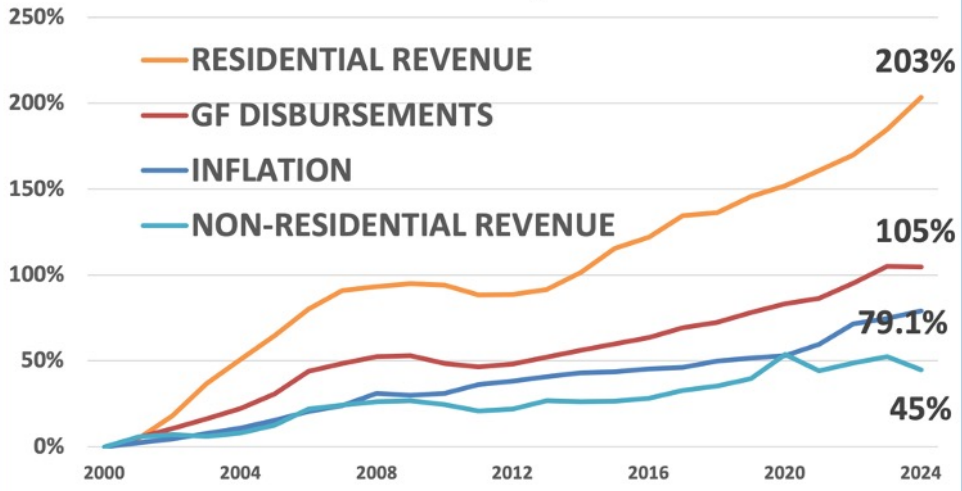
PRESIDENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY TAXPAYERS ALLIANCE

OCTOBER 24, 2024

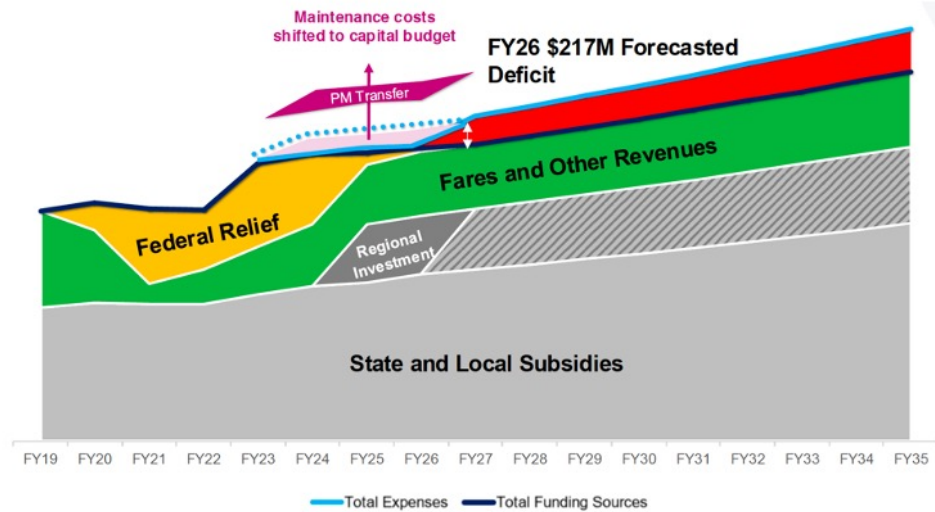


From \$2400 in FY2000 to \$8600 this year. Would be \$4500 if increased with household income

### FAIRFAX COUNTY POPULATION-ADJUSTED REVENUE AND SPENDING TRENDS, FY2000 - FY2024

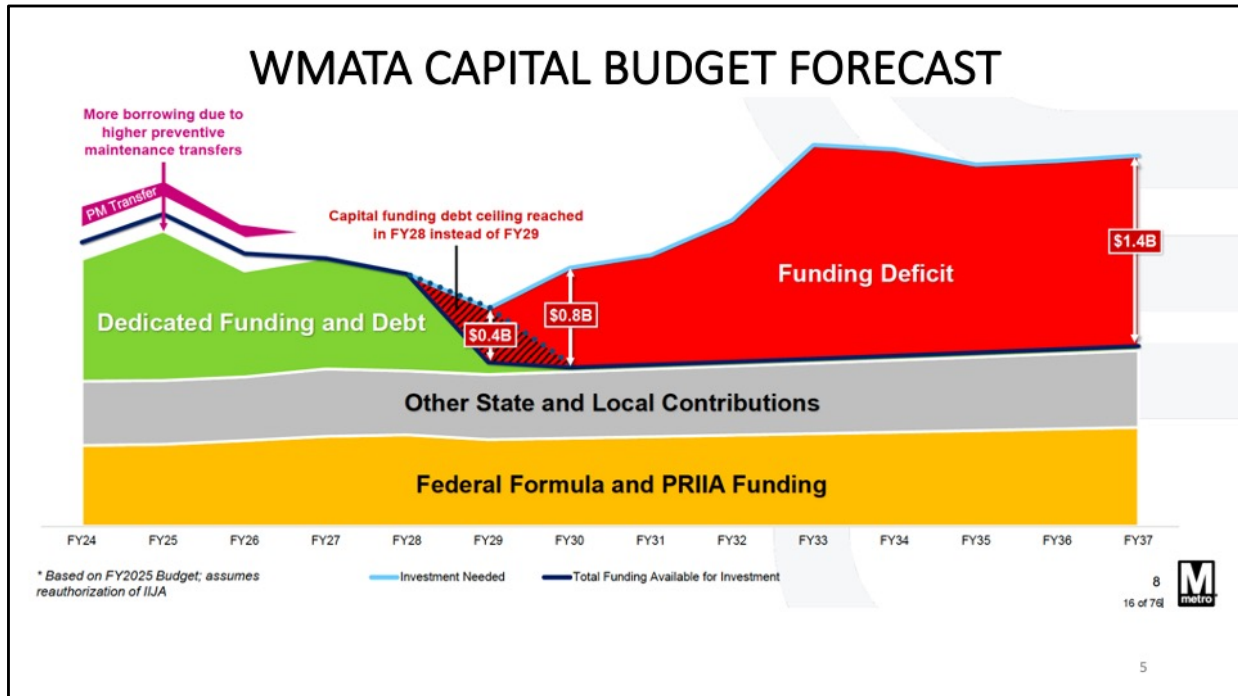


## WMATA OPERATING BUDGET FORECAST



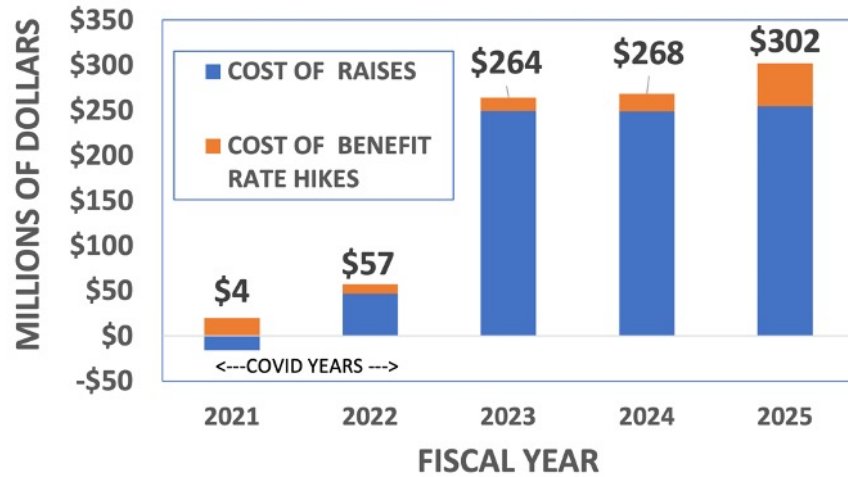
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VA has a commitment for FY25 & FY26, DC is just FY25, Maryland's commitment is for six years (\$150 million in FY25 & 26, \$250 million in FY27-FY30). Salaries and benefits – not transparent, double private sector, no evidence employees leaving for higher pay elsewhere  
 Unelected union-approved arbitrators take decisions away from elected officials



Metro generates maybe \$2B of extra tax revenue for local jurisdictions; used for local gov't salaries and benefits instead of maintenance  
 Most capital funding after FY30 needed to pay debt service.  
 2024 referendum is a deck chair on the Titanic

**FAIRFAX COUNTY SUPERVISORS NOW WANT \$300 MILLION OF TAX INCREASES EACH YEAR FOR RAISES AND BENEFIT RATE HIKES**  
 AFTER IMPLEMENTATION A MEALS TAX WOULD PROVIDE \$3 MILLION (EST.)



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\$600M more from state would prevent only two years of real estate tax hikes.

But because we get only 23 cents back on every tax dollar sent to Richmond, we would have to send \$2.4 billion to Richmond to get \$600 M back

Better to end state control of public schools and fund schools locally.

**1. PENSIONS: COUNTY AND SCHOOL EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATES MUCH MORE COSTLY THAN PRIVATE-SECTOR 401K RATES**

RETIREMENT PLAN	EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE	FUNDED STATUS FROM 2021 TO 2023
PRIVATE 401K	5%	NOT APPLICABLE
COUNTY NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES	33%	FROM 81% TO 67%
POLICE	58%	FROM 90% TO 76%
UNIFORMED	53%	FROM 89% TO 74%
SCHOOL VRS HYBRID	15%	79% on 6/30/22
SCHOOL ERFC	7%	77% on 12/31/23

COUNTY AND SCHOOL EMPLOYER PENSION PAYMENTS COST \$889 MILLION THIS YEAR. ACCOUNTS FOR \$2,000 OF THE REAL ESTATE TAX BILL.

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PENSIONS ARE COLA ADJUSTED AFTER RETIREMENT  
 ALSO GET A REIMBURSEMENT TO PAY FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE IF YOU RETIRE BEFORE MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY  
 HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY BECAUSE OF ANTI-POLICE PRO-RIOTER RHETORIC, SOFT-ON-CRIME PROSECUTORS, SCHOOLS THAT DON'T PROVIDE ECONOMIC MOBILITY, MORE DANGEROUS

\$530M (school)

## 2. RAISES COST \$254 MILLION THIS YEAR – EQUIVALENT TO A \$590 INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE REAL ESTATE TAX BILL

	MRA	STEP INCREASE	AVERAGE INCREASE
NON-UNIFORMED COUNTY	2%	1.83%	3.83%
UNIFORMED – NO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING	2%	2.45%	4.45%
POLICE – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING	8.49%	2.2%	10.69%
FIRE AND RESCUE – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING	5.61%	2.24%	8.73%
ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES	4%	-	4%

### COMPARE TO INFLATION OF 2.5%

PUNISHES EXCELLENCE

COUNTY AVERAGE SALARIES ARE SECRET

NO EVIDENCE OF LEAVING FOR PRIVATE SECTOR

NO EVIDENCE OF TEACHERS LEAVING FOR HIGHER PAY

WHEN WE RAISE SALARIES, NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS RAISE THEIR SALARIES. COLLUSION

COULD NOT AFFORD TO PAY FULL COUNTY MRA, WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN 4.1%  
 COULD NOT AFFORD TO PAY SCHOOL STEP INCREASES



### **3. MEDICAL INSURANCE: “SICK CARE” NOT HEALTH CARE BECAUSE AMERICA IS SICK**

#### TWO CAUSES OF RATE HIKES:

1. LACK OF PRICE COMPETITION
2. EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC DISEASE – DIABETES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, MENTAL ILLNESS, ...

#### THREE CULPRITS:

1. **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:** HIGH-CARB, LEAN-MEAT, LOW FAT FOOD PYRAMID – CAUSES INSULIN RESISTANCE AND INFLAMMATION, WHICH CAUSE CHRONIC DISEASE
  2. **BIG FOOD** GETS HUGE MARKUP ON CHEAP PROCESSED FOODS: ADDED SUGAR, REFINED FLOUR, FACTORY OILS (CANOLA, MAZOLA, ...)
  3. **BIG PHARMA:** HAS NO FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO CURE CHRONIC DISEASE
- RETURN TO “REAL FOOD”, LOW-CARB, MORE MEAT AND SATURATED FAT – WOULD PREVENT AND REVERSE CHRONIC DISEASE
  - **COULD SLASH THE \$1.8 TRILLION FEDERAL DEFICIT WITHOUT CUTTING A PROGRAM. 90% OF MEDICAL SPENDING IS FOR CHRONIC DISEASE**

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SOMEONE SHOULD TELL THIS TO TRUMP, WHO HAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO OBAMACARE, WHICH IS JUSTIFIED BY “PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS”, I.E., CHRONIC DISEASE

## QUESTIONABLE SPENDING

“The WMATA CIP includes safety and system maintenance projects needed to reach a state of good repair, new rail cars and power upgrades for running eight car trains, additional buses for operating Priority Corridor Networks, rail station improvements to increase the capacity of the Metrorail system infrastructure, and facility renovations to support zero-emission goals,” county staff said in a report for the board.

*From Fairfax County to request bond funding for Metro, public safety renovations – ffxnow.com June 26, 2024*

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WHY GO TO EIGHT-CAR TRAINS IF RIDERSHIP IS DOWN?

CLIMATE ALARMISTS ONLY PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF WARMING AND MORE CO2 BUT NOT OF ANY EXISTING CRISIS.

SEE <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2024/billion-dollar-disasters-climate-change-economy/>

“The White House did not answer detailed questions about how it reconciles its interpretation of the dataset with the consensus that global warming has played a relatively small role in rising disaster costs.”

## **IF YOU CARE ABOUT METRO, VOTE “NO” ON THE FAIRFAX COUNTY 2024 TRANSPORTATION BOND**

- **GIVE A WAKE-UP CALL TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ABOUT USING METRO-GENERATED TAX REVENUE FOR SALARIES AND BENEFITS INSTEAD OF METRO MAINTENANCE.**
- **IF COUNTY AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WANT GREATER-THAN-INFLATION RAISES AND BENEFITS, THEN THEY SHOULD RUN A COUNTY WHERE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AND EXISTING TAX REVENUES INCREASE FASTER THAN INFLATION**
  - **TO PROVIDE UPWARD MOBILITY, FCPS NEEDS TO RETURN TO PHONICS AND ARITHMETIC DRILL IN THE CRUCIAL K-3 GRADES**
  - **COUNTY SHOULD BE THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY IN THE NATION**
  - **SJ28 PROPOSED TAX HIKES ARE BUSINESS-HOSTILE**