



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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**Supervisor Pat Herrity**  
**Board Matter**  
**Citizen Task Force on Tax Revenue and Expenditures**  
**May 10, 2022**

**Background:** During public budget testimony and at our budget town halls, the Board of Supervisors heard from a large number of residents on the impact of rising assessments and the resulting real estate tax increases on the affordability of living in Fairfax County. Over the last several decades, past Boards took different approaches to address these concerns.

Prior to Fiscal Year 2000, there were several commissions and task forces formed to address County revenues and expenditures, emphasizing efficiency and fiscal restraint. From the Cole Commission under then-Chairman Tom Davis to the Task Force on Revenues and Expenditures under then-Chairman Kate Hanley. More recently we had the Line of Business Reviews under then-Chairman Sharon Bulova. These provided a forum for citizens of diverse backgrounds with fiscal expertise to review the County's revenue and expenditures, sharing feedback to the Board year-round outside of the annual budget process.

Based on the testimony we heard from numerous citizens on the impact of the tax increase and the recommendations of organizations like the McLean Citizens Association and the Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations, I believe it is time for this Board to convene a group of citizens to review the budget for areas where we can provide services more efficiently and reduce the impact on our residents. This group would hopefully be comprised of constituents with demonstrated budget expertise from diverse backgrounds for the purpose of providing recommendations on how the county can provide quality services in a more cost-effective manner, provide options for revenue diversification, and provide options to address the reduced commercial tax base with the goal of reducing the cost of government and the tax burden on County residents and businesses. Our County Executive and Office of Management and Budget staff do an incredible job each year balancing the County budget, finding savings, and proposing greater efficiencies to the Board. As staff work under the direction of this Board, a citizen budget review group would provide a greater diversity of perspectives on the budget, which may aid this Board and staff in those efforts.

**Motion:** Accordingly, Mister Chairman, I move that we direct the County Executive to review the models used by the County in the past as well as current best practices for such efforts and report back to the Board at an upcoming Budget Committee meeting with his findings and a recommendation on a direction forward.

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