Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Eliminate the new Director of Homeless Prevention and use the money more wisely covering the current deficit. I thought the county has a "hiring freeze?"

I would like to suggest the elimination of the early release at the elementary schools on Mondays. This would decrease the number of hours paid to SACC personnel and should save on some transportation costs since Monday would then have the same busing schedule as Tues-Fri. I don't recommend it, but if the school year were shortened because of the added classroom hours, it would decrease the cost of having the building open those days eliminated. Needless to say, I feel this change would be very beneficial to the children as well. Other counties have already eliminated their early release without any issues.

Why not have employees who are eligible to retire do so?

Thank you for sharing the Budget 2010. Rather than implementing the RIF procedures to eliminate 400 filled positions, is it possible that County employees can share the burden by adding more furlough days as was implemented on Jan 2nd? I would think it would be devastating to loose a job in this climate adding more misery to the already bleak economy, possibly causing more home foreclosures and decreased tax collection revenue. Thank you.

Please provide for all the funds that were requested by Fairfax County Schools. Fairfax County Public Schools have a national reputation for excellence, and this part of the County expenditures is crucial. It is an investment in the future of our county, as well as the state and country, to continue to provide the very best education possible for our children. Thank you for your attention.

I would like to know how much money Fairfax county spends annually on maintaining its fleet of trash, recycling and refuse disposal vehicles (to include leaf removal), versus the amount of money it takes in from fees in from select taxpayers who are the beneficiaries of these service. I maintain that the county could greatly reduce a strain on its available dollars if it eliminates the waste management service that it provides to a small portion of the county's residents and require those residents to contract with private providers like the majority of county residents. This would enable the county to reduce the number of vehicles that it maintains, and all the operational costs associated with said vehicles, including fuel and maintenance.

Since there was a consideration to cut fire stations (though it was not recommended in the current proposal), were other significant changes looked at in the fire/EMS sector? Fairfax County could substantially cut costs by utilizing more volunteer EMT's. There are quite a few volunteers who live in Fairfax County but travel to other counties for better volunteer opportunities. By increasing a volunteer staff by designating specific volunteer only squads, or increasing volunteers overall, Fairfax County could maintain proper EMS without the same cost to the overall budget. It would also increase opportunities for volunteers to stay in their own county instead of traveling great distances, which ends up costing them more money for doing good civic works.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I would like to know what the average impact is to employees that reside within the County. Although the County Executive noted in his presentation that he is not proposing a reduction to staff salaries, much of what is included in the budget will negatively impact salaries. For example - no merit, plus increase in tax rate, plus decal tax, plus increase in heath insurance premium and an increase in SACC. I am certain that all employees that reside in the County will be making less next year than this year. In fact it seems like a double whammy - you get hit has an employee and as a resident.

I think it is shameful that the FCPS account for 54% of the budget but have taken no reductions in terms of dollars or personnel while the County side is proposing to cut 524 positions. Are you telling me that the schools have absolutely no where they can tighten up? While I understand the need for reductions and how difficult some of those decisions must be, I find it appalling that the schools did not have to do anything.

Let's see a little more equity between the schools and the county - county shouldn't loose all those positions, freeze salaries and increase health insurance with the schools don't have to look for any reductions.

How can you disseminate the county's budget and not even touch schools? They should have to come up with reductions too.

Schools should have to take cuts as well. How can they be exempt when they account for over 50% of the budget??

INSTEAD OF THE RIF,,, HOW ABOUT YOU ENFORCING MANDATORY RETIREMENT!! THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO NEED TO AND SHOULD RETIRE!! I CAN COUNT AT LEAST 6 PEOPLE IN THE DEPARTMENT I WORK AT THAT SHOULD RETIRE NOW!!!! IF THESE PEOPLE RETIRE THEY STILL HAVE MONEY COMING IN, VS THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE LET GO! I THINK EVERYONE SHOULD TAKE A REDUCTION IN PAY. GRADES 23 AND LESS SHOULD TAKE 2 TO 3%, GRADES 24 AND UP TAKE A 5% TO 10% PAY CUT! IF COMPANIES AROUND THE UNITED STATES ARE TAKING A PAY CUT TO ENSURE PEOPLE HAVE JOBS, SHOULDN'T WE BE DOING THAT TOO!!!!! THINK ABOUT IT!

Restructuring County to a 4 day work week (Friday or Monday closed) should have received greater consideration as this structure would have significantly reduced operational costs by eliminating associated costs (eg, building security, utilities, maintenance, etc.) while increasing service to public by providing extended access in morning and afternoon. This structure would also reduce traffic, and pollution.

My husband and I depend upon the School Aged Child Care for our children so that we can work full time. SACC is already not meeting the needs of the working parent population in Fairfax since there are many children on the wait list. Any reduction in the SACC budget would negatively impact the amount of quality childcare available.

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Here is an example of County excess: The Fairfax Connector runs VRE shuttle service from the Burke Centre Station, even after the County builds a multimillion dollar parking garage. At most 30 people per day use the service, yet two buses spend approximately 8 hours/day running them. Plus another bus usually sits idling in the parking lot with a third driver for some unknown reason. And to top it off, a supervisor sits in a Fairfax Connector car watching everything. So that's four vehicles and four people, all to move 30 people. Does the County not oversee the Connector Service and manage it?

Fairfax County needs to do a vehicle fleet analysis. It appears that there are many vehicles in the fleet, way to many. Why does the Sheriff Department take their vehicles home? How many managers have cars.

As a Fairfax County taxpayer and parent of 2 elementary school children that attend the School Age Childcare Program (SACC), I am very concerned about the proposed cuts to the SACC budget. The SACC program offers an affordable and convenient childcare option for working parents. The program offered at our school (Colvin Run ES) is also very educational. It is very well managed and offers an enriching before and after school experience for our children. Children participate in various activities like crafts, homework club, drama, and games. Please do not cut SACC's budget. If anything, the County should be thinking about augmenting SACC's budget as it provides a valuable service that is much needed.

Go back to issuing out county stickers for personal property taxes - the last time the county issued them - the county collected about $20,000,000 in revenues just from the sticker purchases - also with enforcement form the police department either by parking tickets or moving violations there will be revenue from that, also the police would be able to join back into the Northern VA Regional Pact and will be able to issue tickets for vehicles from the other jurisdictions that still require city/county stickers and there will be revenue from that also. For example Alexandria city requires stickers on all vehicles(cars,vans,suv's,pickups,motorcycles and all types of trailers) with the price tag for the sticker of $35 a vehicle. - with all the vehicles garaged/registered in the county - do the math.

How can you guys proposed to increase real estate tax to 1.04 per $100 for 2010 from .92 for 2009 in this economy. You guys are crazy! My house assessment did not drop from 2006 to 2008 and it barely dip in 2009. And now you want to increase my taxes again. This proposed increase will cost my family additional $231. The total amount of 1.04 per $100 on 2009 assessment will be highest I'll pay in last 6 years. Reduce more services that is not critical (police and fire department are critical as an example) and STOP the wasteful spending.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I believe the benefits the county provides people who are not in the US legally is far greater than is being dealt with in Fairfax County. We are actually cutting jobs and services to people who do pay taxes and have come here according to our nations laws, yet we still provide to people who have not followed the laws to be here and as found in many instances are criminals in their own countries. Let's say this illegal population represents a 1% of our county population and these people receive $100.00 per month in some form of assistance.. that adds up to $12,000,000.00 dollars in one year - and is extremely conservative. That is a hell of a lot more than saved by having furlough days and could save many if not all of the job cuts for the legally working individuals in our county. I'm not against immigration or providing service to the poor and needy but do it legally, just simply check the status of people before giving them with money, especially if you are going to take away (more in taxes, possible layoff, less security, reducing school services.....) from my family that does what the law tells me to.

Since this is a rough time for everyone, I would like to see all of us share the burden instead of kicking 400-500 people on the street. I didn't see any mention of additional furlough days in the budget. So many people are out of jobs and struggling and I can't see some of us being comfortable while others are at risk of losing so much. I would like to see private organizations do this as well-it just seems much more practical. Please think about extra furlough days so that everyone does a little suffering instead of some doing a lot of suffering.

This may be an opportunity to make structural changes to various county agencies for the sake of efficiency and with the goal of increased productivity. A mandate should be issued for each department to downsize by say 15% within 3 years utilizing tools such as early retirement and early buy-outs and regular attrition. The early retirement can be structured to allow employees to retire up to 3 years early with a reduced benefit based on the number of years serves and using existing benefit formulas. Employees who chose to retire early will have to use the majority of their leave towards retirement benefit calculation in lieu of cashing out their leave. Department Directors should be asked to utilize vacancies created by early retirements and buyouts to restructure and meet the 15% downsizing goal. Of course, the DROP program should be discontinued to encourage more eligible employees to retire either as scheduled or early.

As a parent of children in public schools and the spouse of a Health Department Clinic Room Aide (CRA), the proposal to reduce the hours of the work week for a CRA is troubling. The CRA is an integral part of the school. A Public Health Nurse (PHN) cannot be present in every school and the CRA is the stand-in. The CRA provides health care from before school starts until the school day ends. To reduce the hours of the 35 hour work week of a CRA will put children at risk. The CRA's have specific training that allows them to work out individual health plans with the PHN for special needs children and for those children with chronic conditions that require continuous monitoring. The removal of CRA substitute limited term positions will already put the children at risk because when the CRA is out of work for vacation or illness, then the only back-up will be the Public School office admin personnel that are untrained in the health field. To Reduce CRA hours even further will endanger the children even more. Please reconsider this proposal.

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I think it is very sad to close Chantilly mental health. There are a lot of people that cannot make it to the other sites therefore they will be cast out into the streets or even mental hospitals. The people that need us the most and the doors are being shut for them. I know the economy is bad but when you look at all the waste by the employees and managers that there is you would find that keeping the people around who work the hardest are paid for what they do. I know that by eliminating the time wasted by managers on personal business would greatly decrease the budge problems you are having now. It is sad that the managers will retain their pay and the rest who put in tireless hours trying to help will be dumped and all the things that they tried to do will be in vain. I know this isn't the happiest of times but if managers were accountable with the collection of the monies for income updates, the revenue for people that need to pay when they come in etc this would right the budget in so many ways. accountability of the managers and remember the little people are what makes the company thrive

The DFS budget has too many cuts to front line workers with no cuts or consideration of cuts to upper management positions which would be both cost effective and would provide less direct impact on our service delivery.

I think it is very sad to close Chantilly mental health. There are a lot of people that cannot make it to the other sites therefore they will be cast out into the streets or even mental hospitals. The people that need us the most and the doors are being shut for them. I know the economy is bad but when you look at all the waste by the employees and managers that there is you would find that keeping the people around who work the hardest are paid for what they do. I know that by eliminating the time wasted by managers on personal business would greatly decrease the budge problems you are having now. It is sad that the managers will retain their pay and the rest who put in tireless hours trying to help will be dumped and all the things that they tried to do will be in vain. I know this isn't the happiest of times but if managers were accountable with the collection of the monies for income updates, the revenue for people that need to pay when they come in etc this would right the budget in so many ways. accountability of the managers and remember the little people are what makes the company thrive

If you close Chantilly mental health it will be a grave mistake, The people that rely on this site for so many things will be devastating to those that need to get help. They cannot go to other sites they don't have the means to go farther what will happen to them. Look at all the waste by the managers and you will see that this is an immense problem. Look to the wasted times and them taking advantage of the little people that made them look good. Remember people because the ones you shut out may not survive otherwise. Look to the waste that the managers do and are not accountable for. It is a shame what goes on with the managers doing personal business on company time. Look to this please and keep Chantilly open for the poor people that need us

Please do not discontinue health insurance benefits for part time employees. Many families depend on this and do not have other options for affordable health insurance!

I know this is a difficult time and appreciate Mr. Griffin's FY 2010 budget proposal. I personally think freezing employees' salaries is both necessary and fair at this time of economic crisis. I know that our County leaders are faced with unpleasant choices, and I wish them continued stamina and good health. Thank you.

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Please don't raise the tax rate. While you were lowering the tax rate in recent years, you specifically said you were not lowering it as much as you might have, because you didn't want to raise it if real estate values fell. You should have planned for this. Now deal with it! Suggestion: CUT THE SCHOOL BUDGET. Their budget doubled in just a few years as housing prices rose, far outpacing the student population. They were fine before that. Go back to that level of funding. For big cuts: Eliminate school buses. Eliminate school libraries. Seriously. Think about it.

I see the drunken sailor that is the Fairfax County Government has decided to continue on its merry way. The 2010 proposal will increase my Real Estate taxes $400 a year. This while in my own job, I have not a raise that kept up with inflation in over 5 years, my pension frozen, and the 401K match eliminated. I feel so privileged to subsidies the bloated teacher salaries and spending on those who don't work.

Please be very mindful of how you make choices on what to cut. There is no doubt that cuts must be made, but when you take services e.g. homeless mental health, day treatment, MH in the jail, co-occurring disorder and women's tx programs away from the consumers in this county, you are creating hazards to public and personal safety. Direct services to our most vulnerable, and may I say voiceless, residents is not the way to go. Look at the CSB Management for cuts. Do we really need a "Clinical director, 2 QA directors, etc. We do not need more management, we need direct service providers. And what about our mandates since Va Tech and from Beeman? We cannot meet these with reduced direct service. People may die without access to our direct service. They will not die if a library is closed or a rec center has reduced hours. Nobody dies if a consumer office at the Gov't center has reduced hours. People die, families are torn apart, our jails, emergency rooms and police officers are overloaded if we don't provide these very important services. VA is already 45th in the country in MH spending. Could we possibly do any less?

I am really concerned about people losing their jobs without other options being put on the table. I would prefer to give up part of my pay to help prevent the RIF and prevent people from losing their jobs in this economy. My suggestions are: 1) Forgo the pay for performance this year, as well as next 2) More furlough days - once a month, or whatever is needed, to save money and improve the budget

Shutting the Chantilly Mental Health site is a horrible idea - it will effectively cut out services to extremely vulnerable citizens of Fairfax County. I understand that moving employees out of rented space will save money, but why not move the whole team to space in the government complex? Ellie's Deli is moving out; why not put mental health services there? That would still be manageable, in terms of transportation for the clients served by Chantilly mental health - and will put them closer to other services they may already be accessing (eligibility, DFS, etc.).

I am a county employee and resident of 17 years. At our President's inauguration, Barack Obama suggested that workers have their hours cut, rather than have layoffs. I think this is a great idea for many reasons. One, more people make more money and have more benefits. This helps the individual and the County. With RIFS we would also be giving out a generous severance package, and get nothing in return. A smaller sacrifice from the many is a better way then a very large sacrifice from the few.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

My suggestion for the upcoming FY2010 budget would be to require that cats be licensed in Fairfax County. In fact, other VA localities, such as the City of Chesapeake, have this requirement in the books. Across the country, you will find that a large number of counties, cities, etc., have this cat fee in place. Although I do not like to increase taxes/fees or create new ones, hard times obligate us to think outside of the box. If dogs have to be licensed, why not cats? I understand that some cat owners may dislike this comment, but WE ALL must share in the pain of hard budgetary times. It is only fair.

We are SICK and TIRED of the yearly out of control real estate property tax increases and we don't want more tax rate escalations! My property tax has increased yearly an average of 20 to 30 percent for the last few years. I cannot describe the anger my neighbors and I feel about this situation. The Board of Supervisors squandered our hard earned taxes during the good times. $6000 for "I Voted" stickers...puleeeze! This archaic method of raising taxes MUST be restructured and I have a couple of suggestions: 1. Property taxes should be linked to family income, not some arbitrary, subjective value determined by the tax assessor. Too many people on fixed income are forced out of their homes because their taxes are beyond their means. I few years ago, I successfully won a real estate tax reduction on my house because I pointed out the arbitrariness of this system to the Fairfax County Board of Equalization. or 2. Property taxes should be paid ONLY at the time of purchase/sale. It is at this time the TRUE VALUE of property is established. Yes, we are all in a financial crunch and state and county governments must find ways to cut expenses. I would suggest that Governor Kaine ask each and every state and county employee to look around in his workplace and find ways to cut expenses by 50%. If it means saving paperclips and reusing paper, so be it. More taxes is not the answer. No society has ever taxed itself into wealth.

How much does the County spend in paying speaker fees? While it is impressive and a pleasure to hear the speeches of those writers, humanitarians, and other highly regarded individuals, I have to think that their speaker fees are in the thousands, if not tens of thousands, of dollars. I think that is a luxury that the County cannot afford right now. I feel that the County should eliminate this altogether, or cut it back drastically. Thank you.

Please do not close the Groveton Senior Center. Fairfax has already closed other senior centers and consolidated. This is the only relief for spouses and families of the disabled. My parents have paid many, many taxes for 40-some years, and this is a vital service. My father is a veteran with severe Alzheimer's. We should put our own senior citizens before funding thousands of immigrants and their dependents.

The first round of meetings showed that the public values the services of clinic room aides in the schools. The health department has proposed cutting the hours and services of clinic room aides anyhow. They are not cutting the hours of administrative staff or management staff. The only hours being cut are for the lowest paid people who deliver direct services to a needy population of sick and injured children. This should not be allowed to occur. I

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please look into the use of take home vehicles, again. I know for a fact that there are several take home vehicles that leave the County each night. They have been falsely justified for many years by claiming they report to emergency situations after hours when this is simply not true. The true reason is they want to be able drive unmarked hybrid vehicles in HOV lanes and be able to park those unmarked vehicles in their neighborhood and avoid HOA citations. The unmarked vehicle also provides an easy opportunity for other misuse. How can a Supervisor demand that employees report after hours and on weekends even though they have long commutes while the Supervisor drives free in a County vehicle? How does this happen you may ask. When it is an agency head that is providing the false justification and DVS has no reason to question that justification, any oversight becomes non-existent.

DO NOT remove the MA 2 position from the FCFRD volunteer liaison office. The removal of this one position will eliminate the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team in its entirety. Do you have any idea what the CERT program offers to the residents of this county? In times of overwhelmingly large disasters; trained CERT members help their neighbors and their own families when regular emergency response organizations are overwhelmed. We become citizens that can HELP; rather than just being another hapless disaster victim overloading already taxed response resources. CERT is paid for with DHS homeland security grant money-not county funds! We just need an effective administrator. ONE administrator. With the removal of the MA2 we lose our ENTIRE program. As one of the over 500 trained CERT members in ffx. county; I find this action extremely shortsighted and dangerously irresponsible. Your budget action removes the ability for county residents to take useful, well managed and cost effective training to help themselves and others in times of major disaster. 1390 career firefighters are administered by 130 admin personnel-500 volunteer firefighters AND 500 CERT members are administered to by TWO people-and you want to eliminate one of them? Here's my budget suggestion-eliminate one of the 130 admin people taking care of the career firefighters-and let the MA 2 position in the office of the volunteer liaison stay employed. As a taxpayer it is abundantly clear who, and what office is giving me more for my taxpayer money!

Cutting policemen and firemen seems extreme in a county of our size, with its close proximity to our Nation's Capitol. It seems to me that there are other programs that could go before public safety.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As the economy is teetering on recession and many families in Fairfax County are struggling financially, I am stunned that an increase in property taxes is even being considered. I understand that a budget crisis exists resulting from the economic downturn, but families have a budget crisis of their own to contend with. Our property values have dropped dramatically and our tax assessment should drop to reflect that, not increase the assessment percentage to make up for a shortfall in the County budget. Fairfax County officials must look for ways to assist County residents as we try to survive during America's financial crisis, not increase taxes to make up for a lack of funds in the budget. Many of us have lost a tremendous amount of money in our 401K accounts and retirement accounts; we are losing our jobs, or if we are fortunate enough to keep our jobs, we are not getting raises to help us keep up with ever rising costs of everything-food, water, utilities, and education. We are struggling just to pay the food, gas, water and electric bills that have increased dramatically as those companies are also passing on their shortfalls to the public. This is absolutely not the time to increase any taxes in Fairfax County-you need to cut to budget to reflect the money that you will have coming in-just as we have had to do. We cannot go to our employers and say, "I need more money because I cannot balance my personal budget." We cut our budget to adjust to our income. It is only fair that Fairfax County does the same as its citizens-recognize that we are in hard economic times and tighten the belt. Thank you.

The removal of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is a detriment to the safety and security of the citizens of the County. The CERT program not only prepares ordinary citizens to act in extraordinary situations, such as a natural disaster, it also prepares them to handle everyday emergencies. These skills are paramount to inculcate a culture of preparedness which is lacking within our society today. Millions of dollars in federal monies have been spent to better prepare our citizens to take care of themselves during a time of crisis so as to relieve overworked emergency services workers who may not be able to respond to the citizens needs. By turning its back on the CERT, the county is turning its back on better preparing their citizens to be more self-reliant and less dependant on the County's services. The CERT also assists in other non-emergency events, such as Celebrate Fairfax and other similar type events. I ask the County reconsider killing this important program for the safety of its citizens.

I think a 14% increase in the tax rate is way too high. Even though the claims are only a mere $14 per month increase. In figuring out our neighborhoods increase, our homes lost apprx 7%, and with the new rate, we not only are paying an increase of 7% (apprx an additional $600) a year, we will now be paying more than we did in 2005 when our home values were much much higher. I think you need to make deeper cuts. Why not cut the programs that started the years that home values were rising astronomically (2002 thru 2006) which allowed the increased revenue stream. The stream is now gone, so should the new projects/.programs that they funded. I can understand the need to raise the rate some, but 14% is way too high, start with 7%, or even 10%. And look at cutting the new programs.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am glad Fairfax CERT is going away. It is just a liability nightmare for Fairfax with heroes who are not properly trained saving the day. They don't have background checks, they have no true leadership and no deployment plan. Just go take an online course and some classroom training then get a backpack and save your neighbor when the fire department does not show up. Time to not only cut that position, but also the other position in that department. If the program was so needed, then why did they put it on the chopping block. And if the fire department does not think it is needed, why should you. Good job on keeping this on the chopping block. The fire department and xxx xxxx, xxx xxxx, and xxx Xxxx should all be proud of the wasted taxpayer dollars in this program over the past 5 years. Time for all of that to go away! But do not believe me. Ask anyone of those people for one story where the program has helped one person over the past 5 years. Pick up the phone right now, give any of the three a call and just ask them on the spot. If it were such a great program, they would be able to list one success of the program, right?

On the matter of the Planning Commission merge, I don't believe you are aware of their reputation which is partly related to the fact that they are a separate entity and easily found online. This commission website is hit an enormous amount of times due to that reputation (see our newsletter). I just had a call this morning from a student (we get a lot of student calls as part of their studies) from a student in NYC who was told by a person in Nassau County that the Fairfax County Planning Commission should be her source of study because they are considered to be more intellectual. I told her that we have an intellectual citizenry. I hate to see us get diluted under another agency where we won't be able to function as well.

Once again, the shell game that is played at assessment time has proven what I've known for 20 years. The BOS will never ever stop spending more and more and more money. Believe me, you think everyone who lives here is an idiot and will continue taking this abuse, but the never ending tax increases will only bring a Proposition 13 to this county. I can't wait to leave this county. It's quickly approaching Manhattan.

Thank you for reading my comments about the FY 2010 budget. Before Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team please think twice. This is a game a person in the fire department is playing with you. We were told by the fire coordinator to contact each board of supervisor to keep the position in the volunteer liaison office. Government worker are having people in the community do their dirty work. To solve the budget problem him position should go away and keep Ms. xxxx. She has been there forever and deserves to stay. Mr. Xxxx is new and not from around here. Please keep Ms. xxxx and reconsider keeping Mr. xxxx. If Mr. Xxxx claims he is too busy to keep the CERT program, then please look at Mr. Xxxx's abilities to do his job. A volunteer can do his job why cannot Mr. Xxxx.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- You increase property tax and lower real estate assessments? - Your creating a fee for storm water management, who hasn't come out in two years to clear their "10 feet" from the drain. I'll send you the bill from our grounds company.

I live in Winchester and I see a Fairfax County Fire & Rescue pick-up truck driving to the Winchester area in the evenings?? I believe it is from the Apparatus department? Please explain why the Fire & Rescue Department is wasting money for that truck to travel to the Winchester area??? They need to stop the take home car policy!!!!

As a former resident of Fairfax County, who still pays real estate property taxes in the county, I was dismayed to learn of the proposed closing of the Reston/Farady Psychosocial program. My sister is a peer counselor in the program for almost 4 years. She has suffered from severe mental health issues for over 25 years, and this is the first program that has provided her with not only a therapeutic structure, but an opportunity to give back to the community. During a recent conversation, she told me that while she had been encouraged to apply for disability under Social Security, her position with the Reston/Farady program was too important to her psychological and physical well being to leave, even though economically she would likely be better off collecting Social Security. The Reston/Farady program serves over 75 adults with mental health disabilities; if the program is not continued, there are no similar programs in the county to meet the psychosocial needs of the clients. I will recommend that the Board of Supervisors look to other areas in the county budget to trim and/or cut, and not balance Fairfax County's budget on the backs of a vulnerable population with mental health disabilities. i would further submit that in the long run closure of the program will cost the County more in terms of providing alternative social services and mental health assistance to the Reston/Faraday clients.

I know that reduction is something essential for the next year budget, but this does not have to touch essential public safety as fire and rescue or police .We do not need any reduction in force in these two fields because fire ,EMS and police are doing a great job and they put their life in danger to save our lifes and our properties and we should appreciate that not get rid of them. Thanks.

The SACC Program is a lifeline for working parents. I raised my son in SACC and am now raising a daughter in 3rd grade at Greenbriar East. I work full-time and am able to do so knowing my daughter is safe within the school building before and after school. The SACC teachers are a vital asset to the County and provide parents with peace of mind. If this program is cut in any way it will impact hard working families. With the struggling economy it will make it harder for families to make ends meet and place a greater risk in the community for families to lose their homes. To afford to live in Fairfax County both parents have to work and SACC makes it affordable to live and thrive here. Please do not cut this program. I am the SACC Parent Advisor for GBE. Thank you for your serious consideration of this vital program for Fairfax county working parents.

The county needs to get rid of its language access coordinator and any and all Multi-Cultural outreach positions

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

The library's check-out system where receipts are printed for checkouts is very environmentally unfriendly and extremely costly! That paper is NOT FREE. I have suggested several times to the Library system that they make the receipts OPTIONAL. I do not want or need them, and many people manage their library accounts online, they also do not need these receipts.

I am concerned about the proposed cutting of the SACC budget. I feel SACC is crucial to working families. I personally am a single mother with two young daughters, a first grader and rising kindergartener. SACC has been a lifesaver on teacher workdays, spring/winter breaks and summer break from school. Please do not cut funding for this very important program that so many parents rely and depend on. Thank you.

In order to reduce the expense of lawn care and maintenance use inmates who are of a less risk to the community (traffic, misdemeanor, and minor property crimes while supervised by Deputy Sheriff's. This should be something that occurs at EVERY County facility/building including the Government Center complex.

Please do not eliminate COLA's for retirees - it is their only means of annual salary increases and hope of keeping up with inflation. Thank you.

Do a complete review of ALL public safety agencies which uses "sworn" or "certified" positions to do the work that a "civilian" employee who has the training or education to do such a job. For example, having a sworn individual completing or supervising a unit that prepares the budget doesn't make as much sense as using a civilian employee who has the experience or education in that field. The same holds true for the public safety agencies who use sworn personnel in their Benefits, Personnel, Applicant Screening/Processing, Inmate Accounts/Commissary, EEO offices. Many civilians have the training, education, experience to do such jobs which would SAVE due to the difference in salary scale and benefits received by civilians than that of sworn employees.

Dear powers that be, Please consider keeping the Wakefield Senior Center open. It is a center that allows seniors to maintain their physical fitness since it is part of a rec center. One way to keep out of a nursing home bed is to have strong legs and the best way to do that is to use weight machines. The rec center has them next to the senior center. Thank you for looking beyond the cents and look to the dollars.

Please fire xxx Xxxx and keep the CERT program.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As a relatively newly appointed member of the Fairfax County Citizens Corps Council, I urge you not to eliminate the position of the Management Analyst II in the Volunteer Liaison Office. I am currently taking a CERT 1 class and the Management Analyst has arranged for me to receive CERT 2 certification by taking the last two classes of the CERT 2 course in May. I have been committed to the Citizens Corp since it began, attempting first with the police program, which never got off the ground, and then joining the Biomedical Reserve Program. The loss of the Management Analyst position will be a severe detriment to the continuation of the CERT program. Should Fairfax County experience a major disaster or act of terrorism, the County will need its CERT volunteers, in addition to public safety employees, to minimize the potential loss of life and property. More and more citizens are becoming involved in disaster management, and in this economy, it is more likely that violence and other forms of disaster will occur. To cut out part of the life of the program is an impractical decision by the County -- we need the Management Analyst position to communicate CERT course availability and handle all the required paperwork. Why are there heavy hits (cuts) in the public safety area, yet transportation doesn't seem to be much affected? Priorities should be re-evaluated -- in the long term, what is the most important duty the County has to its residents -- TO KEEP THEM SAFE.

Please do not cut the budget for Herndon Senior Center. Thanks

Thank you for allowing the people to comment on the budget. It is sad police programs are going away. The volunteer ones save tax payer dollars and provide more services on the road and in the field. You should look first at the fire programs and see if CERT should get cut and all the volunteer liaison positions with it. Have a fire chief take on that job. You should keep xxx xxxx and cut xxx Xxxx position. Thank you for your time.

Of the 542 people who may be Riffed, how many of those positions do you think may be for Administrative Assistant II slots?

Mr. Griffin, I applaud you for your recommendations. Can I also recommend that you take away all funding from VolunteerFairfax or make them accountable? I do not see them as more than just a job board for volunteers. To prove their value, go ask anyone in the lobby or cafeteria if they know of any volunteer projects VolunteerFairfax has done or if they know if anyone who has volunteered with them.

This is a time of tight budgets for all of us... not just for the county but for our families as well. In many cases we are learning to either do more with less money, or do without while the economy struggles. I think the county should shoulder it's responsibilities and do the same!! I would ask that you find a way to not increase our tax burden. Under the proposed rate increase of 13.5 cents per $100 of assessed value, my taxes would increase by $306!!! With an rate increase of 8 cents per $100 of assessed value I come close to breaking even. Please find a way to keep our tax burdens either lower than before or at most equal with our current burden.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I have reviewed the proposed FY2010 budget proposal. I have concerns with your proposed fees for organization application fees and tournament fees. The proposal is for: organization fee to increase from $5.50/player to $13.00/player (a 136% increase), and the tournament application fee from $15 to $35 per team (a 133% increase). These people that will be paying the additional fees will be mostly COUNTY RESIDENTS whose children are playing in the sports of the organization. 133 - 136 % increase is HUGE. Further, you propose an increase for out of county adult fee from $20 to $30 per person, which is only a 50% increase. The non-county resident users are only proposed to have a 50% increase, where you are increasing the costs to county residents 133-136%. I applaud your addition of charging youth out of county $30 per person. They don't pay taxes in our county, they should pay high fees to use our facilities and fields. However, I think that your fee increase being a higher percentage for county residents needs to be changed. I would suggest that you change the proposed out of county adult fee to be $45 (closer to the 133% increase). Again, they don't pay taxes here, they should pay a higher fee to use our facilities. As for the fees for organization applications, I think you need to charge different fees for adults and children. We WANT kids to play in sports, which keeps them occupied and out of trouble. We can't afford to price their participation out of the program. I suggest you charge less for youth than for the adults: $10.00 organization fee per youth player for in-county organizations for youth sports; $13.00 per adult organization application fee. This will, especially, make it easier for families with multiple children to keep them in sports. The economic times are hard on families; raising their fees for each child $136% is too much. If need be, the adult organization application fee could be raised to $14 or $15, although not recommended because that would be a large increase than you increased out of county users. This alternative for charging will (a) increase the percentage for out of county users to the same percentage you proposed for in county residents and (b) will reduce the impact on families who have youth participate in sports (and thereby keep more youth participating in sports) (c) charges a lower fee for children than adults for in county as well as out of county. (adult use of fields definitely impacts fields more, possibly equipment in schools as well).

This county needs to follow the lead of Prince William County in order to cut its expenses: You need to work on removing illegal aliens from the county with cooperation with ICE. Frankly, the reason you are having an increase in people needing assistance is that there are so many illegals around the county asking for it. If the county were to be checking the legal status of those they are providing assistance to, and only provided assistance to those with a legal presence, and sent those that were not legally present to the immigration officials, then our county would be saving a large amount of money. In addition, the illegal aliens are reducing property values with their group houses in otherwise nice neighborhoods. The property values go down, so the taxes the county can receive are reduced. In addition, the illegal aliens do not pay the taxes they should on their cars, for their state taxes, etc. That is costing the county in lost revenues. In addition, the illegal aliens, many of them, are involved in crimes and so cost the county for police, incarceration, court fees, etc. Not to mention the costs to the county in property damage. These costs could be reduced by checking legal presence and turning over illegals to ICE. If our county were illegal unfriendly, they will move elsewhere, reducing our costs in the county, just like they did when Prince William County started to turn over illegal aliens to the Federal Government. They moved into our county (Likely the initial reason we have an increase in people asking for assistance). Illegal aliens are COSTING THE COUNTY a lot. If you want to reduce county expenses and have more budget money for improvements and to help LEGAL citizens and immigrants, then the time has come to cooperate with the federal authorities in removing illegal aliens from our county. With these economic times, now is the time to do something before things get worse.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Good Morning Mrs. Chairman and members of the board, As a taxpayer in Fairfax County, I believe the cuts proposed will go a long way in helping get us back on the path to recovery. Before any programs are taken off the potential chopping block, you need to sit in the shoes of those programs for one hour. The police programs you will see are needed. Programs like CERT would go away. Thank you for your time.

More cuts need to be made. Real Estate has depreciated, 401K's have depreciated. Salaries are declining. Additional taxpayer resources are just not there. The county, the state, and the federal gov't need to get real and live on a budget. The county real estate process is a joke, manipulating the tax rate to ensure you get a rising amount of taxes regardless of the situation of real estate value and of the tax payers ability to pay. Get real, folks. Or, get out of Government.

I had hoped to find provisions in the proposed budget to reduce the number of take-home vehicles and prohibit take-home vehicles from going outside the county borders. Am I missing something or are these cost-cutting measures not under consideration?

I understand the problems and challenges that the county and the country are facing in meeting budgets for the year, but the targeted increase in children's sports fees from $5.50 to $13 per player is a bad decision that sends the wrong message to our community. Rather than find fair and equitable ways to raise revenue that shares the burden of our times across the community, we are proposing to target active children with a 130% increase? How is this in any way fair and equitable? I am sure that many families will be able to absorb this increase, but some will not. I know of several that are just managing to keep their children on their teams. These leagues are not cheap, nor are they the top priority in most families' budgets in trying times. With the economy tightening around us, this means is that the county is choosing to force these fringe families to eliminate sports from their children's lives. It is arguable that these are the very children that need these programs the most. Our economic woes do not change the fact that we are still a nation in the midst of an obesity crisis. Even in the worst of times, we should be finding ways to encourage our children to move and be active, not drive them to the sidelines. Sacrificing the health and future of our children to pay for the sins of adults today is an unconscionable thing to do. I strong urge the County to rethink this provision and resolve to find ways to avoid making our children pay the bill for our mistakes.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing you today because my husband, a SACC teacher with Fairfax, has learned that one of the proposed options in addressing the budget shortfalls within the Office for Children is to cut SACC registration. I urge you to please find a way to keep enrollment at its current level. I have one child in SACC and another starting next year. I can't say enough great things about the center at Olde Creek Elementary, and I can't imagine a worse option than downsizing enrollment. Alternative after-school programs are considerably more expensive (and, in the case of the Kindercare in our area, far inferior in quality). Many families surely would have no choice but to pull their kids from after-school programs altogether if SACC were to become unavailable. I understand that SACC fees are based on a sliding scale, and that the County's General Fund supplements money received from these fees. However, I also believe that some adjustment to the scale would be possible, and moving up the scale, families would be able to absorb higher fees. Beyond increasing fees to help with this and next year's budgets, the County's dedicated, talented, and completely wonderful SACC teachers deserve to earn more than $16 or $17 an hour. I've also heard that SACC teachers will be furloughed and receive no pay increase this year. As a family employed by SACC, we are happy to do our part in the spirit of job preservation for all SACC employees; however, as a SACC family, we're also willing to do our part to help out the teachers that so positively influence our kids. Please consider raising rates over cutting services and compensation. Thanks so much for taking the time to read my comments. I appreciate all that you do for Fairfax County.

An idea is to remove all public information officers, photographers, communications people and put them in the PIOs office. Centralize the function. Also, purchase equipment that would require department billback for copies and you will see the county going a lot greener. Also, why do I see government cars at Walmart, fastfood places, etc on off hours when you see the employees grabbing a cup of coffee? Time for a policy that vehicles need to be for official use only. And if there is a policy, enforce it.

Raising the real estate tax is an unacceptable way to close the gap in the budget. While further reductions in programs and services would be difficult, and will definitely impact residents, that is exactly what all residents are required to do in managing household budgets. At a time when property values decline 12%, which reflects a reduction in the value and spending capacity of homeowners, raising the tax rate effectively increases the relative tax burden on all homeowners in the County. I think changes in tax rates should be subject to voter approval, not decided independently by elected and/or appointed representatives. Since we all have a stake in the results (i.e. higher tax bill or reduced services), residents should have a direct say in these decisions.

Dear Mr. Griffin: I am writing to express my hope that you and the County Board of Supervisors do everything in your power to identify additional funding sources for the Fairfax school system and the many critical programs and services that it provides. As you are aware, the FY 2010 Budget request from the School Board does not provide sufficient funds to adequately support a number of new obligations or even ongoing programs. We have confidence that Chairman Storck and the rest of the School Board are prepared to put to immediate use - and for the direct benefit of many schools, teachers, and students - any additional resources that the county can make available. I believe that a significant number of Fairfax residents are more than willing to accept a tax rate higher than now being proposed if that is what it will take to provide adequate services. Those of us with school-aged children believe that you and the Board of Supervisors have a special obligation to ensure that Fairfax maintains its well-earned reputation for giving our children the best possible educational opportunity. We all recognize that Fairfax is not alone in facing very difficult economic times. We

also recognize that not all programs can be supported at the same level as in years past. However, when reductions must be made, we do expect that they will be applied in a reasonable and even-handed way. We also expect that our County officials will demonstrate leadership and innovative thinking in how to better support existing programs and not just give up on them. In the area of athletic activities, we salute the proposal to increase certain user fees in order to offset rising costs and maintain the opportunity for broad-based participation in various sports programs. As part of a longer-term, more strategic approach to meeting future budget constraints, we also believe that use of a similar type of charge - i.e., an "activity fee" - should be explicitly endorsed by the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. As I'm sure you're aware, this is a practice increasingly employed by our neighboring jurisdictions and allows participants to share equally in the defraying the activity's cost. Adopting such a policy would help resolve the egregious and unfair situation, for example, of the sport of Girls Varsity Gymnastics being singled out for elimination. Speakers at the School Board's public hearing have already urged consideration of such a mechanism, consistent with the principle of fairness and "common sense budgeting" when times are tough. Thank you for examining additional avenues for generating an increased level of support for our county's school system. I intend to forward this email to Chairman Bulova and my own district Supervisor, Mr. Frey, so they are also aware of my concerns.

I hope you eliminate all funding to Volunteer Fairfax. Other organizations that operate on a much more cost efficient basis already provide the same service to the community. Over the past three years Volunteer Fairfax has eliminated all its technology initiatives in favor of spending additional funds on staff to perform administrative tasks.

Quit funding Volunteer Fairfax. The entire staff spends considerable time each year managing a program for ExxonMobil and catering to ExxonMobil employees every whim. ExxonMobil can fund its programs completely without precious public funds.

Volunteer Fairfax has a staff of about a dozen people which includes a full-time administrative assistant for the executive director and an office manager. I work for a company with about 50 employees and only one full time office manager. No executives have an admin. Eliminate funding for this bloated organization. If there is a serious community need for this type of organization, then let the community donate to fund it.

More needs to be done to protect core educational services. The impact on FCPS and community education programs is unacceptable in the proposed budget. In particular, care should be taken to negotiate with the school board to avoid excessive increases in class size. Additional money could be diverted temporarily from waste-water management and affordable-housing proposals, although these should be only temporary diversions with a definite sunset clause. FLES and magnet school programs also offer opportunities for savings. GT programs could be run more efficiently by significantly tightening center eligibility requirements and placing more GT support staff in neighborhood schools. Police patrols should be maintained on bike, especially in path-heavy areas like Reston and Herndon. A small portion of car patrols should be cut to maintain bike patrols, especially during the summer months and twilight hours when gang activity tends to be higher along the paths. Rates closer to private-market prices should be charged for all participants not on free/reduced lunch who enroll for summer rec options. We can subsidize opportunities for the needy, but subsidies for the Lexus set are an unwanted burden in tough times.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

The county is losing SO MUCH MONEY with out of state vehicles that never change their plates and are not paying taxes to the county. I know there is a tax evaders web site and have reported vehicles but the checkers are doing a lousy job. When I go back to check the status of my entry it says Tax Liability Not Substantiated when these people have told me that they are avoiding paying. Makes me feel like a fool paying/subsidizing!

Quit raising property taxes and do away with all personal property taxes. Get the money you need my raising the sales tax. The hardest thing for people to do now is to have to come up with lump sums of money. With sales tax everybody is included (not just home owners) and nobody cheats.

I am adamantly opposed to increasing the real estate property tax rate. If housing values have decreased, the beleaguered property owner should not wind up paying more taxes for a devalued property. This is a fundamental issue of fairness and market principles. If this increase goes through, I will immediately start looking for another community to call home. Fairfax county is just too expensive already. I am also opposed to outsourcing the collection of delinquent taxes. The power to levy and collect taxes is a county responsibility. All of us know what a scandalous situation exists among "debt collectors". Don't think for one minute that those excesses will not exist in a program outsourced by the county. If you dare to levy the taxes, be responsible for collecting them.

When the real estate appraisals were going up 20 to30% there was no propose decrease in the real estate rate. You did not have any problem with the money that you were receiving from homeowners. Now that the appraisals are going down your justification for raising the rate is the average homeowner will not see an increase in taxes paid because of this decrease. Well, the average homeowner saw what amounted to a tax increase in real dollars because our appraisals were going up so much each year. We need a break. All governments, Federal, Sate, and local needs to always plan for economic slow downs, so that they are prepared to handle a reduction in taxes collected. It appears that this government did not.

Cut the SACC budget is not a best choice, look at your employees, how many hours did they really working on really job, everybody knew that big problem is overstaffed for the Government workers.

Closing the mental health clinic in Chantilly will have a tremendous burden on those citizens in Western Fairfax county who are mentally ill with limited resources. Many will not be able to travel the additional 10-30 miles to relocate at other clinics to obtain services. Many of these individuals have no cars and there is very limited bus service in the area. Many are walking or riding bikes to the clinic. Some only have elderly parents to transport them. While we all have to make sacrifices it seems that this group of indigent citizens should be left alone. It is not only the physical distance that would make the move difficult, but it is also the emotional toll that it would take. Many will drop out of services and the impact will be far worse that no indoor soccer courts.

Don't take away step increases for teachers. We are already working far beyond contract hours to meet the needs of our students and provide excellent instruction. It's inappropriate to increase class size, reduce resources, increase work load, yet continue to expect teachers to ensure excellence within the classroom. We don't accrue comp time. We have to use leave for every absence despite the many hours we all put in beyond contract; and you want to take away our step! Please don't do it.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Closing mental health facility in Chantilly will make it more difficult for people without the ability to drive or travel alone to get the treatment that they need to maintain productive lives. It seems that only the poor without a voice have to make the biggest sacrifices.

I am glad that you are cutting a volunteer position in the fire department, you should cut both. I have several young children and lots of friends with children in public schools and find it amazing you are cutting the police programs there. Why not cut all the volunteer paid positions in the fire department and make the stations report up to a captain and not a volunteer liaison. Time to get rid of the dead wood or at very least align their salary for the work they do. Go spend a day in the life of the volunteer liaison. You as BOS could do a better job with no experience in that space. He should have been fired long ago.

Have students make use of the public libraries in our county. They are underused by teens. Money can be saved. Allow students to volunteer more in various ways for various rewards, ie: extra credit, homework passes, recognition, or just a big thank you from a teacher. Surely money can be saved by allowing teens to help out in small ways.

Please keep the Senior Plus Program at the Lorton Senior Center. It has been very useful and helpful to our Center.

For years now drugs and crime persist. Any cuts focusing on the police and sheriff departments should be withdrawn. As a resident of the county for 30 years Mount Vernon in particular I feel more vulnerable if these resources are reduced. As a Fed I often see recognition of these organizations. To impair their function in any real or perceived way could embolden the bad guys. Please use good sense---if not providing more resources then do not reduce them.

I believe the current budget situation provides an opportunity for Fairfax County to restructure at all levels to improve efficiency and reduce the size of government. I hope the Mr. Griffin takes advantage of this opportunity. In public safety, the fire and rescue department, and the police department have too many layers of management. We also need to look more seriously at more innovative ways of delivering services, and improving the sharing of resources across the region. I also believe there needs to be a close audit of the overtime budgets, and why the spending goes over budget every year.

In regards to implementing a $33 "decal" fee without decals: The decal is/was a TAX STAMP, which proved you PAID YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX. Having tax payers pay for a decal, or tax stamp, and then not providing them with said decal/stamp is INSANE!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As a former teacher for Mt. Vernon Head Start, I strongly urge you to cut funding for this program. The children are abusive to classmates and to staff members. I can recall several children hitting, kicking, biting, and completely destroying classrooms and classroom materials in rages of anger. The program does not support or address the aggressive behavior of the children. Instead of making parents accountable for their child's behavior, they ignore it and insist the child is functioning on a developmentally appropriate level. For example, a child hit and injured a teacher with a belt and the management team responded by moving the child to a different room. This is NOT remedying the problem but perpetuating it by changing the punching bag instead of insisting the parents find the source of the child's anger and acceptable ways for the child to express it. There has also been a teacher who was accused of slapping, bruising, and kicking 3-5 year olds and was moved to work with the infants/babies. I remember the poor work environment. In the winter, some rooms would be extremely hot while others were freezing cold and children were wetting their beds because they didn't want to leave the warmth of their blankets. After the Health Department was called, Gum Springs finally fixed the heating conditions in one of the rooms that was too cold. There have been numerous roach infestations in which roach eggs and carcasses were found in children's files, toys, cabinets, rooms, and in the kitchen area. Where is the justice? I feel justice will come when the Greater Mount Vernon Head Start program is closed and occurrences such as these will no longer exist.

It is outrageous, that I, a hard-working 60-year old must bear the tax burden of those over 65 who have more money than me, better cars than me, and who pay no real estate taxes because of the absurd tax forgiveness for people over 65. Now is the time to cut that inequitable giveaway. I won't be able to retire, thanks to the economic meltdown and Fairfax County bleeding the taxpayers, ME, dry. The non taxpayers, be they unemployed, retired, illegal, etc. feed off of me and what do you do to protect me from that? You think that people like me are a money tree...our values go down and you think you are doing us a favor by keeping the tax the same, while raising the rates. Please revisit this wholly inequitable system of me subsidizing my retired neighbors who get to spend the day going to the club, shopping, etc. all in their NEW cars. A disgusted resident of Hollin Hall

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Hi folks, I have gotten lots of emails from members of our CERT family concerned with the current budget cut issue. Thanks to all of you, it is quite heartening to get such a large response. CERT means a lot to ALL of us. Nearly everyone who has emailed has asked for some way to voice their "displeasure" over the budget cut to the board of supervisors as a whole and their own district supervisors. Writing letters so far appears to be the most effective method. In response to those requests, below is a guide letter you may wish to "cut and paste" for that purpose. A simple form letter gets ones' point across, but I would recommend personalizing it in some way before you send it. The board of supervisors gets letters, petitions and the like on an almost daily basis. If a letter comes from a CERT member who is genuinely, sincerely concerned they may just pay attention to it. Relate your experiences, let the supervisors know what CERT means to you. To whom it may concern: The fiscal year 2010 county budget contains a proposed budget cut which is of deep concern to me. The specific budget proposal is listed in the FY 2010 budget as 001-92-381.The specific line of business number is 92-05. This cut eliminates the single Management Analyst 2 position from the fire and rescue departments' volunteer liaison office. The removal of this one position will curtail the activities of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team drastically. CERT members nationwide have proven themselves to be an active and vital part of their communities' preparedness and response capability. For example, CERTs have been used to: Distribute and/or install smoke alarms and batteries to the elderly and disabled. Assist with evacuations and traffic control. Promote community awareness of potential hazards and preparedness measures. Supplement staffing at special events, such as parades. Act as intelligent and motivated victims for training exercises. In times of large scale disaster, trained CERT members help their neighbors and their own families when normal emergency response assets are overwhelmed. CERT members become citizens that can decisively help others; rather than being just another victim overtaxing scarce response resources. The Fairfax County CERT program is fully paid for with Department of Homeland Security federal grant money. One Management Analyst 2 position in the office of the volunteer liaison merely administers the CERT program. Fairfax County does not spend monies to fund the program itself. As a citizen of Fairfax County I strongly urge you to reconsider the consequences of this cost cutting proposal. This one budget action hampers the ability for all county residents to take useful, well managed, cost effective training to help themselves and others in times of major disaster. Without the CERT program, over 500 CERT members, their families and their communities lose.

Hi, I live in Fairfax county and I also work for Fairfax county (Fire and Rescue) and I've seen the new county proposal about the RIF and I think I will rather have a salary cut than losing my job that I love so much and I worked hard to have it, it is not just a job it is about serving the citizens and helping others(I think this every public safety and emergency personnel view), so please let us serve the county and its citizens.

Not funding the Fairfax Marine Patrol - Not funding the continued operation of this valuable service to recreational and commercial boating from the Occoquan to Pohick Bay is a serious error in judgment. We need this service to protect lives and property. As the current coordinator of the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) and member of the CBYCA, PRYCA, and NBF, I would like to request time before the Board to rise in support of having the Patrol funded by the county. We need this service to continue. Thank you in advance, Captain George M. Allen

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I just ask, as a state employee for almost 20 years (first with the FFX Cnty J & DR Court - which remember has county employees also - and now contracted by FFX Cnty DFS and paid by VA Tech (to help off-set some of the costs of Foster Care and services by finding unlocatable parents and their incomes) where I work in FFX J & DR Court, that we practice in government what we should be practicing in our own homes: that things can we cut back on for now to save someone....,at least until we get back on track. Perks, Perks, Perks....some of those at the top can save a job here an there by giving up those perks (not their baseline salaries) paid by taxpayers: cars, blackberries, custodial accounts, tax-deferred accounts, health insurance, exercise benefits . Things are items that come out of every day people's checks; the everyday people that are losing their jobs who pay for their own cars, wireless services, 401Ks, health insurance and their LifeTime memberships, etc. Finally, if there is a way to stop giving away our money to non-county taxpayers and same folks over and over again. There has to be a cut off point to giving the same free legal services, interpreting services, food services, housing services, closing services, health services, etc.. We have the increase in the county's people needing assistance (those county tax-payers that are being laid off for the first time or losing something for the first time) and they deserve what we have been giving to folks from everywhere but FFX Cnty or to folks who continually feed of the system (I am sorry to that a Maryland teenager is in foster care at all, let alone ours, but does she really need the $80 jeans got to shop for, $120 tennis shoes and build-a-bear teddy bear - what's wrong with my Target Store; and I am sorry that the Hispanic "Young Man" was sent here on a one-way ticket from his country to work and send money home - but I had to not only take care of my daughter through high school, but I paid for her college education and you want me to pay for his too after he learns in the English language in our schools; and yes, that D.C. grandma should never have been drinking and driving in Va. with her toddler grandson that she did not even have legal custody (her daughter and son-in-law continue to live on the DC streets with their drug habits), but can't D.C. pay for the services grandma, her daughter and son-in-l;aw were ordered by our court. I could go on with the scenarios, but really, we can only help so much so we can also help our own.

The press reports I have recently read seem to indicate that the proposed increase in property tax from $0.92 to $1.04 per hundred dollars of assessed value will only result in a minor increase in property taxes. Using those numbers and the 2009 real estate assessment I received from Fairfax County the assessed value of my property decreased by 33 thousand dollars but my property taxes will increase by $200 dollars. Unlike the local, state and federal governments I cannot go to my boss and demand my salary be increased to meet my expenses. If my family can cut back on spending to make ends meet so can government. I am tired of hearing about how there isn't anything else left to cut. I am sure I could find lots of wasteful spending to cut in your budget if you want the help. Government spending has increased at a rate higher than inflation for the past decade. There are plenty of things to cut before you need to raise my taxes.

Increase rental taxes. Urge the renters to purchase homes and cause increase in home values. Ask credit unions to offer better mortgage rates.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I work for Fairfax County and have a concern about the job cuts. There are people who currently are signed up for the DROP program who are close to retirement. These soon-to-be retirees are eligible to begin accumulating retirement benefits that are put in escrow for them, while they currently are still working and receiving a full salary. This is of course time-limited. I recommend that -- before the County eliminates jobs -- this DROP program should be eliminated. It is unfair to provide this sort of job benefit to current employees while ending jobs for other County employees or curtailing services to our residents.

The FY2010 county budget contains a proposed budget cut which is of deep concern to me. The specific budget proposal is listed in the FY 2010 budget as 001-92-381, line of business number 92-05.This cut eliminates the single Management Analyst 2 position from the fire and rescue departments' volunteer liaison office. The removal of this one position will curtail the activities of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) drastically. I took the class last summer and personally know the benefits. CERT members nationwide have proven themselves to be an active and vital part of their communities' preparedness and response capability. In times of large scale disaster, trained CERT members help their neighbors and their own families when normal emergency response assets are overwhelmed. CERT members become citizens that can decisively help others; rather than being just another victim overtaxing scarce response resources. Our CERT program is fully paid for with Department of Homeland Security federal grant money. One Management Analyst 2 position in the office of the volunteer liaison administers the CERT program. Fairfax County does not spend monies to fund the program itself. As a citizen of Fairfax County, I strongly urge you to reconsider the consequences of this cost cutting proposal. This one budget action hampers the ability for all county residents to take useful, well managed, cost-effective training to help themselves and others in times of major disaster.

I am very disappointed with the proposed elimination of the deer management program position in the 2010 budget. As a resident living near county parks, our gardens are plagued by deer that not only destroy our landscaping but more importantly spread lyme disease to our children. They cause traffic accidents that are often life threatening for residents. But truly the most important benefit of the deer management program is the protection of our parks and our forests. With the high deer population in the parks, undergrowth is destroyed. As older trees die, our parks and woodlands would be bare because there is no replacement of trees or shrubs! I would like to point out that it is going to cost at least 100 times the salary of a management personal to replant our forests. Please reconsider this as even one year of lack of control of the deer would reverse the great improvement the program has already made!

Public safety should not be cut. There is enough fluff in the budget to cut in other areas. Services should be provided as, (pay as you go). Those who want services such as libraries, recreation centers, fields, and other entitilements should pay fees for those services. If there are not enough fees to cover the cost then the program should be eliminated.

Department of planning and zoning should be significantly cut. Building has slowed to a crawl. Numerous engineers, planners, and inspectors are unneeded. Besides, engineering can be contracted out by the county. Fauquier County is taking this option.

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Every County agency should stop printing their newsletter and sending them around (ie, CRS, Office for Children, etc.). Printed copies are It's entirely unnecessary. Put an online newsletters section on the Infoweb or post them on the County page. I am not sure how much money it will save, but it is good environmental policy nonetheless.

Hi, I like to explore questions and answers. The question is can we save money by cutting costs on electricity, specifically lights. While I may not have all the facts about security and night lighting it seems during the day some lights could be turned off or florescent bulbs taken out of units. The pennies saved could add up. When people telework, go out for meetings, site visit all day or are sick the lights are still on. Could there be more options? If we live within the question and ask for information to make logical decisions we might save pennies and make our world a greener place using less energy. If lights by windows could be turned off during sunny days there could be savings.

I am furious that xxx xxxx of the library system paid for a new library website that is extremely user unfriendly and the site does not make it easy to find information (i.e. my account) what one is looking for. Additionally, the information on the site is inaccurate. How can Mr xxxx pay for and install such a horrible system with the County in a budget crunch and future cutbacks in library services and staff? Mr. xxxx needs to learn that prior to installing a new user site, he needs to have testing done with current users to see if the site is user-friendly. But to spend money for a new system while he lays off staff, or cuts their hours, is inexcusable.

Stop funding low cost housing ; Stop cutting down trees in Fairfax Co.; Stop printing documents in the various languages; stop providing translations services; AND PLEASE, DON'T REMOVE ANY SERVICES FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE and Fire Services. These services are urgently needed to provide services to the public. Thanks.

It is my understanding that the county is emphasizing the need to preserve services to our most vulnerable members of the community. It is disappointing to me that the homeless population has not been recognized as THE most vulnerable of our clientele (I do not believe this should have ever been proposed as a reduction option). Who is more vulnerable than the human beings who are living out on the streets and in the woods? The homeless clients in this county have The Most severe mental illness and substance abuse problems out of any clients in the CSB, (this is how they came to be homeless to begin with, after alienating family, friends and service providers). Our street homeless are often unable to maintain in any shelter or group home situation due to the severity of their mh/ads issues. How can a person be more vulnerable than someone who has been so sick he has resigned himself to not having a ceiling or walls to protect him when he is asleep? This extremely vulnerable population is already underserved, it would be detrimental to reduce their services any further. I am also concerned about the thought process behind the decision of which positions to cut. It is my understanding that we have about 14 front line, direct client MH service providers in homeless services. Eight of which have been offered as reduction options. This will leave 6 therapists to directly serve the county's 1,813 homeless people who were identified in the 2007 Point in Time survey. Furthermore, while reducing over half of the direct service providers to our most vulnerable population, only one supervisor position was offered as an option to cut (from what I understand, the supervisor position being cut was only supervising one person to begin with). This leaves (I think) 5 supervisors who will either be supervising the 6 remaining staff, or, supervising the supervisors who are supervising 6 staff. This arrangement is personally hurtful to me, because I see it as tangible evidence that front line staff are not seen as a priority. In addition to my concern about the amount of

positions proposed to be cut, I also disagree with two specific positions in the LOBs. The PATH position and the Mondloch shelter position are two out of five homeless outreach positions. In these positions, the therapist's role is the epitome of the client centered/motivational interviewing counseling theory that the county subscribes to. The outreach staff will be especially needed to supplement any loss of shelter based staff. This model of outreach that is already used is exactly what the 10 year plan envisions in the host teams. How will cutting experienced outreach workers help in the 10 year plan to end homelessness? People who are able to provide homeless outreach are a different breed. This is not a position that just anyone can (or would want to) fill and our clients will not benefit from just anyone's services (they've already tried). Another issue that has been on my mind is the additional position of the Director of the office to prevent and end homelessness. This position is going to cost $125,000 plus costly benefits. I believe that this office is an important step in the implementation to the 10 year plan, however, I am having trouble with understanding the role of this position and the salary. I have been told that this person will be mostly there to raise money and elicit the help of private organizations in the community. I do not understand why one of the supervisors working in homeless services would not be able to serve this purpose. I understand that the funding for this position is not being added to the budget, it has been "reallocated" from somewhere else. Again, this is personally upsetting to me because this will cost almost 3 times the amount I make in a year for providing direct services to the most vulnerable people in the community. I have been implementing the ideals in the 10 year plan for almost 5 years now (mostly with New Hope Housing), but I am in fear of losing my job while a man who will make 3 times my salary is being hired (another supervisory position who will have zero contact with our clients). If there is money available to be reallocated, it should be used to save the newly hired, talented, and eager employees Please keep these concerns in mind when you are reviewing the need of our client's services and the jobs that will be lost. I know these concerns are shared by many county residents, clients and staff alike.

I realize that the County will make many difficult choices with regard to the budget. I am very concerned about the safety of my child and others with chronic health issues and severe allergies. The school health aide position is so important to keep in the schools. I am able to go to work knowing that insulin and blood sugar levels are appropriately monitored and knowledgeable care given to my child. The School Public Health Nurses may be willing to cut back to a 10 month schedule. The County administrators and Supervisors may also need to take furloughs and cut back hours to share this burden with other employees.

I do not support the current leadership of CERT. Waste of taxpayer dollars.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

First of all, I would beg you not to increase residential real estate taxes. Instead, cut out waste in our public schools. For example, you could start by eliminating 3/4th of the vice principals employed in the high schools. McLean high school has way too many vice principals who do nothing except run around showing off their plastic surgery to one another in their plush offices filled with sofas, wide screen televisions expresso machines and the like. Too, high schools have too many guidance counselors who do absolutely nothing. Parents do the job for them. They are not needed. Most of the elementary school teachers need to be eliminated too. They DO NOT teach. One elementary school in particular is Westgate. Replace these so called teachers with daycare providers at a much lower salary. Reduce the salaries of all school teachers, principals and guidance counselors. They earn too much and work too little. I am running out of space so I will sum this up. The county school budget is out of control. I have listed a few things that need to be cut. Others would include cutting spending on new school construction, updated older schools (there is nothing wrong with kids going to school in older buildings) and eliminate plans for a new school administration building. The old one is just fine. And finally, send illegal immigrants back to their own countries. We can not afford to take care of the world and they are costing Fairfax County too much money. We could cut the budget in half by demanding all illegals to leave. P.S. I thought the county was going to get quite a bit of money from the federal governments' phoney stimulus package????

The Governor recently signed legislation creating a Common Interest Community Board, providing a Community Ombudsman to handle Condo and HOA matters. Why is Fairfax County duplicating this position. The person who is filling it is not an attorney, nor does she have the experience required to handle this type of position. The previous employee who was in that position retired and that position was removed. Consumer Affairs hired the current individual as a CSII (also no experience as an investigator, with the same duties as the Analyst position that was abolished. Why are we duplicating a position that is filled by an attorney at the State level?

The Library should limit the number of books each patron can put on hold to 10 each- not 25. If a hold is not picked up in a timely manner, a fine should be imposed on the patron of $1.00 per each item not picked up.

Volunteer Centers that have staff and infrastructure have been made obsolete and unnecessary by technology. Check out onebrick.com for successful volunteering recruitment for a very small cost because of technology. Any funding for volunteer centers should be eliminated.

The proposed budget needs to be evaluated based on the current economic stress being faced by citizens of Fairfax County. I urge supervisors to look to the cost-containment measures being implemented by Montgomery County MD and others as an example of what should occur here. Across the board belt tightening and zero increases in all areas including pay should be the starting point with further reductions on a case-by-case basis.

As a member of the ARC of No.Va. and a employee of the Community Residences, I ask the county Board of Supervisors to consider the basic needs and services for people with disabilities, so they can live A LIFE LIKE YOURS! These include: healthcare, housing, transportation, education, public safety and miscellaneous social services. Thank you for your time and attention. Wishing you all the best in life.

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Fairfax County should divest itself of all section 8 & low income housing.

Raising Real Estate Taxes in this economy is OUTRAGEOUS! There should be substantial budget cuts, layoffs and furloughs at all levels of the county government. Balancing the budget on the backs of property owners is fiscally irresponsible.

Can you please come to CERT meeting and explain why Mr. Xxxx is so quick to throw out the CERT program in Fairfax!! Don't trash the program.

I recommend that cuts to the School Age Child Care (SACC) program be offset by an increase in tuition for children enrolled in the program. I would prefer to pay more in tuition to allow more children to attend.

I went to the government center at 3pm on Friday and could not believe all the cars leaving. Do you mean to tell me that all those people already worked their 40 hours? Do not just close the library on one day a week, also close the government one day to. Think of the millions that would be saved on salaried. It can be done.

1. Please do not cut SACC services-they are excellent and provide families the opportunity to have 2 working parents. It is convenient, reliable, comfortable, safe and very well-run. I would be much more stressed to find and/or use any other childcare after school. 2. To keep education funding as high as possible, I would be willing to pay the same dollars in property taxes as I did when my property cost more. Please don't forget about the future of the county while addressing current needs.

Close the NRC in Herndon Do not establish office to combat homelessness. The 125,ooo salary for the head and the salary of 3 staffers could be better used. No money for organizations that support illegal aliens.

The Supervisors need to sharpen their pencils and find additional places to reduce this budget. Despite a drop of more than $60,000 in my property's tax assessment, my tax bill will go up by more than $500 (2010 vs 2009) under this budget proposal. This is not a good place to start for our new Chairperson-- and I voted for her but am having second thoughts now.

Dear Supervisors - As a parent of three children attending Fairfax County Schools I am concerned that the budget does not include any funding for additional school improvements and raises for teachers. Our children are our future and teachers are our trusted advisors in their growth. The class size in our school has grown significantly and the number of classroom aides has shrunk. This, combined with the economic times causing more families to have two working parents, means that our schools need more funding now than ever before. Please consider additional funds to help our schools lower class sizes and keep talented professionals working in our school system.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

The proposed real estate tax increase is unacceptable...1. The tax rate was just increased in 2008. 2. Only 4% of the citizens' input supported a tax increase. 3. The County budget must be reduced even further to reflect fiscal realities. End all of those "nice" programs like housing purchases. The County was willing enough to increase my taxes (doubling them) during the boom years. I expect my taxes to go down this year with my assessment. I will vote accordingly.

Cutting the public safety budget is outrageous. The crime will increase wiht the economic woes, and there will be less police to handle it. How much money does the county lose by training these professionals and then releasing them? The quality of life will decline in the county due to the police cuts. The positive growth of the county will decline as the crime increases. Can the cuts be accomplished by attrition, freezing the hiring or some other means? These positions need to be saved. Is any of the economic stimulus money being used to save these services and postitions, as it was used for the Columbus, OH police force to save the police cadets and others from being cut? What happens to the public service employees who are in the county housing program who are cut, not only do they lose their jobs, they also lose their housing. Please find another way to work this out. Thank you for listening.

Since pay-for-performance is out for FY 2010 and maybe FY 2011, I suggest lowering promotional pay increases as well. Ten and 15% increases appear excessive in these extraordinary times. Thank you.

The County's Fire & Rescue Department should be funded as fully as possible w/ no reduction in the number of front line EMTs or Firefighters. There are other agencies and administrative areas of County programs that can be cut that do not jeopardize the lives of County citizens and employees.

Considering just how enormous the health care increase is going to be for fewer than 30/hour week employees, why doesn't the County ever consider any kind of "healthy living" discount for it's employees? I appreciate the fact the increase would be phased in over two years but the amount is astounding any how. Why isn't there any financial incentive to maintain a documented healthy lifestyle?

The menu and quality of lunches prepared at Herndon Senior Center by cook and helpers provide a health sustenance that proposed "school lunches" cannot equal or come close to. Closing this jewel at the center will deplete a diet that is meticulously prepared for those attending. I know costs need to be cut, but let's balance this value against others. It is up to you of course.

I support the tax rate increase

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Please reconsider the pilot programs in the Coopermine and Laurel Hill E.S. and keep these programs as SACC programs. Fairfax County is a leader in education, and that education extends to SACC. When our children are in SACC they are continuing their opportunities for academic growth. It amazes me everyday what my child learns in SACC. Part of his SACC education is a continuation of what he is learning in FCPS such as not being a bully and how to treat others. That is just a start. He has learned classroom skills such as Chinese (how many public elementary students get to learn Chinese?) he is also learning how to sew and even cook. At the most basic level, he gets time to work, in a suitable setting, on homework. The value added to this program cannot be measured in dollars and cents. But what can be measured that way are the fees that I, and my SACC parent peers pay. Those of us not being subsidized, pay for the full cost of the SACC expenses to run this program. I myself work at a private school, yet I decided to send my child to FCPS and SACC. In private school the "gap" is often discussed. This is the difference between tuition revenue and the true cost of an education. In SACC, for those not subsidized, the gap is $0. Why cut a program that supports itself AND is a top quality program? Changing the program may allow a few additional students to be served, but that will be outweighed by those of us who will leave. I strongly urge you to allow SACC to continue as it is.

Everyone keeps talking about an economic recession - one way to add to the problem is to eliminate raises for county employees. The cost of everything is going up, but you are going to pay your employees less?? And don't be mistaken, it will be less once you add inflation to everything. If you have to put PFP on hold for a year at least give everyone a 3% COLA. Reducing salaries will lead to more foreclosures when employees can't pay their mortgage.

BOS - how can you look your employees in the face and ask them to cut their budgets when the schools have cut nothing?? You should be ashamed if you think the school system has no waste and can't come up with any cuts. Once again you tell the general county employees that they are of no value and unless you work for schools or public safety .

In looking at the budget and in reading a newspaper article that quoted the county executive as having only one idea for department consolidations, I find it odd that there's a whole department of emergency management yet the health department has their own emergency preparedness section. Seems like a ripe opportunity for consolidation.

I have been backup leader for a T'ai Chi/exercise group at first the Reston, then the Herndon Senior Center for the last 12 or so years. They meet twice a week from 9:30 -11:15 a.m. The group of about 15 ranges in age up to early 90's and some use walkers or have major mobility problems. With some, this is the only real exercise they get. As we have been doing this for so long, most of the group have built their schedules around it. It would be a major disruption to most to have the starting changed to 10 a.m. as is now proposed. It would seem a better plan to take the time off the end of the day, or shorten or eliminate the Sat. hours.

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Last week my husband attended a meeting of our civic association. There was an announcement that Lake Accotink Park would not have any staffing except in the Summer. I realize that some difficult decisions must be made, by the County, regarding the Budget. But, if these staffing cut-backs are really planned, I think this is not really a money-saving option. There are boats, an antique carousel, picnic tables and other equipment located at this Park. Without staffing, these resources will be either stolen or vandalized within a very short time. Bathrooms? The citizens who use the park will need access to the bathrooms. If the bathrooms are locked, folks will 'go' somewhere. That will create a public health issue. If the bathrooms are left open, who will maintain and clean them? And open, unattended bathrooms are problematic because they will be vandalized and/or become safety concerns. And the Lake? A fortune was just spent to have it dredged. How long will it take some people to realize that it's unattended and then start using it for dumping. Don't think so? Ask Arlington about the on-going problems they have with dumping in their creeks .... Thank you for allowing me to share my opinions with you.

The library should no longer offer free proctoring of exams. This takes a lot of staff time away from other customers. It is a service that most places charge a fee for. Out-of-state colleges are charging their students and then taking advantage of "free" services from our staff. Let the colleges pay a fee to our county if they want to use our staff resources.

I am writing to STRONGLY protest any changes to the current SACC program! This is an EXCELLENT program and my kids have thrived while attending. They have been in daycare programs since infancy and the SACC program far surpasses any other center that they have attended. The teachers at the SACC center are superior. Please do NOT consider "out-sourcing" any SACC centers and taking away this wonderful privilege for our children's enrichment! That said, I would not oppose a tuition increase if that is what it takes to KEEP SACC the way it is!!! PLEASE DO NOT DO ANYTHING TO THE SACC PROGRAM!!!

In regards to reducing county contribution for health insurance for part-time employees: I left a higher paying job to come to FCPL because of the total compensation package. I will definitely leave FCPL if this comes to pass because of the effect on my take home pay. Part-time library employees will be required to work more shifts per week, including more evenings and weekends. Public library jobs are among the lowest paying jobs for librarians in the DC area. The federal government and the private sector (law firms and corporate libraries) offer higher pay and better working conditions than we will see come July in FCPL. If you check the Washington Post or USAJobs, you will see that there are librarian jobs available. Even FCPS offers higher pay for librarians than FCPL does. When you look at how part-timers are compensated in Fairfax County, please consider the low pay, scheduling demands and working conditions for library employees.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I DO NOT support the idea of a non-SACC, commercially-contracted child care program at the county's two new public elementary schools. - The current SACC program is one of the county's strengths. It is an extremely effective program that supports working, tax-paying families, while accommodating low-income and special needs children. - The current SACC program almost pays for itself. Before threatening it, the board should lay out the cost/benefit analysis to the county families who would be affected, and the method for measuring success. - SACC families pick SACC over commercial providers now. Why take that choice away? - The FCPS board acknowledges that SACC is an academic partner for the schools, providing a controlled, nurturing environment with low staff turnover and programs like homework clubs for children of working parents. A commercial provider would almost certainly not be able to match this level of quality. PLEASE reconsider funding the SACC program to run the programs at the two new schools. As a SACC parent, I would rather look at higher SACC fees than the commercialization of the program, and the inevitable quality slide that would occur. Thank you for your consideration.

The advertised rate of property tax will be insufficient to fund our schools and other services at an adequate level. I strongly suggest that the county property tax rate be raised to 1.09. Further, I suggest that we petition the state via referendum for a meals tax for Fairfax County in order to pay for our schools and other services.

As a County resident for the past 21 years, I strongly oppose the proposed 13% increase in the real estate tax rate, particularly at a time when many residents are struggling financially. I don't know anyone who's received anything near a 13% salary increase in the past year, so why should the tax rate increase when the County has failed to be fiscally prudent? Rather than increasing this tax rate, the County, which is now the largest local landlord, should divest itself of all housing. There is no reason to subsidize County employees to live in the County. I don't get subsidized to live in the local jurisdiction where I work (Alexandria), so why should they? In addition, I fail to see the value of the County-owned Fastrans system. Divesting this and County-owned housing should allow the real estate tax rate to remain at last year's level. Thank you for your consideration.

I would like to protest against the gym user fees increase for individuals. At the meeting I attended, all the increases go towards outdoor field modifications. User fee increases should go towards the facilities the fees are being charged for. The county is asking for a 15% budget drop across the board. If this is the case, raise the fees 15-20%, not the almost 2 1/2 times increase.

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The proposed budget is an outrage. A wimpy 3.5% was cut from spending and yet you want to raise real estate taxes by 13%. When will the nonsense stop? The problem is overspending and the solution is to CUT spending by a significant amount. EVERY agency should be required to cut 15% of their budget and illegal aliens should not get ANY services in the county. These two common-sense and simple solutions will work for the long-term. The only thing required to implement them is courage and will. We pay enough real estate taxes. You cannot keep raising real estate taxes to fund wasteful spending habits and if you do so, you are only following in the footsteps of the federal government which has only caused a deeper recession and is destroying our future. For the people who want to "help" others, like low-income or illegal aliens, let them put their money where their mouth is and they can adopt a family or an individual to support. It is a disgrace that you want to close senior centers. The first group that should stop getting services are illegal aliens. The Office to End Homelessness is a disgrace. There are already programs that deal with it. Cut the Office of Human Rights too. We are fed up with the liberal, spending ways that Mr. Connolly has infected the county with and that you are proposing to continue in your proposed budget.

At previous public hearings the clinic room aide program in the schools was at the top of the list of services taxpayers did not want to do without. Dr. Dale of FCPS said that the schools could not do without clinics. The health department is cutting the program anyway. The proposed cut in the hours of operation are not an acceptable solution. There is no cut of any hours in the admin or higher level personnel and that would save more money and impact less children.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2010 budget. I am writing because I found out from the Friends of Huntley Meadows website that budget cuts are planned for the Resource Management Division. I recognize that these are difficult economic times and that worthy programs will see budget cutbacks as a result. But I think that it is important for me to communicate how important Huntley Meadows Park is to the community, and ask that any cuts be minimized to the extent possible. It is an oasis amid sprawl that provides an opportunity to observe nature without traveling long distances to do so. It contributes greatly to our quality of life by allowing us to escape from the surrounding noise and traffic, and it provides tremendous educational opportunities for youth as well as adults. It also provides essential habitat for numerous species of wildlife. Thank you for considering my comments, and please keep in mind the importance of our county parks as you make difficult budget decisions for FY 2010.

Prorated benefits for part-time employees: The fatal flaw in the library's plan for FY2010 is that it is based on the assumption that part-time 20 hour employees are willing to work 5 shifts per week as dictated by the library, including every Saturday and/or Sunday. FCPL will be lucky to retain PT staff as it is. Asking PT staff to accept less in the way of compensation on top of that is a very risky proposition. Very disappointed that FCPL administration was seemingly unaware of this proposal during the budget deliberations as it affects so many library staff. Prorating benefits will lead to the loss of experienced part-timers, including me. Best of luck with finding time to train new hires.

SACC is a program paid by tax payer parents, it is really important to continue with this program, fees are increase on the annual basis and this program should not be cancel. I have my son in this program and will have my youngest in next year. I agree on increasing the cost slightly to parents.

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Libraries should not proctor exams for free. The reduced library staff is needed to help patrons find books and electronic information, to get books back on the shelves for people who need them, and other necessary work. Procotring exams is a frill that takes too much staff time.

Please make sure that the schools are fully funded! As a parent of a soon-to-be kindergartner in fall 2010, if the county will not support its schools, I will be forced to move to Montgomery County, one that does. Also, don't reduce the amount that can be used for renovations! The backlog is only getting worse, and reducing funds will only exacerbate the problem. I hope you will do the right thing to keep our county great. Let's not become like PG County or DC Public Schools.

I am writing to ensure there are NO CHANGES to the current structure of Fairfax county's School-age Child Care program. As it is currently structured, SACC is a benchmark for after school programs around the country. It has very low employee and participant turnover, offers an enriching experience beyond mere daycare for our children, and is fully funded by the parents of SACC students. Any changes to the current program only put these things in jeopardy. As a former SACC teacher I have seen first-hand the benefit the program AS CURRENTLY STRUCTURED has for the children who participate. SACC is not broken and does not need to be fixed.

As a long time retired, senior resident and homeowner in Fairfax County, I emphatically object to an increase in the tax rate! Many of us have retired on fixed income, do not receive a pension, or live on hard earned savings (already shrunk considerably due to the failing economy). Fairfax County should do likewise and learn to live within their means! This may be accomplished by reducing salaries, cutting staff, eliminating bonuses, delaying or canceling non - life threatening projects and services, etc. We are all in this together for the duration of the recession! More viable ways to sustain the County at a lower cost with non life threatening solutions can and should be met! The County staff designing the budget should do so in all-night sessions to arrive at a more affordable solution! This is accomplished in Industries all the time and you will be surprised at what can be agreed upon when exhausted and hungry. Increasing the tax rate for elderly non-working seniors is not part of the solution!. We are forced to live within our means and Fairfax County should do the same! There are many ways to live within our fixed budgets by doing without many things that are nice to have but not life threatening or essential. Fairfax County can and should do the same. This may be accomplished in many ways such as freezing and/or reducing salaries and bonuses of County employees for the duration of this recession as well as putting off non-essential projects.

FCPS enables their employees to buy up to 4 years of retirement. If Fairfax County enacted the same policy for their employees, then many people who are a few years from retirement could be given the option to buy out their years not necessarily take early retirement. Many of those employees are at the higher end of the salary range, which would open up positions possibly for consideration of re-organization. This would also help the attrition levels and possibly prevent the RIF options.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

It is my understanding that elimination of the 595 and 597 bus routes is still on the table as you work to balance the budget. This still mystifies me. Almost every morning, 5-15 people stand all the way from Reston to Crystal City on Route 597. In the evening, I ride Route 595 and watch the same number of people stand from the Pentagon to Reston. I don't know how the Department of Transportation can call buses this far over their seated capacity unprofitable. Most of the riders on these routes are government employees and receive a monthly subsidy to cover commuting costs. Effective 2 March, the subsidy was raised by the President's stimulus package. From where I sit (or stand on some days), the cost per trip on these express routes could easily be raised and most riders would still use the buses. In other words, the 595 and 597 seem like the types of services that could actually earn the County revenue and help offset other expenses. I seriously hope you will reconsider cancelling these critical commuter routes. Everyone I have talked with plans to drive to work if these buses are canceled because the number of transfers required to get to work via DoT's "duplicative service" option will add too much time to their commutes. Can the Dulles Toll Road, Beltway, or I-66 handle all the extra traffic? Or if folks do Metro, can the already overburdened Orange Line take on the additional commuters that will be added to their trains? Please reconsider the elimination of these routes!

I am currently in a 20 hours a week job share with benefits. I am most distressed about the thought of having to pay more for my health benefits. I will not make any money on my pay check because I am paying the additional amount for health insurance. I left a job six months ago to take this job for the benefits. I was earning a hire wage but I did not have benefits. I took a pay cut and came to the County because of the benefits. I can understand the budget cuts. But, when I took this job I was guarenteed the benefits with the county paying 75% of a family plan. If you want to make this type of cut I suggest you only to it to incoming hires. That way they will know what they are getting into before they leave another job.

We are told to forward this to you. I say keep the MA2 person, but get rid of the new guy who allows this to get posted on the internet for us to beg you to keep a person. There is nothing to say the program will change at all, except the laziness of one person to guy that took over from Bob Mizer. Hi folks, Here is an ideal chance to let the district supervisors know what you think about CERT and the proposed budget cut. Below is a listing of upcoming meetings regarding the FY 2010 county budget. Why is this important? Here is the "Cliff Notes" synopsis for you- The county wants to cut the Management Analyst 2 position/CERT administrators' position out of the fire department budget. Doing this will damage our CERT program in the process. In times like these, every SINGLE CERT voice is important.... We are over 500 strong; over 500 amazing, caring individuals who have taken a personal stand-NO we won't be hapless, helpless victims in a major disaster. We have made the commitment-we want to HELP ourselves and others! We are individuals, yet united in a heartfelt desire to help protect our families and communities. In a county with 1.3 million citizens, 500 members isn't enough. We need more CERTs; we need the opportunity to train more CERTs, and we need continued support on the administrative side to train them effectively. Lets continue the fight, to keep Fairfax County CERT alive, intact, and prospering- for the sake of our families and our communities. If you get a chance, go to a meeting and tell our elected leaders exactly what you think.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Frey: Please do not change the SACC program- we love the teachers and administration as-is and feel it is very well run. We would appreciate your consideration in regard to the proposal to cut back on SACC services to the families of Fairfax County. We strongly urge you to consider not making these cuts. SACC affords dual and single head of household earners a safe haven for their children during working hours, before and after school. This encourages full employment and full payment of taxes to the county and state. Not only is this convenient but it enriches the lives of the children, allowing parents to work worry free. If forced to find outside arrangements these parents may have transportation issues, and have trouble finding the same high quality staff that SACC affords. This puts into question "full employment" with some parents being forced to consider fewer hours or one parent quitting and staying home- the equals less taxes going into the state and county government! And of course, less income for the family to live on. The quality of life for these families will go down- as their children will not have the ability to attend SACC and programs in the school including clubs etc. They will have to find outside "babysitting" as opposed to the quality enrichment programs SACC and the school makes available to our children. We would prefer to see a small increase in fees over cutting back on services. Thanks you very much for your consideration!

Do not consider outsourcing the SACC program. Keep Coppermine and Laurel Hill under the SACC office like the other schools. We are very happy with SACC as it is. The current program is an example for after school programs all over the country. It is an enriching place that I can afford to send my children, making me able to be employed and that my children are getting quality care. SACC is fully funded by us as parents, as customers and taxpayers.

I just read, with horror, the suggestion that changes may be made to the SACC program, specifically that it might be contracted out. As a parent, I depend on SACC to be a state of the art before/afterschool program for my children. My children depend on SACC to be a STABLE environment with teachers that they trust and have bonded to. I am delighted with the fact that the program, which runs inside our school, is part of the overall Fairfax county school program, *and not run by a separate outside provider*. No caveat of oversight by one or more FCPS heads substitutes for a program completely run inside of FCPS. This is especially disturbing coming on the heels of proposed transportation changes that will save the county money but increase current childcare costs for many many parents.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I would like to register my voice regarding the proposal for new school-aged childcare pilot programs at Coppermine and Laurel Hill among others. The current program provided by Fairfax County, School Age Child Care (SACC), is an excellent program that provides multiple services for children Kindergarten to 6th grade, at least at Oakton Elementary. SACC's the staff have quality experience with Special Needs children and they work very hard to accommodate these children's needs and to integrate them as much as they can with the rest of the children. You have a program 1. That Works, 2. That has been working for 30 years, 3. That is state licensed, 4. Whose curriculum is aligned with Virginia's Standards of Learning and FCPS's Program of Studies, 5. Whose fees are on a sliding scale, making it affordable to all residents with Full Fee parents paying for the full cost, 6. That is located in the schools and works well with the school staff, and 7. Has lower costs than private child care centers in Fairfax County. In short, you already have a fantastic program. It works for the children, the parents and the County and the Schools. If you are going to experiment, please do so within the SACC program and provide the Parents and Taxpayers with full details before including it in any budget proposal. Please do not go ruining a good thing. Thank you very much.

Mr. Griffin, I am a Fairfax resident with a child at Springhill School who attends SACC everyday after school. SACC is an excellent and valuable program. It is my understanding that there is Fairfax County money being spent to explore replacing such a program. THIS IS A WASTE OF MONEY. I pay for SACC every month and am 100% satisfied with the program. Why waste County resources on replacing a program that no one wants replaced !!! Please cease and desist from any further waste of time and money investigating the out sourcing of the SACC program. Thank you.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Our son is a student in the Laurel Ridge SACC program in our neighborhood. We work hard for our family and as voting tax paying citizens are appalled that Fairfax would even consider spending our tax dollars on a pilot program that could pose a challenge the SACC program in the future. SACC is trustworthy and affordable childcare for families of all income levels and is curriculum based. We have seen over our 20 years of using private day care home and center based with our children how money rather than the best interest of the children becomes the driving force behind everything from the quality of food purchased for snacks and who gets hired to the activities offered. Our son has 3 more years of SACC left to go. I will be very disappointed if the County decides to waste my tax dollars on a pilot program that will have the potential to interfere with my son's before and afterschool care. The SACC program works and because it originates from the County--we know the quality is consistent and the staff are well trained. We pulled our son out of a private daycare center, not because of the cost, but because of the quality of care SACC could offer him. Our neighbor's praise of the SACC program encouraged us to give it a try. The programming offered at SACC is enriching, engaging and diversified. The safety features bring working parents like us tremendous peace of mind. The corporations who own the private daycares don't care about the families. It is all about the money. We have used several different private daycare centers in Fairfax who routinely brought in low wage high school students, high school dropouts, retired people with very little energy. Very often they were understaffed and had a high staff turnover rate with staff changing almost weekly--this has never happed at our son's SACC program at Laurel Ridge. Our SACC staff are energetic, college grads or in college or very experienced with child care. They don't babysit--they engage the students in active play, offer new ideas and play games with them. They help with homework and bring in fun projects and speakers. They encourage team work, good sportsmanship and getting along with others. They counsel with parents who have children with special needs. We are satisfied with SACC the way it is and feel lucky to have our son there. Many parents who will pay the full SACC fee are on the wait list because they want the same experience we are enjoying. And parents who have students in the program come back year after year.

I already submitted my comments on this a few months ago, but I strongly believe that educational funds need to be a priority and those directed to the classroom and classroom support (i.e., teachers, principals, aides, coaches, etc.) need to be at the top of the priority list. Please keep in mind that the future of the county depends on the educational attainment and progress of our students. In tough times, it seems that the place to skim quickly is to raise class sizes in order to get rid of personnel, but the classroom climate and achievement orientation quickly changes and skews lower when class size is increased to a level that students feel uncomfortable, invisible, or unknown.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

This message is to implore you to SAVE FASTRAN services. Please do not be mistaken thinking that Logisticare is an equally adequate option. It is not! Did you know that when Logisticare providers are not available (often), they send a commercial taxicab as a substitute? With all due respect to my son's abilities and the many other non-independent citizens, this would be like putting a toddler in a taxi alone. A parent would probably be charged with neglect for doing so. Yet, that is exactly the same situation our son faces if you cut Fastran. He is not independent, with limited communication-totally vulnerable. Our son is a 28-year-old with autism and mental retardation who relies on Fastran to help him achieve some small measure of a meaningful life. He lives at home in Vienna and works at E-Tron Systems in Lorton. If his transportation is unreliable and dangerous, how can we continue to send him to work each day? That ripples outward to either me or my husband quitting work, while Bill then sits at home each day living an empty life. This is a scenario that many families in Fairfax County face. We desperately need you to do the right thing. PLEASE DON'T LET US DOWN-SAVE FASTRAN!

We just heard that you are thinking about contracting out SACC. Well, why break something that has worked for 30 years. My daughter just started school this year and we got into SACC. She loves the program and so do we. The teachers are excellent and she has an opportunity to play outside or in the gym. As I understand it the money we pay for SACC finances the programs, so what would the saving be? If you want to expand the program then try to do it in the schools. I love that my child is in the school, which gives her an opportunity to participate in after school programs (Flex, other classes, etc.).

Eliminate the DROP program and encourage retirement at the higher (Director) levels. Most of them are unproductive and now tend to hire deputies anyways to do their work !! Those on DROP take it easy and only end up double dipping. Bring in fresh minds which will cost less to the county and bring better talents and skills. A win-win situation. Eliminating "little jobs" is a poor strategy. Cut the fat at the top. Our directors enjoy too much power and some abuse their autonomy to create useless positions; are unproductive and coasting. For the county to survive in this drifting global economy it is imperative that we strengthen our top management and make it more competent. Get rid of old useless managers who earn fat salaries and are on DROP just to make money and replace by new, competent and motivated managers. This strategy will help the budget in a substantial way.

Please keep SACC the way it currently exists and not bring in a private organization. My son has learned so much in SACC ... they learned a little Chinese, yoga, they are constantly making different types of things, etc. Things that a normal, private, daycare type of facility will not allow them to do. The teachers are fantastic and really love the kids and try to teach them lots of different things. Please keep SACC exactly the way it is!

I would like to let you know how important the School Age Child Care (SACC) is to us. Before my child went to SACC he was not happy going to daycare. Due to the reason that at daycare he is not with his friends from school. Once he started SACC we saw what a difference it made. SACC is affordable to us compared to other daycares. The staff is very helpful and friendly. I don't know what we would do without SACC. We can always count on them. This program supports our children's education and I am very grateful to SACC. Please do not cancel the SACC program. It is the best program our child has ever had.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please maintain the budget for Fairfax County Parks at present levels. The parks are hugely valuable to many residents, and the services provided by its staff are also very valuable. I in particular am a frequent user of Huntley Meadows Park, among others.

I am opposed to the potential outsourcing of the SACC programs within the Fairfax County school system. The kids in the program become attached to their teachers, it is always the same smiling faces, the locations are convenient and the pricing is very affordable. The tax paying community does not want changes to the school system as the kids are our best asset. DO NOT OUTSOURCE THE SACC PROGRAM.

RE: New SACC pilot at Coppermine & Laurel Hill. I am concerned about the county spending resources to investigate outsourcing the SACC program when the current program works fine and does not need to be fixed. Can't we use these resources more wisely when they are already limited? I am a voting resident in your district and have 2 children enrolled in SACC. I am very pleased with the program and with the teachers that run it. Our county's SACC program is a benchmark for afterschool programs around the county, with high quality programs that support our children's education, low staff turnover and affordable rates for child care for working parents. If the program is outsourced we would not have the same control over how the program is run and new teachers we would have to entrust with our children. Please focus your money and energy on issues within the county that really need to be fixed. This is not one of them.

While I fully understand that we are in an economic time where cutbacks are needed almost everywhere, as a tax payer in Fairfax County, I would like to provide my input on one specific area - our SACC program. Last year, I would never have written this letter because I had almost no knowledge of our SACC program. Now, with a son in kindergarden, I am very well aware of the importance of this program. This program is so much more than just afterschool daycare. I have witnessed firsthand just how important an adjunct this program is to the education that is obtained during normal school hours. My son is learning a lot during his SACC time, and loving it! For those of you with sons in school, you are probably well aware of how difficult our current educational system can be for them - lack of free time for learning and lack of free playtime which we know is developmentally essential for young children. Well, SACC provides just this! I feel very strongly that for the benefit of our children, we need to maintain our current SACC program as much as possible. Fairfax County runs a wonderful program and I would pay more if needed to continue with this - I currently pay the full amount with no discounts. I have been more than satisfied with SACC - it has been a lifesaver at times for my son - and I would be very disappointed if we lost our current system.

It is unfair to increase the share of health/dental benefits to employees who are in a job share position. It is perplexing to understand this reasoning especially when so many people can't afford health/dental insurance. At a time of budget cuts, this is one that should not happen. Keeping affordable health/dental insurance for all is the bottom line, at least that is what the new administration/president is proposing. Please take this into consideration and rethink this proposal.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Consumer spending drives a capitalist economy. The way out of this recession is to increase consumer spending. Please explain how taking money out of people's hands will increase consumer spending. I am 100% against raising taxes. Balance the budget by cutting more government spending. Trim some more fat. I am also insulted by some of the language in the budget proposal. "...keep the same relative tax burden..." Relative to what? I am getting less from the government under the proposed budget, but I am paying more. How is that the same? "basically level tax burden" Are you kidding me? My tax burden is going up. It is not level. Pull your head out of your ass and fix the budget without raising taxes. If you can't do this, then resign. Quickly.

In regards to the budget for the increase of $50,000 to develop a SACC pilot at Coppermine and Laurel Hill Elementary Schools, which I understand is to pilot the privatization of SACC in the future. As a federal employee, I understand the need to balance public services against the most cost-effective way of delivering these services. However, as a taxpayer whose child attends SACC at Halley Elementary, I strongly advise against pursuing changes to SACC at this time. Sometimes, the old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" does apply. SACC is a very well-run, well organized program with good bang for the buck. Raise fees for affluent parents if you must, but don't privatize the delivery of the service.

My children have been in the SACC program at McNair Elem. school for the past 3 years. Next school year they will attend the new Coppermine Elem. site . When we were told there would be a possibility of no SACC, it brought a great concern. The SACC program benefits many of the schools parent. I hope that you can come to a conclusion of allowing this school to have the SACC program. Its a terrific program that offers the kids so much more with their education.

You have suggested eliminating TTAP supervised services (106-75-421). I feel that this would be a mistake because I have seen a lot of people who were helped by this program. Although it is temporary, it really does help those who are just entering a mental health residential program for the first time.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

BUENAS NOCHES A QUEIN CORRESPONDA : AL ESCUCHAR QUE EL PROGRAMA DE SACC PODRIA SER CAMBIADO, SENTI QUE DEBO EXPRESAR EL PORQUE NO ESTOY DE ACUERDO: I. EL PROGRAMA DE SACC APOYA EL CURRICULUM DEL ANO ESCOLAR, EN CUANTO LOS CENTROS PRIVADOS NO LO HACEN. 2. EL NIVEL DE ATENCION A NUESTROS HIJOS, COMO PERSONAS Y COMO ESTUDIANTES BAJARIA EN CALIDAD Y TIEMPO, YA QUE POR EXPERIENCIA EN EL CENTRO PRIVADO NO LO HACEN. TUVE A MI MI HIJA POR UN ANO ESCOLAR Y ELLA FUE VICTIMA DE BULLYING EN ESE CENTRO.CUANDO SE LES HIZO SABER TANTO A LA DIRECTORA DEL LUGAR COMO A LAS MAESTRAS ENCARGADAS, NO HICIERON NADA AL RESPECTO. 3. EL PROGRAMA DE SACC HA HECHO MUY BUENOS AJUSTES EN CUANTO A LA ENSENANZA, NO SOLO ACADEMICA SI NO EN EL COMPORTAMIENTO DE NUESTROS HIJOS. CUANDO USTED ENTRA AL CENTRO TODOS LOS NINOS ESTAN EN ACTIVIDADES ORGANIZADAS MUY PRODUCTIVAS COMO: ARTES MANUALES, DEPORTES, JUEGO LIBRE O HACIENDO TAREA. ACTIVIDADES QUE USTED NO VERA CUANDO SE ENTRA EN LOS CENTROS PRIVADOS. ADEMAS HA SIDO UN APOYO PA RA UNO COMO MADRE EN CUANTO AL COMPORTAMIENTO CIVIL Y MORAL PARA NUESTROS HIJOS. APOYO QUE NO SE DA EN LOS CENTROS PRIVADOS. 4. AUNQUE EL INCREMENTO DEL COSTO MENSUAL SEA SOLO $20 DL; SE TEME QUE ESTOS LUGARES QUIERAN AUMENTAR EL PRECIO UNA VEZ ESTANDO A CARGO DEL PROGRAMA. 5. SI YO COMO MADRE PENSARA QUE EL CENTRO PRIVADO ES DE MEJOR CALIDAD EN CUANTO AL CUIDADO DE MI HIJO(A), TANTO CIVIL, MORAL COMO ACADEMICO, NO CREE QUE HUBIERA ESCOGIDO PAGAR UN CENTRO PRIVADO EN VES DE PAGAR SACC? 6. EL PERSONAL ENCARGADO DE SACC SIEMPRE SE HAN MANTENIDO EN COMUNICACION CONMIGO EN CUANTO A LA ALIMENTACION DE MI HIJO YA QUE EL TIENE ALERGIAS ALIMENTICIAS, NO QUISIERA PONERLO EN RIESGO CONSIDERANDO QUE YA TUVE MUY MALA EXPERIENCIA CON EL PERSONAL DEL CENTRO PRIVADO. 7. Y PARA CERRAR, CADA UNO DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL PERSONAL DE SACC, SON Y HAN SIDO PERSONAL DE MUCHA CONFIANZA EN TODOS LOS ASPECTOS DEL CUIDADO DE MIS HIJOS. MIENTRAS QUE EN EL CENTRO PRIVADO NO FUE ESA LA EXPERIENCIA QUE TUVIMOS. MI HIJO ESTA EN PROGRAMA DE SACC DE LONDON TOWNE ELEMENTARY, QUE ME TOMO CASI TODO UN ANO ESCOLAR EN PODER TENERLO AHI, FUI PACIENTE PORQUE QUERIA Y QUIERO LO MEJOR PARA EL. MI HIJA YA ESTA EN 8O. GRADO, PERO ELLA TAMBIEN ESTUVO EN EL MISMO PROGRAMA DE ESTA ESCUELA PRIMARIA Y NO LO CAMBIARIA POR NADA NI NADIE. ESPERO QUE MI OPINION SEA ESCUCHADA Y TOMADA EN CONSIDERACION.

I am a SACC parent, commenting on the budget item copied below (page 211): School-Age Child Care Pilot at Coppermine and Laurel Hill Elementary Schools $50,000. Our existing SACC program is excellent. Please do not risk destroying it by outsourcing it to private companies. It took 30 years to develop a good program and establish public trust. Please raise the fees instead if it is required to balance our school budget. Thank you.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

My understanding is that there are thoughts of cutting back on the SACC program. My children have participated in the SACC program for 3 years. It is an excellent program that provides enriched activities for kids in a safe and caring environment. SACC is provided at affordable rates and therefore allows many parents to maintain their jobs in the workforce while ensuring that their children are well taken care of. My understanding is that SACC is fully funded by the parents of the SACC students and I do not see any reason why SACC should be affected by the budget constraints. SACC is a benchmark for afterschool programs around the country and provides high quality programming that supports our children's education. Please do not cut back on this extremely valuable program that provides so much for our children and for the working parents in the county.

I am very concerned about possible changes to my child's SACC program. I am a Fairfax resident and taxpayer, and I pay full-fee for the SACC program. We love SACC, love the teachers, and love the program. Why are you spending resources investigating "pilot" programs when we already have a wonderful program that we know works well? I am delighted with the program exactly as it is. It's a program that is respected around the country. Why on earth would you fix something that's not broken? To save money? You'll be killing the goose that laid the golden egg if you lessen the quality of our public school system and the child care programs that are an integral part of it, and so important to the working parents who pay taxes and buy homes in the county. Please leave this wonderful, successful program exactly as it is.

I understand that we are all tightening our budgets at this time, however, as a tax payer I would like to ask that the Board of Supervisors strongly consider approving the 3% increase in school funding that the FCPS School Board has requested. My family and I moved to Fairfax County seven years ago BECAUSE of the excellent reputation of FCPS. We moved from California to Virginia. My husband had job offers in California, Maryland, and Virginia. I grew up in California. It was not easy to leave, but we made the best decision for our family and for our children's future. I believe it is the excellent reputation of the county's public schools that have helped to make this county so prosperous. However, the school's cannot maintain their levels of success without the support from the community. Please, please, please support the schools and approve the 3% increase they have requested. As you know, even with this increase, the schools in our community will still have to cut back, making class sizes larger, reducing staff, and cutting needed supplies and equipment. I am frightened to think what it would look like without the support needed from the county. I am also a homeowner who bought a home in 2006. Needless to say, like many others, I have lost value in my home. If you plan to raise my property taxes, I would very much like to see that money go to the schools. As an educated voter, I am keeping a very watchful eye on how the Board of Supervisors moves forward with this budget. Thank you.

Concerning about the new program that you want to do with SACC program, I am really disagree, I am really please with this program, help the children in all aspect, such as physical, mentally, social, etc. I want SACC program also helps parent a lot. Thanks.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

To whom may it concern: I am a widow with two boys ages 8 and 4, and i am writing because i want my voice heard. My older son has been attending SACC since he is in Kindergarten, and i cannot thank enough to the county to have such a good service, not only because the programs they have are wonderful, but because the price is very convenient for people like me, supporting a whole house with just one salary. Next year, my younger son is attending SACC as well, and for me, again, it is a huge economic relief having that service available. I was told budget cut is possibly going to affect SACC. I am begging you to keep the SACC programs as they are. The teachers are wonderful and for working parents like me is very important to have children in a trustful environment. Please keep SACC with its budget. PLEASE!

I would like to know why a pilot program is being launched to possibly replace SACC. Has someone indicated that the current program is lacking in any areas? I really would like more details on the proposed pilot program, because I am extremely satisfied with the current SACC program that my children attend. I have been with them in different locations for 8 years, and love it. All locations my children have attended have excellent staff, wonderful activities and is an all around fabulous program. I would actually be very leery of the new program, not quite sure it would measure up. In today's economy, I wonder about the pricing as well. Will it go up? Please take into consideration all the very pleased parents and children who are currently enrolled in SACC.

Hello - Regarding the proposal for the Dept. of Family Services to try a pilot program for School Aged Child Care at Laurel Hill and Coppermine Elementary schools, I fully support this proposal and would ask the Board to approve the County Executive's recommendation.

My two cents ... every time I go to a county school, for example for an Adult Education class, it seems like everything is state of the art. Conversely, when I go to a library or park, it seems like everything dates to the Eisenhower administration. My perception is that during the last few years of a good economy, schools got more than their share. Now that cuts are coming, it seems only fair that they give back more than their share.

I was recently informed that the proposed FY 2010 Budget is considering making changes in the SACC program. My son attends Franconia Elementary's SACC program and I am very content with it. It would be a shame for the loving staff, number of students, and activities to change. I am very pleased with SACC as it is. I believe that SACC is the benchmark for afterschool programs around the country (especially the low cost for child care). I hope that it continues to work as it has been for the past 30 years.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

While I am not thrilled about the prospect of increased SACC fees, I am aware of your budget constraints. My preference is that the number of enrolled SACC students remain the same for next year. Although I am not sure why the budget has to be increased next year for SACC (as I am paying full price), I would accept a minor/modest increased fee so as to ensure that my daughter will be enrolled in SACC (before and after care) next school year. Also, please note that we appreciate the SACC service provided at Oakton Elementary School. If there is any consideration for replacing the service provider, please don't at OES. I am also at a loss why you may be investigating outsourcing options with the SACC program. We get a good service for the good price. Thank you for attention in this matter.

we had enjoyed Fairfax County Therapeutic Recreation Services so much, but, with budget cut, we have to looking into the alternative way to Fairfax County Therapeutic Recreation Services, it is so agonizing for us regarding transportations since we, parents both are working . our child had enjoyed so much the service and all those were working sincerely with handicap children. we admired them working with those kids with big heart. thanks. hope the budget cut does not hit into those kids who need the most !

I have been riding the Fairfax Connector buses 595 and 597 for the past two years. The continuation of this service is desperately needed due to the convenience, reduction of traffic on the road, time saving and the huge increase of ridership. I feel that the bus fare should be charged at whatever price is needed to keep the buses in service Instead of eliminating it. Those who value the service will continue to ride the bus regardless of fare increase. Thank you.

I really don't understand that why the you have to cut the budget of SACC? I really don't understand that most company can lay off people that you can't? there is only one thing that you should do, serve the people! because they voted you and they paid you.

Please keep the current SACC program the way it is. My daughter goes to Laurel Ridge and it is not just the convenience of SACC, but it also the teachers, environment, and overall program that we feel is very successful Please do not ever considering busing students to any new or outsourced program--it is NOT WHAT WE PAID FOR! You don't pay for it, WE DO! This is not a free service--if it were free I would be more flexible. I also waited for 8 months to get my daughter into this program .. .and now you are considering changing it??? I saw the potentially proposed plan to do a pilot program for 2 new schools - and my vote is to keep the SACC program in the same school the kids attends for their safety. We parents feel very strongly about this. Do not make this decision lightly - you will have a lot of ANGRY PARENTS AND STUDENTS! Also, why are you wasting your funding on this? Use the funding the KEEP PEOPLE working in Fairfax County in their current supporting roles!

I keep hearing that Fairfax is the richest county in the US... Why can't we keep a simple thing like buses running? The Metro just raised their pricing why haven't the buses? Would raising the price a quarter make enough difference? There has to be other ways to do "the cuts" so that it doesn't effect some people's only way of transport to work so severely as removing their ride. Busing also saves on emissions, ask the feds to pony up from that perspective... The management needs to figure this out or let someone have the job that can...

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I know there has been some discussion regarding the SACC program before and after school within Fairfax County. My daughter has been with the program since she started school 5 years ago and attends the Sleepy Hollow Elementary program. They are wonderful people there, the teachers are great and when my daughter was given the option to come home right after school she WANTED to continue to go to SACC as fun time with friends, time to do homework, play outside and interact with other kids. I feel that it has been a wonderful experience for her starting as early as Kindergarten through the 5th grade. Next year she will be attending Glasgow as a 6th grader, but depending on the new hours that will be voted on, I will still plan on sending her to SACC either in the morning or afternoon. Please consider all the parents who have relied on SACC and their teachers for many years. My older daughter went to SACC at Sleepy Hollow and she's now a Senior at Stuart. My family has grown to feel very comfortable with the caring staff, the teachers there and it's comforting to know that while my child is in their care, she is taken care of. Please don't consider outsourcing to some unknown day care for schools. I know the budget is tight but I pay a lot of money for the SACC program and don't want it changed. Thank you.

How much will be saved by terminating all FCPL pages? How much will it cost to pay salaries of job interview panelists and any other expenses to hire or rehire FCPL pages? What will the net savings, if any, be of terminating and hiring FCPL pages? How much does a one-day furlough save? If terminating and hiring FCPL pages saves anything at all, why is this terminating and hiring and all the trauma associated with it better than a one-day furlough? If terminating and hiring all FCPL pages won't really save any money or any substantial amount of money, what is the real reason for this proposal? Is this proposal consistent with the basic principles of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (see Section 3, http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h1enr.pdf)? Are Stimulus Bill funds available to obviate the need for this proposal?

Please work on cutting your county budget. Employees may need to cut back to 4 days shifts. Huge salary professionals (school super?) may need to take a cuts. A NEW position for homeless? at salary of $125k? unnecessary at this time! Why is Fairfax County in the rental business? We should not be spending taxpayers money to own real estate. I cannot afford more taxes on my home. If Fx Cty increases taxes as proposed, you will force more people into foreclosures. Pay attention to details & cut the budgets. If services cost more, cut them out or back. Now is not a time to increase our local tax burden.

I am completely opposed to the tax rate increase. It was irresponsible for the leadership to wind up with a 20% deficit. The difference should be made up by severe budget cuts across the board. Every month about 2100 people lose their house to foreclosure in Fairfax County. If I assume that a 14% increase in tax payments could conservatively cause a 5% increase in foreclosures, then that would be an additional 105 families per month that will go into foreclosure thanks to the tax increase. The extra money people would have saved from not having a Tax increase could be the difference they need to pay for food or make their mortgage payment. You will be putting more families in Fairfax County into foreclosure by passing the increase.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

WHY are you wasting county resources and why would you want to start a new program to replace SACC??? SACC is a viable, desperately needed program!! It has been going for over 30 yrs so they are obviously doing something right!! The employees of SACC are professional, caring and go above and beyond their job duties entail. If you change or stop SACC you will be putting tremendous, undue stress on a lot of families, right in your community! There is enough stress with the economy, why would you choose to jeopardize this extremely important option for parents??? If you shut down this viable program, you will put even younger children home alone before and after school, making them vulnerable to the increasing gang recruiters and we will loose more of our precious children to crime and death! You need to look at the whole picture. As a taxpayer of Fairfax County I do not appreciate my taxes going to a fund to replace something that isn't broke!!

I am a parent of two elementary school students who attend SACC. I am very concerned by the news that the county is investigating outsourcing the SACC program. We are very pleased with SACC as it is. SACC program is fully-funded by the parents of the SACC students as either customers or taxpayers. Why are we spending resources to investigate the alternative when we know the current program is working so well??? Will the alternative be the same high-quality program that support our children's education, low staff turnover, and affordable for working parents?? Please don't change the SACC program my kids love and I trust!

In response to the Courier edition 2-27-2009, question on job share and health/dental insurance. This is very unfair, and should not be in proposal. I am a county employee for over 20yrs. I am raising a family. This proposed insurance increase will cost me approx. 10% of our combined family income, (not just mine)for 2010, and more in 2011, especially when there will be no raises. I thought Fairfax County was a friendly family work environment, but feel now that is only for the full time employees. I feel those of us in job share positions are being thrown out, with little thought of how we are going to pay for such high health/dental insurance. This is not right at all. Employees in job share positions are held to the same standards in performance as full time employees but now it seems we are valued less when it comes to benefits. Please take the health/dental increase for job share positions out of the proposal.

The county budget must be scaled back! You cannot tax your way out of the hole dug by irresponsible spending. The spending has to be curbed. If you try to tax our way out, the situation will grow worse as more foreclosures occur. Please use this experience as a lesson and limit spending increases to no more than inflation. In boom years, save toward lean years.

Reduce the number of police on the streets. Way too many driving around, and setting speed traps in Great Falls, and other low/no crime areas. Get rid of all new hires over the last 6 months. My company laid off 30% of staff between November and February. How many people has Fairfax County laid off. Layoff employees first, then talk to us about a tax increase!!!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

PLEASE very seriously reconsider the elimination of the Fairfax Connector 595/597 bus service to the Pentagon and Crystal City. MOST, if not all riders WOULD GLADLY PAY AN INCREASED FARE if it meant keeping this bus service - I have polled many of my fellow riders. I don't know if any of you have ever had to commute but the options you are forcing on us by cutting this service is untenable. I moved to this area specifically because of this bus service, as many others have also. It is the only reasonable option we have for commuting into this area in a reasonable amount of time. These buses are now ALWAYS full, some with standing room only (new riders every week), especially since last summer's increase in gasoline prices. It is definitely not an underutilized service. Taking the bus to West Falls Church, as is frequently suggested, and then riding metro adds approximately 45 minutes to the commute each way and that's assuming there are no other issues in the rail system. Additionally, seating is rarely available at West Falls Church this early in the mornings- try standing for 20-25 minutes on the bus then an addition 45 plus minutes on the metro. I cannot believe that the county really wants to add to the driving congestion in the Dulles corridor by forcing us to now drive into the city, which will become the only option when time is a key factor. This is very much a quality of life issue and is counter to the USA's awareness to become more environmentally friendly by reducing automobile carbon emissions. PLEASE RECONSIDER.

To whom it may concern: It has been brought to my attention that the County Executive has proposed a new school-aged childcare pilot program that may impact the SACC Program at Fairview Elementary School. I am very concern with the changes you are proposing. SACC is a WONDERFUL child care program. The structure of the program consists of a variety of activities for the children. The teachers are very friendly, professional and caring people who really take the time to get to know your children. The prices are very affordable too. My children, on most occasions, tell me that they are not ready to go home when I arrive to pick them up. They have been at several after care centers before we were placed in the SACC Program and they were always ready to go home. It is a wonderful feeling to know that your children are being well cared for and they are happy and content. Please explain what these proposed changes are and your reasons for making changes to the current SACC Program. In addition, please explain how it will benefit the parents and children.

Please look at upper- and mid-level managerial/supervisory positions when cutting positions. The worker bees are needed and in some cases, they do the majority of the work.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

At a time of increasing unemployment, foreclosed houses, it is crazy to raise home taxes or create new homeowner taxes. You will drive people out of their homes and make things worse. You need to make drastic cuts and not in those areas serving the less fortunate like mental health. Cut employee salaries, not just freeze increases. Raise their contributions to health plans like we all have to pay every month. No more crap about losing good people to other counties, they are cutting too.

First the County lowers the real estate assessments, and now wants to raise the rate by as much as12 cents per $100 of assessed value plus a stormwater Svs Dist tax of 1.5 cents per $100 of your house assessed value. What is the Board thinking? Are they trying to run every retired resident of the County out of the County? With the stock market and the economy in a free fall, the County is buying MORE RENTAL UNITS to become the largest landlord in the County. For what? Let private individuals own rental units. What is going on, the County should be cutting spending, reducing staff instead of hiring a director of the Office to Prevent Homelessness. Retirees will be homeless soon if this madness does not STOP!!!

Cutting bus lines such as the Fairfax Connector 556 (my line), will simply add more cars to the two park-and-ride lots in Reston. What will happen when the larger lot is inevitably shut down to build a parking garage? Do we then use the free parking garages at Reston Town Center, taking spaces that would otherwise be used by employees and shoppers there?

Referencing #001-89-323 prorating employer Health Insurance contributions. Are the majority of part-time employees women? Is this discrimination to women who hold the majority of part-time positions? How many men work part-time in Fairfax County? Consider prorating employer contributions to new hires, not long time employees.

As a teacher in FCPS schools since l982, as a parent and now a grandparent of FCPS students I have a lot of experience with the SACC programs. SACC provides an enriched educational life in a nurturing, safe environment day after day. The caregivers are extending the day for students in a positive manner. The children are in a family like setting. For example, the kinders learn to play chess and basketball with older children. The staff has educational themes that extend or build on the classroom learning. The children do not have to be shuffled from one setting to another. The parents know their children are safe and cared for emotionally, physically, and academically. Please do not cut this program out or cut it back. It serves a needed service for students, parents and teachers. Please go and spend a morning or afternoon in a SACC room and feel the community spirit. You would want your child or grandchild there also!

I have just found out that the Fairfax Connector is in favor of eliminating the 304 bus route in 2010. I use this bus every day and it is my only mode of transportation to the metro station. Please reconsider eliminating this route, it will create a hardship on those of us who need this bus to run so we can keep our jobs. Some of us cannot afford to lose our jobs but that will be what happens if we cannot use the bus to get to work.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Regarding the proposed Fairfax Connector service cuts in the North County region: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/pdf/fy10_proposed_changes.pdf First, it makes no sense whatsoever to propose service reductions only in the North County region. Second, it also makes no sense to cut any express route or any route that acts as an express route. Noticeably: 1) The 505 bus provides additional capacity to the Reston East Park N Ride lot. It operates at capacity, particularly later in the rush hour when the Fairfax County lot is full and riders park in the VDOT lot on Sunset Hills Road instead. Cutting service on this line makes no sense. 2) Ridership on the 553 line has increased noticeably in the past 9 months even as ridership suffers. This line typically runs 15 minutes late whereas the 551 which overlaps part of its route at a later time runs on time. 3) The 557 bus operates beyond capacity most mornings and evenings between Wiehle Avenue and West Falls Church, often beyond safe standing room only capacity. 4) The 585 bus operates at capacity often with standing room only throughout rush hour. It makes more sense to merge the 585 and 553 lines than to cut service on either of these lines. The solution isn't to cut any of the full "express" routes that serve West Falls Church from Reston. It makes more sense to raise fares to keep service levels the same or charge for parking in Herndon and Reston to encourage better utilization of local routes.

I would like to comment on proposed service reduction to the Fairfax Connector bus service. Last Sept (2008) I stopped driving downtown to work and began commuting by public transportation. This involves a bus ride from Reston South Park and Ride to West Falls Metro, metro to Foggy Bottom and Metrobus to a block from my work near the White House. (I could metro to Farragut West and walk, but due to knee problems I cannot walk the 7 blocks). Today as I waited for a 585 bus at West Falls I read a list of proposed schedule changes. I am appalled that you are proposing a 40% reduction on ALL South Reston routes. Every bus I ride is always full, usually with standees. I take one bus regularly in the mornings but have taken buses anytime from 4:15 to 6:15 home in the evening. Meanwhile, as I stand in line for the 585, at the next bus stop, the 425 and 427 buses leave more frequently and with maybe a dozen riders on board. And there are NO CHANGES proposed for these sparsely used routes. Do any of you actually COUNT how many riders are on these buses?? I was going to write to suggest you might run the 585 more often than the 20 minutes (at peak, the best it ever gets) and make the frequency more like those 425 and 427 that run every 15 minutes. But now I read you plan to cut the 585 -- AND ALL the other South Reston routes. And continue with the empty runs. Whose idea of a good plan is that for getting cars off the road? I went from a 35 minute drive to work to a 1 hour and 15 minute commute (with no delays on Metro) I don't think I would continue with public transport if I have to wait even longer to get a bus. I suggest you start some counts of actual ridership on these routes.

This is regarding what I have heard about the Stormwater Service District tax on RE which as I understand it will increase 1.5 cents per $100 of house valuation on top of existing RE tax. So on a home worth 500K that would mean an additional $700 to an approximate present RE tax of $4700. Given that I am a recent widow and living on a fixed income and given the state of the economy, are you trying to get more people to foreclose on their homes??? Is there no other way to garner more money ... just keep raising taxes so that there will be a very limited middle class (which always gets the bullet)? I would appreciate a response as I have emailed several of my friends and they are very interested, as I am, in your response.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I do not support the Stormwater Tax nor any increase in property taxes. It is getting very tiresome for the taxpayer to continually bail out government (whether it is our national government or our local government). We pay our Supervisors to keep our best interest in mind. Taking more money out of our paycheck is NOT in our best interest. Think of a better idea. That is what WE PAY YOU TO DO!

To the Board of Supervisors, This message is in response to an e mail that I received concerning Therapeutic Rec summer camps. My son, is 18 and mentally retarded, has participate in the Therapeutic Rec summer camps for several years. I received an email from them last night indicating the change in plans to charge for transportation for these programs. While I do support the participants paying for some of the transportation, the amount is too much. We would pay $70 for one week of camp, but the transportation would cost $100. The transportation cost is more than the cost of the camp.!!!!! The last couple of years my son has done a couple of weeks of this wonderful camp. At this rate he would not get that opportunity. We do what we can to help him have a normal life, please don't make things any harder for him. I am sure there are going to be lots of families that will not be able to afford this transportation cost. Please reconsider these costs.

CUT SPENDING!!! Don't even talk to me about tax increases. There is no one in Fairfax County who is unhurt by the collapsing economy. To quote Margaret Thatcher: "The problem with socialism is that sooner or later you run out of other people's money." We are all running out of money. STOP SPENDING IT!!!

Since the schools are half the county's budget, why not tackle them? Most people gripe about costs miss the real issue: the schools duplicate exactly the same systems that the county has. The problem is, they do so poorly (too small, too many teachers in HR and other Admin positions). Why not combine the schools Admin services (such as payroll, pensions, and health insurance) at a start? The schools have the SAME health care provider -- if you combined, you'd get a better deal. The schools have a WORSE 403(b) and 457 providers (they use private, small firms that charge between 1-3 percent of assets as fees). The county, by contrast, has T Rowe Price -- one of the best in the industry. (Both lowest cost and best options). Finally -- why in the world is the schools running its own payroll? It isn't that complex -- the only reason they say it is complex is because they have ignorant staff running their HR department...

Morning, Mr. Griffin I am in the USAF and ride the 380 bus every morning and evening. I know the bus if full everyday with hard working DOD and mititary men and women. Why this bus route would be cut is beyond reason. Please consider not cutting the 380 bus from your budget. Thank you for your time.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

To Whom It May Concern, I strongly oppose the elimination of the Fairfax Connector 380 line. This bus is filled to capacity daily, often with standing room only during the typical "rush hour" commute. It seems counter-intuitive to eliminate one of the most heavily used routes while maintaining other routes with much less ridership. While I admit that there are alternatives to the 380 bus line, I would like to point out that your bus line is faster, more economical and more pleasant than taking the Metro. If all scheduled 380 bus times cannot be retained, I would suggest a reduction in the times the bus is not full to capacity (i.e. extremely early in the morning and very late in the evening). This would allow the 380 bus line to be a viable (and preferred) alternative during peak travel times. Thank you for your consideration.

I strongly oppose to eliminate bus routes 597 and 595 as this will increase Privately Owned Vehicle use and backups un the toll road. I have two small children that I have to pick up from daycare and I have been relying on bus 597 and 597 for many years. If there is no direct bus service to the Pentagon/Crystal City, I'll have to drive in to save time. Taking a bus to WFC and changing lines at metro, walking from metro station is too time consuming. It takes about 1 hrs 15 min. instead of 30 min ride on a bus. If you should do anything to increase revenue, higher bus rates are an option. Please do not eliminate Route 595. Thank you for consideration.

Part of the cuts suggested under the FY2010 Budget, I found cuts to two express buss routes run by the Fairfax Connector (595 and 597). I have been riding route 595 to the Pentagon since 2006. The proposed cut is justified in the presented material by the existence of duplicate service in the form of bus to West Falls Church Metro and Metro to Pentagon. This constitutes a fare increase for riders as the cost of bus/metro is higher than the current bus fare. The fare increase in and of itself is not a problem as much as the change in commuting time. As a matter of fact, most passengers on this bus would be willing to pay an increased fare if faced with bus/metro change. Taking the bus to the metro and then the trains to the Pentagon would increase my commute time almost double. I currently have a 40 minute door to door commute, which includes drive to the Reston Park and Ride, the bus ride to the Pentagon and a short walk to my office. The alternative would include the drive to Park and Ride, bus ride to West Falls, walk from bus to metro, a few minutes waiting for metro, change at Roslyn (sometimes during rush hour one must skip a train before being able to get on), potentially wait a few minutes for a train. I have had to do this on occasion on the way back from work, and door to door this commute would be 1 hour and 20 minutes. Faced with the choice of driving vs taking a bus/metro combination to reach the Pentagon I will choose to drive, because the cost will be almost the same and the time to travel will be shorter.

I strongly oppose the proposed elimination of Fairfax Connector buss routes 595/597 from Reston East P&R to Pentagon/Crystal City. As a retired military, now DoD civilian employee, I depend on this service to get me to and from my job at Defense Security Cooperation Agency in a timely manner. The so called "duplicative service" would add at a minimum of 30 minutes to my commute each way. I would support a rate increase on these routes to keep them in service. Otherwise, in order to avoid driving to work, I would drive to Fairfax County Govt. Center and take a Connector bus from there to Vienna Metro--a better alternative than taking a Connector bus from Reston East P&R to Falls Church Metro. The 595/597 bus is always SRO, so why not increase the fares and keep more POVs off the roads?

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please ensure that the School Age Child Care Program (SACC) is fully-funded. There is no better program in Fairfax County to care for our children. My sons have had the same terrific SACC teachers for almost 7 years. The budget should ensure that SACC has the funding it needs to maintain its high quality teachers and programming.

Please reconsider eliminating the commuter bus routes 595 and 597. As a regular rider, I can testify they are almost always filled to standing, which not only makes a significant impact in reducing our road congestion, but in helping the environment (with the perceived public-affairs benefits). I would gladly pay a 30% greater fare, and recommend raising the rates rather than eliminating the routes entirely. I note that the Mass Transit Benefit for government workers was increased substantially this year, so most riders would likely claim more in benefits rather than leave the route.

I am writing to ask the County to reconsider their reductions in service to TRS. As the parent of a graduating FCPS student who has Mental Retardation I already know that the cuts are profoundly affecting the disability community. It is simply not right that in such an affluent community those with the least are asked to sacrifice the most! My son will probably finish this year and be without the funding he needs to secure employment. The county will have spent thousands of dollars and thousands of hours by dedicated teachers and in the end we all will lose out on the opportunity of having my son be a productive member of society. The services TRS provides for inclusion within the general population and the transportation to these services is a vital component to a society without barriers! The more we associate and learn about a person the more we understand how much we have in common. Don't ask this population to pay yet another price that will have ramifications in not only the individuals future but in the civil rights of an entire community! We as a county are better than that I hope.

We'd like to keep the current SACC program at the Eagle View Elementary School. The current SACC program is great. The SACC teachers are wonderful. My kids have learned a lot from that. We don't have to worry when the kids are still in within the school area. Also, it is affordable and convenient for us, the working parents. We cannot afford the expensive childcare fee from the outside. We cannot be home early everyday with the current jobs and all that traffic problem nowadays.

I am aware of the budget proposal for changes to the RIBS buses. I take the buses regularly to/from work, doctors appointments and the drop in center. The Fairfax Connector recently raised the fairs and implemented a smart trip card system and got rid of paper transfers. If the changes go through as proposed , it would impact my work availability and hours at where I work. Currently, I am unable to work past 8:30 PM on Sundays since the buses currently don't run past 9 PM. A lot of people depend on the RIBS in the neighborhood where I live. ZAtr this time I work until 10 PM or 11 PM during the week. The buses currently run hourly in the evening during the week. I don't know what I would do If the times were reduced during the week. My schedule varies weekly. I A lot of the residents of Reston depend on the buses, especially the ones that are proposed to change.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As both a parent of a student currently enrolled in SACC, and a school administrator, I want to express my concerns regarding the proposed pilots for new child care programs provided by Fairfax County. SACC has been instrumental in the development of both academic and social skill for my son. He currently participates in the after kindergarten session, as well as the after school session. Every day he shares with me new ideas, games and problem solving strategies he has learned from being in SACC. I believe the time he spends in the after Kindergarten program is just as beneficial to him both academically and socially as the half-day K curriculum itself. The ratio of staff to students is ideal and the curriculum enriching and exciting for kids. My son has learned to play more board games, sports and cooperative learning games this year than in any other setting! He loves SACC and never wants to leave when I go to pick him up. SACC is an integral part of our school community. The staff are professional, energetic and love kids. They are important members of the school staff who provide teachers with great insights into the development of their students. They are truly partners with our parents and teachers in the education of the students they serve. This program must stay as is! SACC needs to be expanded to more schools in order to reach more students. This is one of the only affordable after school programs for all families county-wide. Do not outsource it or increase the student-teacher ratio. This will only be detrimental to our students and our schools.

Please continue the regular operation of Fairfax Connector from West Falls Church Metro to Herndon/Reston (951/952). Myself along with many other people use this regularly to commute to work since I cannot afford to own a car at this point of time.

Hi, I commute everyday using the 951/952 bus from West Falls Church to Spring Street/Herndon Pkwy. I got a flier this morning notifying that the service will be discontinued from next month. Will it be possible to reconsider this decision, since it will cause inconvenience to number of commuters who regularly use it to commute to work.

Greetings, Please do not discontinue the 951/952 service from west falls church metro to reston/herndon. I use it for my everyday commute to work.

Please do not eliminate the 952 service since it only operates during rush hours. You can reduce the very early morning frequency since most commuters travel between 7am-9am

It has been brought to my attention that there is talk about outsourcing and/or decreasing the SACC programs at several, if not all of the FCPS elementary schools. My children have participated in the SACC program at Deer Park for 3 years and I have nothing but exemplary feedback for all of the staff. It is an excellent program that provides enriched activities for kids in a safe and caring environment. SACC is provided at affordable rates and therefore allows many parents to maintain their jobs in the workforce while ensuring that their children are well taken care of. My understanding is that SACC is fully funded by the parents of the SACC students and I do not see any reason why SACC should be affected by the budget constraints. SACC is a benchmark for afterschool programs around the country and provides high quality programming that supports our children's education. Please do not cut back on this extremely valuable program that provides so much for our children and for the working parents in the county. Thank you for considering this.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Mr. Griffin, Please do not eliminate the Fairfax Connector Bus service for Rt 952. It already runs during rush hours only and supports a lot of commuters. In hard economic times as these, it will be extremely difficult for me (and many other commuters) to pay for the expensive auto-insurance and potentially high gas prices.

Please do not eliminate the 952 Fairfax CONNECTOR service. It will be really difficult for me to commute to work

Hello Mr. Griffin, Please do not discontinue Fairfax Connector 952 service.

Strongly recommend against eliminating the Fairfax Connector Express 380 service. A better compromise would be to evaluate which 380 busses have the least amount of riders and eliminate just those portions of the entire 380 schedule. Currently, based on my ridership, the AM schedule from 0638 to 0723 has consistently filled (to capacity) busses. For the PM schedule from 1639 to 1724 has consistently filled (to capacity) busses. I would strongly urge any supervisors that are in the decision making process of eliminating these services outright to show up and ride these busses during the time periods I have identified. Then, identify themselves and allow the riders to express their views. The VRE does this, why can't you?! Thank you for the opportunity to provide you my feedback.

1. Did the county receive Stimulus funds? If, so how it me used?

plz don't discontinue the Fairfax connector service for 952

One of the proposed cuts to employee benefits is to prorate the health insurance contribution the County makes to part-time employees. While I appreciate that other local jurisdictions prorate their contributions, the County's relative generosity was factored into my decision to accept employment with the County back in 2002. I now stand to endure a $5800/year paycut (BlueChoice HMO, family coverage). A more targeted and thoughtful approach would be to make employees with modifiable health risk factors pay higher rates. In particular, employees who smoke and/or employees with a Body Mass Index > 30. This, of course, would upset many employees who smoke or who are obese. It would take strong leadership to endure the inevitable backlash, but the County would then have the satisfaction of knowing it was doing something productive about the cost of health care -- and employees' health -- rather than penalizing employees whose only misdeed is working part-time.

Please, please, please do not discontinue the 304 bus. I need this bus to continue running so I can keep my job!! Thank you!

This is not the time to propose any increases in taxes, especially property taxes. Manage the budget more efficiently, cut services if need be. DO NOT look to place more tax burden on citizens of Fairfax county!!!!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am astonished that the Board is considering cuts to Fairfax Connector service while at the same time constantly issuing statements about the traffic problems facing our area. For example, Commissioner McKay's recent statements about the BRAC decisions and the problems with the 395 corridor traffic are not consistent with the proposals to discontinue direct bus service from the Springfield area to the Pentagon bus center. I urge the board to look for efficiencies elsewhere before reducing the mass transit service that many of us depend.

Please do not eliminate Fairfax Connector Bus Route 402. I rely on Route 402 to get to and from work. I was very disappointed and concerned to learn that the Board of Supervisors was considering elimination of Route 402 as a strategy to address the budget shortfall.

As a loyal customer of Fairfax Connector, I am very concerned with the proposal to delete the 380 route. Once again, it is on the chopping block. We go through this drill about every six months, or so it seems, and I just don't understand why this route continually gets targeted for deletion. It only runs during rush hour, and during the peak hours, is usually standing room only. It has to be more profitable than other routes during the same time period, and certainly more profitable than off-peak hour routes. Since it is an express route, customers are charged $3.00 instead of the normal $1.25 (smartrip rate). I'm sure that was intended to off-set the empty return leg. I think Fairfax County should study this service to determine where losses are being taken and offer options to the customers rather than arbitrarily cut the service. I think a study would reveal management issues causing loss of profitability. I would propose route changes to deleting the return legs. Consider using the bus on other routes near the Pentagon rather than sending it back to Springfield empty. This would take a great deal of route re-scheduling, but in the end, it could be more cost effective. Fare increases shouldn't be off the table either. Personally, I would be willing to pay the same faire as metro charges to get to the Pentagon from Springfield ($3.65). Finally, make drivers enforce removing smartrip cards from wallets before placing over the readers. This will ensure every passenger gets charged for their ride. The bottom line it that there is a solution without cutting service. In short, every passenger on this route is a loyal customer who does not want this service discontinued. Stop trying to take the easy way out and work through the profitability question.

Regarding 304 bus service elimination: Request you consider rate increase to continue service, rather than eliminating the 304 bus.

Why does Mr. Xxxx get paid when he does nothing for CERT program for months. I do not see any classes (CERT 1 is taught by volunteers) and takes no effort on his part. So do not except he is too busy. He came from NY and bit off more than he could chew. Time for change. Mr. Xxxx this is no NY. When is South County getting CERT? We asked for this years ago. Only the rich (Reston) get it. Make it expectation that Mr. Xxxx teaches just as many in South County, in order for him to keep his job. Then we will see it there. Until then, he will say not enough interest.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am concerned about proposals to eliminate or reduce service by Fairfax Connector, specifically to reduce service by 40 percent for Route 585. I work in Washington DC, and rely on bus service from Reston South Park & Ride to West Falls Church. My ability to get to and from work is already determined/limited by the bus schedule, and reducing service on this route would do so even more. Please let me know if there are other ways to ensure that my concerns are passed along to those making decisions about service by Fairfax Connector.

Sirs: As a long-time property owner in Fairfax county I express my strong disagreement with Mr. Griffin's proposal to raise property tax rates. It is inherently unfair to increase taxes on a declining asset. At a time when property values are declining, raising rates only serves to accelerate that decline. I do not understand why bus fees, for example, are not raised along with other user fees. In addition, does the county attempt to determine whether people using "free" county services, e.g., schools, hospitals, assistance programs, etc., are legally in this country? Has the fat been cut out of the schools? There seem to be a tremendous number of "late days" and teacher consultation "days." Why isn't the summer holiday shortened so that children could graduate sooner from high school? I notice also that increasingly teachers do not teach but aspire to a variety of administrative positions. What steps have the Supervisors taken in their own operations to reduce costs? All of these and many more issues should be addressed before taxes are raised and alarmist proposals are made to cut vital services such as police and fire.

We need the board to reconsider its decision to eliminate the Fairfax Connector 380 Bus Route. We believe that many of the data used to determine the return on investment for that route were not complete or accurate and needs to be revisited. It would be a great disservice to those that rely on the Connector for their commute to work, much of which is subsidized by the federal government through the federal employees that use this route.

To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to express my strong feelings against the potential elimination of the Fairfax Connector Route 595 (Pentagon Express). I realize that you are facing a record budget shortfall; however, the elimination of Route 595 is a terrible idea. Last October, my husband and I moved from Arlington and bought a house in the Herndon/Reston area. One of the reasons we chose this area was because of the Route 595 Connector Bus. I work at the Pentagon, so commuting time was a huge issue when we were searching for a house. Because of this great route and other factors, we chose the house we now live in. I ride this bus Monday through Friday and it is always packed. All the seats are taken and the aisles are crowded with riders standing. If I were to take the metro everyday, it would add 45 minutes to my commute each way. I have tested it out a few times over the past few weeks. Fairfax Connector 595 has been a wonderful experience. It is always clean, usually on time and the drivers are friendly. Please make it known that the Fairfax Connector Route 595 should not be eliminated. Thank you for listening to my comments.

I am very happy with the in school SACC program and I am not happy to hear that you are looking into outsourcing or otherwise changing the SACC program. If there is a budgetary constraint, then raising the SACC rates a bit for parents who can afford it would be a much better option.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

My comments are simple, currently I own a contracting business, the building review department is not eliminating any positions at this time, however, I can say their workload has dropped by 70- 80 % from a few years ago. They currently are dollaring us to death and metering the review times. They can have 1 set of plans or 20 sets of plans and the review time is the same! What the hell are they doing in their? My suggestion, fire them all and let Ron Bladen take back over! He is the only one over their that I believe can do the job properly. From what I know it runs to the top doing this. I can tell you as a contractor, soon I will consider whether the cost of a permit is worth it and just carry it through to the owners and let them decide if they want to pay the extremely higher cost of permitting or not. It will definitely affect the amount of revenue coming into the county in a negative way. Not how it is portrayed with a 5.5 million fee increase! considering the amount of work coming in has dropped, good luck making that one balance out!

I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to oppose the proposed consolidation of the Planning Commission (PC) with the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ). The role of DPZ is to make a recommendation to the PC and the Board of Supervisors based on their analysis and the analyses of other County agencies. DPZ is a directorate in and of itself. The PC is not involved with the DPZ. The PC was established in 1938 as an independent County agency and has remained that way ever since. The PC is autonomous. The PC is a private directory, private in the sense that it is not affiliated with DPZ, nor should it ever be. This would reflect a significant conflict of interest that would be severly scrutinized by the residents of the County. Therefore, I ask that you vote against this proposal as it would risk the integrity of the County's land use review process. Thank you for your consideration.

I just read also about the cut back in school activities. I believe we need a few less helicopters and a few less employees at the county! There are many places to make cuts. We have had to do it and you need to also! Get the AXE out ! The citizens can't fund all this stuff we really don't need. Fairfax county has a long history of wasteful spending. The good times are over, lets get real!

I think the idea of trying to establish pilot programs at the Laurel Hill and Coppermine sites is ridiculous. SACC is one of the greatest things Fairfax County has to offer. The Board of Supervisors should instead immediately plan to offer SACC at those sites. As a parent this is a huge issue for me and it will absolutely impact any vote that I cast in the future.

I am opposed to an increase in property tax of any kind. The new tax called the Stormwater Service District is just another means of taxing property. We have lost property value and now you want to keep funds at the same level when our net asset value has decreased. The Fairfax County Government should reduce its expenditures like we have to do. Thank you.

To whom it may concern, I recently was apprised that the County is considering eliminating the VRE EZ bus and that the County does not want to consider price changes. In the case of the EZ bus this strikes me as wrong-headed. Until fall of last year, the EZ bus was free. And then it started costing $0.25 in the morning, but remained free in the afternoon. This struck me as odd, since its quite apparent that more people take the EZ bus in the afternoon than in the morning, so the County was not charging everyone fairly. In any case, I would propose the County charge EZ bus riders $0.25 each way, rather than eliminate it. For each rider, that increase amounts to an increase of about $4/month, but would more than pay for the cost of gas and maintenance of the buses.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

In response to the proposed privatization of the Fairfax County School Aged Childcare program (SACC). Outsourcing works and makes sense where there is a unique need that is not part of the focus or expertise of the organization. This is clearly not the case with the Fairfax County SACC program. The program run by the County and housed in County schools is of tremendous value to the school system and County residents. If the decision is based purely on cost, then raise the rates. Current rates are already substantially below privately run for-profit centers. In my opinion, the quality of the program with SACC is superior. If this extremely valuable and beneficial program is outsources, I would be willing to bet that the County may save some money, but County residents that are served by the program would end up paying substantially more. In addition to this, there is no guarantee that the quality of the program would not be compromised in pursuit of a profit. More importantly, the talented and caring staff members that work at these centers would be lost to the County and the children they serve. Please do not sacrifice this high quality, extremely beneficial program in the name of budget cuts.

I have been riding Fairfax Connector for years and I am greatly disturbed by the proposed route eliminations. Specifically the 303 route that I use to get to and from work everyday. I do not drive and use a wheelchair. I depend greatly on Fairfax Connector to get me where I need to go. I pay property taxes to Fairfax county for our Condominium I don't appreciate having services removed. I understand the economy but how about a reduction rather than an elimination of route 303?

RAISE THE MONEY IS TAKES TO RUN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ITS ELECTIONS PROPERLY. DON'T FEAR THE "NEVER ANY TAXES" REPUBLICANS. DO THE JOB RIGHT AND RAISE THE MONEY TO RUN THE OPERATIONS, ELECTIONS, ETC. WELL. THESE ELECTION PROCEDURE CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED ARE RIDICULOUS.

Having a paper ballot for this year's elections is a big priority for me. I wouldn't mind my taxes going up a few cents if it means that we'll have a paper trail for the primary and general elections. Please do what you can to restore the necessary funding to the Elections Board or else the rest of the budget will be pointless - we won't be sure that we have a functioning democracy in Fairfax County.

Excellent idea to eliminate I Voted stickers, to cut back on staff at polling places, and to eliminate all satellite absentee voting. Make it easier for more people to vote absentee by mail and in person at the gvt. center. Get smart and start saving tax payers money. Cut out the waste.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I recommend strongly against eliminating the satellite absentee voting for future elections. I served as a legal observer outside those polls for the November presidential election. The lines were long. When people wait over two hours to cast a ballot, they are there because they are not going to be available to vote on election day. Many people learn close to election day that they will not be able to cast a ballot on election day, when it is too late for a mailed in absentee ballot. Also, having had my own mailed in absentee ballot not counted in the 2002 elections -- because as my father lay dying, I failed to fill in one required box -- I am all too familiar with what can go wrong with the mail-in ballots. For many people -- myself now included -- the security of going in person, where a poll worker is available to make sure all paperwork is filled out properly, is critical. I also highly recommend maintaining the "I voted" stickers. I am 35: those stickers have been important to me since I cast my first vote at 18. I leave them on my jacket until they fall off, always reminding people the importance of voting. And now, having watched voters leave the polls for close to 30 hours in November (both in-person absentee voting and on election day), it is clear how highly valued the stickers are across the board. Nearly every voter wanted one: proud to proclaim this act of citizenship. And many people left without getting one, only to come back and ask for their sticker. The children of voters also took great interest in the stickers, which will hopefully lead them to the path of responsible citizenship -- voting -- when they are of age. The right to vote is critical. This is no time for Fairfax County to be cutting back on services that encourage voting. Thank you for considering my views.

Please keep satellite absentee voting available to our citizens. It is very important that all citizens have the opportunity to vote with convenience.

Dear Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: I am VERY concerned about plans I've just heard about to eliminate satellite absentee balloting and to cut back on polling place staffing. As an election officer in Reston I am very attuned to this issue and believe that significant cuts in these areas is the same thing as making it MUCH harder for me and my neighbors to vote. 1. Many of us work in DC or even farther away and/or travel a lot for work and often cannot get to the polls on election day. If we have to resort to mailed absentee ballots, this means we can't find out much about candidates before we have to vote in time to make sure our (uninformed) vote is counted. And our county is very large so going to the Government Center can be quite a problem. 2. The staffing on election day for those who CAN come has been barely enough in the past year to cover the needs; cutting back will cause big delays -- ESPECIALLY if it's more difficult to vote absentee in advance. Big delays mean more people have to drop out of line due to other obligations. Also at $100 per staffer (for 16-17 hours of work!) this cannot constitute a significant savings vs other choices. This is a civil rights issue and should not be a candidate for budget cuts.

Don't eliminate our Fairfax Connector bus routes 595 & 597 - these routes are always 100% full with many passengers standing as there are no seats left. Why would you seek to significantly increase rush hour road congestion by eliminating these routes? Keep the routes, and we would accept a 67% fair increase to $5 per trip to help the county balance the budget.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Impact of LOB Reduction #001-67-232: $39,768 - 15% reduction in funding Brain Injury Services (BIS) is the sole Fairfax County-subsidized provider of long term specialized case management services and a day program for Fairfax County Residents with brain injuries and their families. A 15% reduction in County funding will result in the immediate loss of case management and support services for 53 County residents. In addition, the wait list for County Residents to obtain needed services will increase by 33% to more than 36 months. Without timely access to appropriate services, survivors of brain injuries often end up in the criminal justice and mental health systems, costing the County significantly more money than the cost of rehabilitative services.

I found satellite voting to be very convenient and I urge you to keep this service open.

I believe absentee voting should still be continued. Voting should be a right in this country and sometimes it is just impossible to make it to the polls.

Please continue to fund absentee voting in all its forms. Given the awful traffic congestion, satellite absentee voting is essential for many people in this area. We are in dire straits financially, but we cannot afford to undermine our democracy to save money in the short term.

Please reconsider your thoughts on eliminating the 595/597 bus routes to Crystal City. The alternates are 1) driving myself or 2) take the bus to West Falls Church, wait for the metro, change at Rosslyn and wait to get on the next metro and FINALLY arrive at Crystal City. The amount of time this would take would be double than what it takes on the bus. There is a lot of people that rely on these routes in order to get to work -- many times there is standing room only on these busses. Please reconsider a fare hike instead of total elimination of routes.

You guys are proposing getting rid of all satellite absentee voting and elimination of optical scan voting for all 2009 elections? Elections are a fundamental government responsibility that requires proper funding. Tax rates must be set at a level that will adequately cover the cost of everyone being able to participate in our democracy.

Please do not eliminate satellite absentee voting and election day staffing at the polls. If a problem arises at the polls additional people are needed and problems always occur. I leave in Skyline Precinct and it takes me almost 45 minutes to get to the County Governmental Center. One has to be unusually dedicated to make that trip. It is essential we continue with satellite voting and in fact it really should be increased for all elections including "special" ones.

I have 2 children who have benefited greatly from the SACC program. I currently have a 3rd and 7th grader. The low turnover of the teachers has provided significant stability for my children. This program works. I can productively work a full day and not worry about my kids care. This is good for the county since I have been steadily rising my income and even purchased a house last year in a neighborhood that is holding its value. Please do not change the structure of the SACC program. I would be willing to pay more to keep it as it is. It's a working parents dream to have such responsible care available. Since it already has waiting lists, cutting this program would reduce the ability of working parents to continue to be productive at their jobs.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As an election official of over 20 years standing, I feel that making it more difficult for citizens to vote is not only penny wise and pound foolish--it undercuts the foundations of democracy. Walk-in absentee satellite voting makes it possible for many of us in the eastern end of the county to vote efficiently. Postponing electronic scanners for a year or two--presuming the other machines are in good working order and stopping handing out "I voted" stickers may make short run sense. REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ELECTION OFFICERS PER POLLING PLACE DOES NOT! It is hard enough to process over 2000 voters in 13 hours and keep lines as short as possible as it is (which is the kind of precinct I am Chief of). Without easy early voting in the area, sufficient machines and a strong staff, it becomes too burdensome. Election officials do not work for the money really but this sort of reduction making the work even harder over a long day and for little recompense would probably just reduce the number of people willing to do the job. Democracy is not something we should sacrifice in this kind of consideration.

This is in reference to the Fairfax Connector proposed eliminating service of route 380. My husband and I take the 380 bus everyday to the Pentagon. The buses are always full, no matter what time we took the 380 bus. Eliminating this route would be a disservice to the Fairfax County taxpayers. Further study should be done before eliminating this route. We want the 380 to continue!!!

I am writing to express my concern about the proposal to reduce the Fairfax Connector bus service on route 301 by 40% in 2010. I live in Woodstone subdivision and use public transportation every day to get to work and back. Walking to the nearest Metro station (Huntington) takes one hour and parking at Huntington is expensive, so I consider the bus service to be the only reasonable way to commute to work both in financial and environmental terms. The only bus routes servicing the area where I reside are 162/161 and 301. I have been taking routes 161 and 162 in the past and found them unreliable, because 10 to 15-minute delays are not uncommon. On the other hand, bus route 301 is always on time, and as a result the ridership on route 301 is much higher during rush hours. It would be a mistake to reduce service on route 301, since this is the only reliable public transportation option available to residents in Woodstone, Vantage and other neighborhoods in the area, especially along The Parkway. Please take my opinion into consideration when developing 2010 budget.

Please do not eliminate satellite absentee/early voting! I work long hours and normally can't vote in-person on election day. Also, I don't live close to the Fairfax County Government offices. We have seen HUGE voter turn out in the last several elections, due in large part to early and satellite voting. The elimination of these features would be a large step backwards for the County, and a significant hit to the democratic process. What a poor signal to our citizens!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Here's a suggestion: why don't you try to cut back on the spending rather than raise taxes? My annual salary increases at a lot slower pace than your tax increases. How do you expect me to continue living here let alone continue to pay taxes? Where is all the money that was collecting during the 'boom' years? Shouldn't the BoS and all the other folks with the purse strings have foreseen tighter times? I would recommend cutting services. Clearly, if services are underutilized, the perhaps it's time to consider whether or not they are necessary. So... 1. Reduce library operations to 4 days a week. 2. Cut some after school activities such as sports that have little participation. 3. Virtualize some services. A lot of so-called 'community centers' provide services that can be done virtually. Things like field scheduling, youth sports, etc. Moreover, why not utilize existing schools for infrastructure rather than keeping up buildings (like the McLean Community Center). 4. Freeze raises. In the private sector, you're not always guaranteed a raise. Or better yet: make every department have to deal with a budget reduction. Let's say reduce 10% all across the board.

Why would you even consider eliminating the 595/597 bus routes when you have all those small routes w/in the co. that no one rides and 595/597 keep the whole bus business running w/ standing room only both coming and going. Your "staff" doesn't know what it's talking about--the direct routes are the ones being used. This is why you--Fairfax Co.--took them over from metro because they were profitable. Your "staff" only says metro--BUT THEY AND YOU have DONE NOTHING to fix, promote, source metro for YEARS. Some plan. Supporting and promoting 597/595 is the only useful bus route you have.

The 595/597 bus route is the HOV for getting into the city from Fairfax county. You want to think what will happen when Fairfax County cannot meet the Federal clean air standards when you put ALL THE CARS BACK on the road. You "staff" thinks everyone will take the bus to falls church--think again--takes longer to go that way than driving. Do the CORRECT thing--the SMART thing and support the 595/597 bus. It should be expanded and promoted. Forget those buses w/in the county--these are your none productive and drain on your budget. Bottom-line – you have to get people to the WORK CENTERS and that's Pentagon/downtown. What are you doing for the commuter? Ask the "staff" about the clean air standards...bet they have no idea what they even are or any data/estimates for Fairfax Co to meet them. Keep 595/597!!!!

I understand that there are plans to cut health benefits - but for just the Merit Employees working 20 hrs. a week. That would mean that they would be taking a drastic cut in pay as well as having to pay higher health premiums. This is a sector that has gotten a Part Time Job, are Job Sharing, or trying to get into the County System and earning a very low paycheck due to the number of hours they work a week. Many times an employee may be working part time for the benefits to support a family. If one earns $400 every two weeks and the insurance premium is raised to $147.00 bi-weekly, that means there is not enough money on which to live. In this economy, many of us have lost our full time Jobs elsewhere, and our part time job is the only thing that is keeping us from being destitute. Part time employees should be the last group to consider cutting. When we were employed and accepted employment, one of the Contract terms was that we would have full benefits. The action of cutting (i.e. raising Health Care Premium) discriminates against those working 20 hrs a week and does not uphold a professional agreement. Please - do not consider raising the Health Care Premiums for the group the least likely to afford them. Thank you for your consideration.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I'm a regular user of the 595 Fairfax Connector line. Cancelling this service will increase my commute from Herndon to the Pentagon from approximately 30 minutes to 50-75 minutes or more via West Falls Church bus and Metro. It would be even more if I drove my car. Why weren't fare increases considered? I've been riding this line for 3 years and no fare increase has been levied during this time. It seems a fare increase should've been considered before outright cancellation. Why wasn't an adjusted schedule considered? Occasionally I am on the 650PM bus home and find there are usually no more that 4 or 5 passengers. Perhaps some of the times could be deleted to cut down on the numbers of busses needed (e.g. 8AM, 350PM and 650PM busses) or the routes could be spread out (e.g. run them every 40 minutes rather than every 30 minutes).

I am concerned about budget cuts that would effect Huntley Meadows part. This is a rare facility which should continue its educational programs and staff to protect the park. I am there frequently, but fortunately NOT on the day of the killing. Please do not cut the RMD budget. Especially in these hard times the parks will be serving a greater number of citizens and the education program is even more important.

I strongly recommend retaining the #380 bus serving the Franconia Metro-Pentagon route. The route is valuable to our service members and the bus runs at capacity everyday in both directions. Please consider this as one of Fairfax County's contributions to our war effort as well as supporting people who are serving our Nation. Thank You

The Library should NOT proctor exams. This takes valuable employee time away from the immediate needs of customers in the library. Online education is a growing field, but it is up to those colleges to find ways to assess their students or use commercial testing centers, not public libraries. Every college has their own rules and regulations and it takes too much time for library employees to wade through the various rules of each exam and provide extra services, such as faxing and mailing exams, that are not available to other customers.

Too high property taxes! Get real folks! Drop this property tax increase now. Reduce the budget to a level that county residents can afford. The Board of Supervisors need to dramatically demonstrate their willingness to control local spending and not raise taxes or encourage assessment increases by DTA!

I understand that there will be a cut in funds for elections. I want to let you know that the absentee ballot has been very important to me and my family. We travel quite often and want to make sure we vote if we are out of town. Please renew the funds that will be used for elections. Thank you.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Eliminating some of the proposed funding cuts, i.e., eliminating absentee satellite locations, reducing staffing at polling sites, seems to be counterproductive if we are trying to get more citizens to exercise their franchise. There can certainly be cost savings in the overall operation of not only the Election Board but throughout Fairfax County Government. There is way too much "fat" in staffing agency offices resulting in too few dollars getting down to where the services are ultimately rendered. To wit, homeowners recently received their annual "Notice of Real Estate Assessment Change" reflecting assessed valuation 2009 vis-à-vis 2008. While the assessed valuation for 2009 is substantially less than it was for 2008, our tax bill for 2009 is not going to mirror a similar reduction. The County's Department of Tax Administration will simply raise the tax rate per $100.00 of assessed valuation. This is all manipulated, to the disadvantage of the home-owner, so that the county can continue to have home owners shoulder the burden of financing an already bloated county government. While elected officials talk one thing out of one side of their mouths, their actions demonstrate an altogether contrary point of view. And it is always "John Q./Jane Q. Public" who end up stuck with the bill.

As a taxpayer in the Dranesville District of Fairfax County, I am very concerned about the cutbacks proposed in voting procedures. As a first time election officer this fall, I was grateful to be able to cast an absentee ballot beforehand since I was told I wouldn't have time to vote on election day with the large crowds that were expected. I know many people who were only able to vote by absentee ballot as well and eliminating all satellite absentee voting would definitely interfere with the right of citizens to vote. In addition, the presence of optical scanners was greatly appreciated by voters in November as I worked at my local polling station, mainly because, unlike touch screen voting, there is a paper trail in case of questions about voting results.

Please support the 595/597 bus transportation. This is the smartest, fastest, safest, and best mode of getting to work from this county--AND it makes money for you. "Staff" tries to tell you this route doesn't make money--they have to be manipulating figures. You only have a limited # of buses and each is packed. At $3 EACH WAY PER PERSON with PACKED BUSES there is no way you are not making money. Think about it. Do not believe you have the whole story. You try to get a parking place at the park and ride lot. The drain on your budget are the buses you see that nobody rides w/ in this county. Why are you talking HOV lanes--because people need to get to the Pentagon/Crystal City/downtown. This is good for the commuter. You should be expanding bus routes not building huge animal shelters. Transportation needs the attention. Support the 595/597 bus route.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I want to impress on the Board the positions advocated by VOICE. One, do nothing to divert or cut off funds from the one cent committed to providing for the homeless or for housing for those whose incomes would otherwise not permit them to reside in Fairfax County. The need for this assistance will grow this year. It will not decrease. If we aren't spending all of the funds allocated to this program, that is a management issue. It does not indicate a lesser need. In addition, we wish to have $50,000 committed for an additional dentist at the clinic located in Baileys Crossroads. Finally, we want to insure that ESOL courses for adults continue and that a survey be made to ascertain the level of need for these services so that in the future we in this county will support a full funding of those needs. One final comment, all of the county's social service programs are going to confront increased demands in these economic times. Do not, I repeat, do not trim one of these programs to address another. Look outside these programs for the additional funds required to provided the needed services. I for one am perfectly willing to support and do support and increase in the tax rate necessary to support these critical programs. Don't listen to the naysayers. Take care of all of our citizens. Thank you for your attention.

There is no reason to look at increasing size in SACC or outsourcing the program. If needed raise the tuition by $10 - 20 per child for the highest bracket, but leave the program as it is. It works and our children are receiving quality care and the program allows us to participate in other school sponsored programs that they wouldn't be able to participate in if they went to a private daycare.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Supervisor Bulova: I am strongly opposed to the proposed that the 136% increase in the fee in this year's County budget. I feel it is grossly unfair and places an undue burden on the parents and children participating in youth sports activities throughout the County. At a time when every citizen is counting every dollar, you are asking us to pay a 136% increase in the "kiddie tax." That is $13.00 per activity per child per season. This means that a family with two children each playing three sports seasons during the year will now pay $78.00 each year; an increase of $45.00 over the current fee. This proposed increase also will have a negative affect on sports groups' ability to continue field adoptions. In addition to paying the $5.50 user fee for participants in their club, athletic groups contribute millions of dollars to the County annually to maintain and improve grass fields and develop synthetic turf field. Athletic groups also donate thousands of volunteer hours annually to mow and line fields, and pick up trash on County fields. It is unfair for the County to tax these contributors in the first place with an application fee, let alone increase that fee by 136%. Any revenue raised by an increase in the user fee would be offset by loss of field adoptions as athletic groups will be forced to make cuts in their field maintenance budget in order to pay the increased user fee. Why would the County make it more difficult for children to participate in youth sports? Why would the County make it more difficult for sports groups to contribute to field maintenance and improvements? Participation in youth sports has numerous well-known benefits - both physically and socially. Sports groups have been valuable partners with the County by offsetting costs to improve the fields used by youth and adults with field adoptions and other forms of financial support for County athletic fields. Aren't these the things the County should be encouraging rather than discouraging with a 136% increase to a questionable tax? Finally, why would the County only impose a fee on organized users who apply for field permits? The current County policy that groups of 40 or fewer do not need a permit to use a field is grossly unfair to the current groups paying user fees and contributing additional funds for field improvements and maintenance. to How can the County possibly justify placing an even higher tax on those already paying user fees and contributing financially to field improvements while allowing non-paying groups of 40 or fewer to use and damage the fields adopted by another fee paying user group? In closing, I urge you to vote against this increase in the field application fees.

I recommend the Fairfax Board of Supervisors carefully reconsider the elimination of commuter bus Route 597 claiming it constitutes "a duplicative transportation service." To "duplicate" this service, and without adding to the growing mass of commuting cars, I would need to 1) take the bus to West Falls Church, 2) transfer to and take the Orange Metro Line to Rosslyn 3) transfer to the Blue/Yellow Metro Line in Rosslyn 4) take this line to Crystal City stop and 5) travel on foot for 10 minutes to my workplace. Did I mention I have a disability? Do you realize how many stairs and steps I will have to take? Using the elevators/escalators on Metro is hit or miss already. Without the 597 (it doesn't run on Federal Holidays) the commute I described above adds an additional 45-50 minutes to my commute on a good day! When I miss transfers and connections because of bad timing or slow or broken elevators/escalators it takes me much longer. My commute was over 120 minutes once compared to the usual 40 minutes. On Federal Holidays that I don't get off from work I now leave the house 1 ½ hours earlier to ensure I can keep my job in this tough economy. I've tested Route 597 using my wheelchair. The drivers and my fellow commuters are great and the bus is equipped to handle the chair. I dread the day I'm wheelchair bound and forced to commute from Reston to Crystal City without 597.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please keep in-school SACC programs just the way they are! The SACC program at Waynewood E.S. is the best program for my son. We previously used a private afterschool childcare program that is conveniently located in our neighborhood. Both centers are convenient to home and school. We SELECTED SACC at Waynewood because of the educational based environment, the compassionate staff, the engaging activities and the other children. Some of my son's best friends are his "SACC Friends". SACC provides opportunity for my son to play with his friends on the playground afterschool. He can also attend afterschool PTA sponsored events and clubs during SACC hours. My son then returns safely to SACC under the supervision of the club leader and SACC teachers. Through all the carefully planned events by the SACC staff, my son has learned about fire safety, health and fitness, yoga, language and cuisine from other cultures and so much more. Waynewood E.S. SACC provides an enriching afterschool experience for my son. There are no video games, there is no idle time, and there is NEVER a time when my son is unsupervised. SACC is the best afterschool program for son and I hope the program is not changed in FY2010.

Please reconsider cancelling commuter bus Route 597 service. According to xxx xxxx, Senior Transportation Planner, it is "against policy" to raise the fares on a particular bus line claiming "a uniform fare structure across the region would be more beneficial to the riding public." What does that mean? She makes it sound as if one day I'll commute from one location and the next day from a different location. Is she worried I won't have the right fare because all the fares are different? (SmarTrip is called that for a reason.) OK, so my choice is a uniform fare structure in Fairfax County and we lose our commuter bus or a non-uniform fare structure and we get to keep our bus. I chose to keep the bus. I say, "Make an exception to the policy." Blindly following policy is the easy way out. Go ahead and keep all other fares the same but raise the 597 fare. Some people are willing to pay more. I don't receive the $130+ a month government mass transit subsidy but I'm very willing to pay twice as much as I pay now to keep the 597 bus. Poll the riders; conduct a "trial period" with raised fares starting now; cut back on the service (though every bus has as many as 15 standing); do anything but follow the policy because following policy is the only thing you know how to do.

Comments on proposal to eliminating Fairfax Connector Bus Route 380: Please don't eliminate this service!! 1. Ever since 9/11, we were encouraged to establish an alternate route to get home in case of emergency. Eliminating this route severely limits the options for getting home. 2. Metro rail trains have been consistently running late, breaking down, etc...The bus route is more reliable and operates timely. 3. Is ridership on this route really that low that it warrants elimination? Between the 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. buses, it is packed; many times it was standing room only. 4. Last few years there was an aggressive marketing campaign to get people to ride Fairfax Connector. It helps reduce traffic, it is cheaper than driving, and it is good for the environment. Eliminating this route is very contradictory to encourage ridership. 5. Why not reduce the number of buses instead of eliminating the route entirely. Currently there are about 3-4 buses every hour. Won't money be saved by cutting it to 2 buses every hour? 6. Out of respect to the men and women of the armed forces, who make up a good percentage of riders on this route, it seems terribly unpatriotic to eliminate this route. Rather than focusing on the people, it is focused on the business, more specifically the money. 7. Find an alternative source of funding. Can't businesses advertise on the bus?

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

We have been informed that bus 380 is on the chopping block. I have been taking this bus for a while and it is the fastest way to and from work daily. Often it is standing room only for some of the time slots. With the ridership it has, I think it is a bad idea to cut this bus from service. Please find a way to keep bus 380 for the future. Those of us who work at the Pentagon depend on it.

A cost saving measure for HR is to do away with part time Administrative aides.

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

Too many in Fairfax County like other government type work have full staff and not enough work to keep them busy. Cutting hours or doing away with part time help would eliminate 2 problems

School clinic aides are glorified baby sitters and do the vomit clean up schools do not want to deal with. Do we really need to spend money for people to take temps?

We can not lose the service that Bus 380 provides from Springfield Metro to the Pentagon. I work at the Pentagon and have been taking this bus for years. It is the fastest and most direct route for us that are employed at the Pentagon. The bus is always packed with people taking this bus. The Pentagon is not going away and there are thousands of employees that work there. You will always have clients that need utilization of Bus 380.

Please consider continuation of the VRE EZ Bus routes. For a number of the neighborhoods currently served, there is no other public transportation available to get to the VRE station. Although parking is currently available at the Burke Centre Station, use of private vehicles to get to the station seems to defeat the purpose of using public transportation such as VRE. By continuing the EZ Bus, a number of autos will not be used and this is an environmental benefit. Thank you.

The Groveton Senior Center located on Richmond Highway, north of Fort Belvior, is convenient for the many seniors who use it. Its spacious rooms are well lighted and comfortable even for accommodating wheel chairs and walkers. Its staff is most helpful to all. One of its activities is the card game bridge. Among the seniors who work at improving their bridge skills are Lee Sharma, Margarate Wade, Ole Johnson, Polly Oliver, and Caye Sarber. This is not only a learning experience, but it also helps seniors to stay mentally alert. We strongly urge you to permit this Center to remain open. Please consider our request.

Many part timers in the library took this job for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more hourly. We have no reason to stay with this job if the benefits are gone. We were hired on the basis of receiving the same level of benefits as full-time employees. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

The recommendation to eliminate Fairfax Connector bus service on route 304 should be reconsidered. While a route like the 380 (Franconia-Springfield Metro Station-Pentagon) could be eliminated without problem for commuters (as it duplicates existing Metrorail service), the local service route 304 (Franconia-Springfield Metro Station-Saratoga) should be retained. This will help reduce traffic on the Fairfax County Parkway and Franconia-Springfield Parkway, and ease the burden on the already-overcrowded parking garage at the Franconia-Springfield Station. If low average ridership on the 304 route is an issue, consider eliminating the low-usage first (5:26 AM) and last (8:40 AM) morning runs and the first (3:40 PM) and last (7:54 PM) evening runs, which are usually less used. Smaller buses might also be used outside of the peak runs.

I would like The board of supervisors to remove the proposed eliminating of services 929 Fairfax connector line from the budget proposal. I rely on this bus line to commute on a daily basis as do many others in the Franklin Farm community. The removal of this line will not only have a repercussion with the voting tax payers in the community it will also put more traffic on our already congested roads. The whole movement on going green and global warming is against this concept.

i am dismayed that you are considering changes in the fastran services you provide for the senior members of this community. many of us rely on the service and the senior on the go taxi services, we need these services to help us get around and lead somewhat of a normal life. we have paid our dues and in these "golden years" need to be considered when cutting out services that we sorely need. please do not cut these services which we so desperately need. this county is considered one of the richest in the nation and should be setting an example not reducing thoughtfully the needs of those who have helped to make Fairfax County what it is today.

I would like the board of Supervisors to remove the proposed eliminating of the services 929 Fairfax connector line from the the budget proposal. I rely on this bus line to commute to work and I ride with others from the Franklin Farm Community that rely on this service. The removal of this line will not only have a repercussion with the voting tax payers in the community it will also put more traffic on our already congested roads. The whole movement of going green and global warming is against this concept.

I see that the EDA is advertising for an International Business Developer, to the tune of $59,000-68,000 per year salary, with a MINIMUM of 3 international trips per year. Are you kidding??? Hundreds of hard-working county employees are about to lose their jobs through RIFS, and thousands will be working for one or two years without a pay increase, and we are hiring people to fly around the world??? The EDA is no longer necessary. Everyone knows Fairfax is here, and open for business!!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Sir/Ma'am, I am currently a rider of the 595 Fairfax Connector bus. It is standing room only everyday. I do not understand the rationale of cutting the 595 and forcing riders to have an extra 30 minutes of commute time by riding a bus to West Falls Church Metro. The 595 is a profitable bus and meets or exceeds Fairfax Connector's ridership standards. Please do not cut a bus that actually pays for its route and contributes to other buses being able to operate. I think you will force more people onto the road to drive to the Pentagon and Crystal City vs taking a bus to West Falls Church and riding the metro and transferring trains. I know many of my co-riders feel the same way and will start to drive before taking a bus to the train. I think the voters that ride this bus will speak with their votes during the next election.

I would like to register my opposition to eliminating the VRE EZ Bus service that operates between various neighborhoods and the Burke Centre VRE station. This provides a valuable service to VRE riders and will have a significant financial impact on Fairfax County commuters. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am very disheartened by the information that you may be eliminating the 595 route which connects the Commuters in Reston to the Pentagon. I ride this bus on a daily basis. Every day it is full and there are often people who have to stand, and I have rode at different times in the morning and night and each time it is the same way. This bus allows me to have a direct connection to work. Without this option not only will we have to cram onto the 950 bus to West Falls Metro, which I have also rode and is always full, but I will have to make 3 transfers (Park and Ride, 950 bus, Orange line, to blue line) just to get to work. Let me explain a little background as to why this upsets me. Fairfax connector service in Herndon is not very efficient and never runs on time. Therefore, the more transfers you need to make the less likely you are to ever be on time. When I moved to the Herndon I did not have a car. After a few weeks of it taking nearly 2 and ½ hours each way to get to and from work, I determined that the buses did not have the ability to run on time. I had to take the 595 - to RIB 2 - to 927 route or the Metro to Rosalyn - 5A bus - to the 927 route. Anyway way I went took 3 transfers. I had to make 2 transfers just to go less then 5 miles, which was pretty ridiculous and added over an hour in transit time. Anyway after long debate I finally decided to buy a car, less then a month ago, so I could drive the 5 miles to get to the Wiehle Ave Park and Ride so I could take the 595 bus directly to the Pentagon. Since buying the car it now only takes me 1 hour from when I leave my house until when I get to work, instead of 2 and ½ hours as it was taking me on multiple transfers of public transportation. I truly hope you rethink this elimination. The 595 route is not a duplication to the 950 route it is a life line and direct route for many commuters. Many who made major life choices around the presence of this route. Also please remember for every person who speaks out on this issue there are many who it will greatly affect and are not speaking out. Please take the strength of us few to show you the resolve of the riders of 595. As a recap my four main points are: . The buses are always full!!! There is a huge demand for this route and we would not all fit on the 950 bus, which is slated to be our alternative. . People may have made huge life decisions based on this route, I bought a car, another woman who rides my bus moved to Reston because she could take this bus. By eliminating this route it affects people's lives in ways you truly don't understand. . It is upsetting that the county is making changes which actually make people want to drive instead of taking public transit. Part of public transit is getting people around the other part is supporting the environmental concept of ride sharing. . Our time is valuable, yes I could take another route if I could even get a seat, but an extra 30-60 minutes of my time, is time that is stolen from my children, my spouse or even my employer. To have a good work-life balance it behooves us to use the most efficient forms of transportation and this is very convenient for many people. Although I think there is a demand to keep the busses as is, several other options for you to consider: Run the 595 bus less often, run it every hour instead of every half hour. . Seeing as you are also suggesting eliminating the 597 bus to Crystal City maybe you could combine the buses and have then run at 45 or 60 minute intervals.

Hello. I use Fairfax Connector Bus 303 every morning and evening to go to Springfield Metro Station. This route is proposed to cancel in recently. With me, every morning, others also use this bus to go to work. Communication to work, will be tough for us if this route cancelled. Please, if possible, reduce the hours, instead of cancelling this route.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I oppose the cuts proposed by the Resource Management Division (RMD). Parks should be financially supported by the county, not expected to be "profit centers." The Fairfax County Park Authority's mission states it is to "set aside public spaces for and assist citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations." RMD is responsible for most of this mission, yet receives less than 1 percent of the County budget. Huntley Meadows Park -- which I visit frequently -- along with many of the smaller community parts -- which I also visit frequently -- are gems in our community which deserve support. It's not just me. The Park Authority's 2006 Needs Assessment determined that walking and biking trails and small community parks were at the top of the list of what citizens want more of in Fairfax County. In order to maintain the sites we currently have, we need to keep staff present. It's also a matter of safety -- we have sites in secluded areas where a staff presence is essential. Sites such as Huntley Meadows Park provide valuable educational programs to youth and adults. My children and I have attended these programs and have found them very informative and interesting. These programs and events help children and adults appreciate our natural surroundings and our environment. RMD's proposals to cut these programs by 40% is a mistake. RMD is proposing to cut 11 staff positions, fund 7 positions by only 50%, and cut seasonal staff by 50%. These positions are site and field positions--at the front lines--where they do the most good. These are the public contact and service positions. Keep them! Once a position is abolished it takes years to reinstate it. This is a mistake. It is likewise a mistake to make these park positions "support themselves." Park natural areas are NOT golf courses. Park natural areas should not have to "support" themselves financially-- they support our quality of life as it is. Thank you for your consideration.

The Fairfax Connector route 301 takes a route for which there are no viable alternatives for many along the route. And service on this route, which used to be the 108, has already been cut over and over again, every single time with a loss of ridership. Now is not the time to be cutting public transportation. Certainly not by 40 percent, on a route that is already underserved. I'm sure most riders would much sooner see a PRICE HIKE than such a huge cut in service. There may be a run or two at the schedule extremes that could potentially be cut, but other than that, service frequency is quite inadequate as is. And now is certainly NOT the time for public transportation to be reduced, for heaven's sake. Do you want me to have to buy a second car and drive to work? I've avoided that since service inception, in 1985, but if you folks don't give me a choice, what do you expect? Shame on you! You should be trying to attract more riders, not taking away any viable options other than the private car. Increase the fare if need be, for heaven's sake. Leave the service alone, for once.

My husband lost his job back in 2001. The job that my husband currently has does not offer health insurance. We have 5 children, and we needed health insurance fast. I took this job with the county knowing that I would have good quality health insurance at a cost that I could afford and add an income to our house hold. Now that the county is proposing to charge most of the cost of insurance to me, The only thing that I will be working for is health insurance. In these times I know that we all need to help in any way that we can, but this is too much to ask. You need to consider what this will do to all the part time county employees and their families. If you need to make such a drastic decision you need to make it fair and do it across the board. You are targeting the employees that make the least and I feel this is unfair. PLease reconsider your decision on health insurance. There are already to many Americans living without health care, (don't add to it.)

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I found out today that you were considering eliminating Route 304 from the Fairfax Connector bus service. I depend on that bus!! I can not use my car to park at Metro because someone else in my family needs the car. Plus, the commute is long even with the bus and the Metro. If you take away the 304, I will have no choice but to use another bus that is quite a walk across the street, which would double the length of my commute. I could be driven to the point of leaving my job to take another job because that long a commute (three hours each way) would be impossible to tolerate on a daily basis. Not only that, it makes absolutely no sense to eliminate this bus! If anything, Rolling Road in Springfield needs more, not less, bus service! With the coming explosion of jobs at Fort Belvoir, Rolling Road is going to become a parking lot - because if you drive down Rolling Road, it leads you to Route One. Already, we have no bus service to the VRE station at Lorton Station, which pretty much eliminates that as an option for me because of not having a car.

Attn Supervisor Cathy Huggins, I have become urgently aware of the proposed cuts in the Fairfax County Connector bus service (595) to the Pentagon Metro from the Reston park and ride. I know this proposed cut in service is to help balance the FY10 budget but I urge you and your staff to look for other ways than cutting this very important service since the alternative travel routes that maybe be the basis for your rationale are really not viable to get to the Pentagon in a timely manner. My current commute to the Navy Annex in the morning is ~ 1+15 hrs and my afternoon commute is ~1+30 to 1+45. Not having the express bus service will add 45 min. to 1 hour to my commute and significantly impact my family's quality of life which I value greatly. Adding more commute time to a 14 to 16 hour day is not the answer. Please do not eliminate the 595 bus service to the pentagon. Also, be advised that the Mass Transit Benefit Program just recently raised the monthly benefit amount due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 which should give Fairfax County some financial options also.

Regarding the proposal to cut the 595 Route from the Reston East Park and Ride to the Pentagon. - This is simply a bad idea. It is understandable that multiple options were presented but this bus route exceeds the average number of riders per trip and has one of the highest if not the highest number of riders per revenue hour. - The notion that riders could take a bus to the metro and then on to the Pentagon, is misguided - riders will just drive or carpool so in effect you will create a larger deficit for the county because the 595 riders will not switch to another bus and the metro, they will cease to use both. - I would propose raising the fare per ride slightly to cover the costs of operating this line.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Mr. Griffin, I am a 16 year county employee and work for DTA/RE. I am a Commercial Real Estate Appraiser and appraise all of the Regional Malls for tax purposes for FFx County. When my husband and I had our children, the Department granted me job-share status and I work 20 hours per week for Fairfax County, commute to Warrenton, Virginia where we live and raise our family. We are very grateful for the job share experience/opportunity, but very concerned about the recent proposal for increased health insurance costs for Job Share employees as proposed. This proposed increase is targeted ONLY to part time employees, no other employees are affected. It seems it would be more fair, if we ALL paid a little more, instead of a minority of the population pay MUCH more. I am writing to let you consider the fact we (job sharers) earn half of the salary of full timers. With the proposed increased in health benefits cost, it may not be financially feasible for some employees to continue in a job share status. However, it is highly unlikely (due to budget constraints), that agencies can offer full time employment at this time. This leaves some employees with few options of either 1. Drop insurance all together 2. Look for other employment or 3. ?? The proposed increase is substantial, not just 10 - 20%. it is a 150% increase for my family coverage!! My paychecks are less than $500 every 2 weeks now, after deductions for taxes, child care and retirement. I am not sure if I will even be able to save for retirement if these increases are passed. Since there are only 392 employees in the County that are affected by this proposal, it will not make much impact on the budget bottom line overall, However, it will make a HUGE impact on these families lives already struggling in these difficult financial times. I am a job share employee who is trying to balance home and work life to raise children with some sort of parental influence in the this ever changing world. Please reconsider the proposed increase as it has such an enormous negative financial burden on employees and their families. Below are FAQs as sent in an email regarding this issues that are pertinent, in case you have not read. The County's Merit employees were recruited and hired on the condition that they would receive the same benefits as full-time Merit employees. These employees accepted their positions in good faith. The County is now proposing to renege on their employment contracts. · The County is poised is to make draconian cuts in health care benefits to its most vulnerable employees, many of whom do not make enough money to cover the enormous proposed increase in their health care premiums. The County will be forcing these employees to be without medical insurance because the premiums will be unaffordable. 90% of those affected by the proposal are women. Therefore, the burden of the health care cuts will fall disproportionately upon women who are already earning half that of full time employees. The County has the right to decide on benefit rates, but these should be implemented across the board. Both full-time and part-time Merit employees were promised the same rates when they were hired. By targeting Merit part-timers only, the County is discriminating against one part of a group. Loudoun County is the only local Virginia jurisdiction besides Fairfax County that has offered the same level of benefits to both full and part-time employees. A few years ago it decided to offer pro-rated benefits to new-hire part-timers. At the same time, Loudon honored its employment contracts with its part-timers who were already employed under the old system by grandfathering them in.

I would like to comment on the proposed elimination of the Fairfax Connector Bus Route 305. I ride that line from the Springfield-Franconia Metro Station to the Sydenstricker park and ride lot. 305 is the only route serving these two points. Eliminating the bus link between a park and ride lot and a metro station would impact the full use of both facilities. 305 only runs now during rush hours, and only on week days. Rather than considering total elimination, maybe cutting the service in half to hourly service might be considered??

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing about the purposed increase in part-time employees health care costs to the employee. This is not only unfair but a "slap in the face" to part-time workers. Why punish just one group of people? Part time people usually carry more than a part-time caseload but do not get compensated for that!!! I think this act is unjust and unfair. You will most likely lose some of the best employees you have with this action. Times are tough but think about what you are saying and doing. This will not go away after it is done. People will remember and know that the County does not stand behind nor do they stand up for their hard working employees...especially part timers!!!

I am a single parent who relies on before and after school SACC services. I cannot afford private child care, nor the extra expense it would be to transport my child to a secondary facility. Having before and after school child care in the school affords my child the ability to participate in after school activities that she would otherwise not be able to do. SACC provides a safe, nurturing, enriching environment for my child. Please do not take it away. I pay the full fee and would rather see fewer people subsidized than the SACC taken away.

I recently read an article in the Reston Connection that indicated that the County is considering contracting out SACC's services. I have two children in SACC at Springfield Estates and I am quite pleased with the services provided by SACC. My children are happy and engaged in SACC, and I feel comfortable with the teachers. I don't understand why the County would consider contracting out SACC when the current services are great.

In regard to the proposed service cuts to the Fairfax Connector: I suggest instead an increase in fares. 1) The more frequent service that is provided, the more attractive the Connector becomes as an alternative to driving, with the concomitant decrease in congestion and pollution. 2) Many of the people who ride the Connector are commuters who are subsidized by their employer, and can easily afford an increase in fares. They will be less likely to ride at all if service ceases to be available when they want it. This will reduce overall usage and fare box revenue. 3) Those people who will be most hurt by the fare increase will also be hurt by the service cutbacks, as they seldom have other options for transportation. A targeted subsidy to them could be provided by the county, which would help them without forgoing the many benefits (financial, congestion mitigation, air quality) of maintaining current service levels at higher fare levels. 4) People will complain about fare increases, but people will also complain about service cutbacks.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am a Fairfax resident and commuter on the 380 Express bus to and from Springfield Metro to the Pentagon and back. I am opposed to the elimination of the 380 service and cannot see your reason for eliminating a service that has a large ridership. I have observed many times the problem with your equipment, such as the fare recorder that is constantly not reading smartcards, breaking down. This in no way has eliminated the ridership but has cause the County to lose revenue. If the equipment is maintained and functioning properly this bus route should prove very profitable to the County. The other issue is that this is an express bus service with one way to the pentagon in the morning and express service to Springfield in the evening. It should not be treated as a regular service with returned ridership both ways for each trip. The ridership is in the morning and then evening, these numbers will show profits. An alternative; and if managed properly the bus could be re-routed to provided passenger pickup to another busy route for the return trip, so that the bus will travel to and from the location with passengers. This method should prove profitable, it's all about managing your resources better and yet providing a service that is profitable to all. Your budget cut proposal in my opinion for the 380 route is based on improper analysis and mismanagement of assets. It's always easier to cut a service than to manage it properly...it's the easy way out.

I am a job share merit employee. I have worked for Fx. Co. for 23yrs. I was hired to receive the same level of health ins. benefits. as full-time employees and feel this is a fundamental benefit that job share employees should continue to receive. To be singled out now is not right. Suggestion - If the County feels the need to change the benefits for job share employees it should be done on new hires, not to job share merit employees who are already working for the County. This proposal is unfair to job share employees. NOTE - LOUDON COUNTY HAS HONORED ITS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS WITH ITS VALUED JOB SHARE EMPLOYEES, WHO ARE ALREADY EMPLOYED UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM BY GRANFATHERING THEM IN. COME ON FAIRFAX AND HONOR YOUR JOB SHARE MERIT EMPLOYEES.

However it needs to be arranged, Fire & Rescue and the Police Departments should not have their staffing reduced. Doing so risks citizens' lives and property. There are other areas that can sustain reductions without putting people's lives in jeopardy. Admittedly, there will be inconvenience which will result in lots of public whining as a result of cuts elsewhere but the lives and safety of residents of the County should be held paramount in any budget reductions.

As a resident of the Saratoga neighborhood in South Springfield, I am very distressed to learn of the contemplated closing of the Fairfax Connector Route 304, which goes through the Saratoga neighborhood and to the Franconia-Springfield metro station. This will inconvenience, to say the least, a substantial number of residents of Saratoga who rely on the 304 line for daily transportation. Some may be able to catch the 331 line at the Boston Corporate Center, but that is not feasible for others. At a time when the expansion planned at Fort Belvoir is going to increase traffic volume, making a larger number of people rely on their cars to get at least to the Metro station seems to me unwise and counterproductive

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Hi there, I am sending my opposition in Fairfax County spending resources to investigate outsourcing SACC program. I do not agree that the county should be spending our tax dollars on contractors to run a school program. If we wanted to do that, we would have chosen other privately run daycare providers vice SACC. I have two children in SACC at Rolling Valley ES. I like the teachers there, the way the program is run. I would like it to remain that way, we have two teachers who has been there for a long time and they provide the consistency and nurturing environment. SACC is a great program, please do not outsource to contractors!

I am writing to urge you to maintain the quality and accessibility for SACC programs. As evidenced by the long wait list in the McLean area (and the study done by the County) there is a need for quality daycare. Many families would have to change jobs or use inferior daycare options if SACC was not available. In SACC council meetings myself and others suggested looking at a slight raise in costs for parents who pay full or close to full scale. We are willing to pay a little more to keep this excellent program with it's quality staff. As a SACC family, we're also willing to do our part to help out the teachers that so positively influence our kids. Please consider raising rates over cutting services and compensation. SACC allowed me to keep working and know my child was safe while my husband was deployed with the military.

Your plans to cancel the Pentagon Express, Route 595, will be a poor financial decision on your part and a critical blow to those who use public transportation to get from Reston, VA to the Pentagon and Crystal City each day. While the statistics you provide indicate the line does not "pay for itself", your statistics also show that NO line pays for itself, and the ridership on this line is way above average, making it one of the most profitable of any lines. Your rational that there is another public transportation method to get to the Pentagon is also flawed--I have used the alternative method of Route 505 and the Orange/Blue Metro line, and this route took me 2 HOURS ONE WAY versus the 35 minutes the bus now takes. You are proposing further reductions in Route 505, which will only worsen the commute time, making public transportation between Reston and the Pentagon completely unusable, and driving commuters back into their cars versus utilizing the public transportation your offices are paid to provide. The protection of routes that are vastly underutilized or for "at risk" as you call it, is completely unrational as well. Those who commute to the Pentagon and Crystal City each day are hard working tax payers as well, and deserve the same amount of respect and support from Fairfax County as anyone else.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Chairman Bulova, We write today on behalf of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce to urge the Board of Supervisors to remove LOB Reduction Numbers 001-29-100 and 001-29-101 from the proposed cuts in the FY-2010 advertised budget as presented by the County Executive on February 23, 2009. The County Executive is correct when he writes in the proposed budget that "eliminating Commercial Revitalization Program Maintenance will result in loss of investment for streetscape improvements. Eliminating maintenance of streetscape improvements such as landscaping, mowing, trash pick-up and maintenance of bicycle racks, areas signs, street furniture and drinking fountains will most likely have a negative impact on commercial property in the County, and could result in potential losses in the commercial tax base." However, the Chamber believes this is not "most likely," but instead will definitely have a negative impact on our commercial revitalization area. Since Fairfax County relies heavily on the commercial tax base, we should not purposely harm our business community. Furthermore, the Chamber also concurs with Mr. Griffin when he states that "eliminating weekly trash removal services and monthly cleaning of bus shelters will result in less clean facilities, increased graffiti and increased illegal advertisements." Fairfax County can not knowingly allow the increase of litter at bus stops and throughout our commercial areas. Thank you for your consideration of removing these reductions from the FY-2010 budget.

Dear Sir or Madam, I am a single mother of a eight year old child that uses the before and after school services at "Bailey's Elementary school of Science and Arts". I want to let you know that we are very happy with services provided and I do not see a need of any change. Many times my child tells me to go "run more earns and pick me up later" , because they have so much fun or because she wants to finish a project... I do not see why finish a affordable program at school when economic times are so difficult.

I just checked the Proposed Real Estate Tax Rates and I see that the board has decided to increase the property tax rate from $.92 per $100 to $1.04 - 12 Cents. My home value of course has gone done, so you just decided to increase rate. One way I see you have decided to also hurt my is by stopping two bus routes of the Fairfax Connector out - what a bust. You know lots of people who ride the 304 Saratoga line do not have a second car or even a first and depend on this bus line which has been in one way of the other running 30 years to serve our community - stopped completely. what a sad day this is. I cannot tell you in strong enough words how hard this is going to be not only for me, but many other people. I hope you reconsider. Also, the 380 from Metro to Pentagon. this bus is full (95%) or standing room in any time frame I take it. Its faster and cheaper than the Metro. I thought the plan was to keep cars off the road, now I am going to have to some how get a car and drive to Metro every day, additional expense. So although my house value is down, I again will be paying more property tax and then have the additional inconvenience of finding a way to metro and this too adds to my budget. I hope you at least rethink the cancelling of the 304 and 380. What a said day this will be. I am 72 years old, still working and you are taxing me to death. Please help.

With regard to your proposed reductions in service for Fairfax Connector, I propose you consider a fare increase rather than reductions in service. The recent federal stimulus bill increased significantly the federal transportation subsidy for federal employees. I believe there is significant federal ridership on Fairfax Connector and overall ridership would not decrease as expected in response to a fare increase. Proposed service reductions of 40% will actually drive some riders to return to other modes of transportation as service fails to meet personal needs.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Mr. Griffin, I am writing to express my strong feelings against the potential elimination of Fairfax Connector, Route 597 (Crystal City) during the summer of 2009. The bus line has been a wonderful experience and is a Fairfax County Connector success story by reducing single occupant vehicle trips which in turn reduces pollution and congestion. The fare charged to users will likely never fully cover the costs of operating any bus line, but public bus service is something that will definitely help the environment and reduce traffic congestion in an area already beset by large traffic problems (Dulles and I-66 corridor). Thank you for your consideration.

Dear Sir: As a military member I certainly understand the need to cut costs and do more with less. However, cutting the Fairfax Connector 380 bus is not a good idea for me and many other military and civilian citizens that ride that bus every day to and from the Pentagon. Taking this bus saves me between 30 and 40 minutes a day. Additionally, it saves me money over taking the Metro. For me the money isn't the major consideration and I'm sure it isn't the major consideration of most of the military members that use the 380. What matters to us is the time with our families. Many of us are "home" from deployments and want to spend the maximum time with our families before the next time we get sent far from them. If this bus line is not making money I would rather see a fare increase to something more comparable with the Metro than dropping the line altogether. For me at least, and extra $10 a week is more palatable than giving up over 2 and a half hours commuting.

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

In times of hardship because of the state of our economy, do you really want to impact more families with children? Please stop this kiddie tax for use of fields for soccer or any other sports.

You should be commended for your efforts to date on the FY2010 budget. In the current economy, it was clearly an extremely difficult task for the staff and understandably, cuts in services must be part of a final budget. I am writing to express my concern over the cuts in all weekday commuter bus routes serving South Reston (routes 553, 557 and 585). I, like many others utilize route 553 daily for my commute to Washington D.C. Having this service available recently influenced me to purchase a residence in this area. Without the service I would reconsider my choice. Please consider minimizing these cuts if possible or offering a shuttle service to a park and ride or even just maintaining the S.R. park and ride if possible. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Dear Sir: I have recently become aware of the proposal to increase the cost of health care coverage for part-time Merit workers. I am a part time Merit worker and am very opposed to this plan as it represents a decrease in my net wages. Considering I was promised this benefit (paying the same amount for health care insurance as full time Merit employees) when I was hired, it seems to be a breach of the good faith contract I entered into when I accepted this job with the county. Additionally, this proposal seems to be a classic example of sexual discrimination given the fact 90% of the people affected by this proposal are women. I respectfully ask that you considering taking this proposal off of the table or grandfathering those already hired so they can continue to pay the same for their health care benefits as full time merit employees.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear members of the Board of Supervisors: As a part time employee, I am concerned about the proposal to nearly triple my contribution to health insurance premiums over the next two years. I have been employed by the County for 16 years. After working for the CSB full time for 13 years, I cut back to half-time employment in April, '06, having made that decision in part on the basis of the County providing parity in benefits to part time and full time workers. At age 60, I am only 18 months from qualifying for normal retirement at age 62, and I am counting on the County to not change the rules so close to my retirement. My wife and I are already past the point where we could switch our health insurance to her employment (she teaches for Arlington County), as Arlington requires that dependents be under their health coverage for a full five years in order to be covered in retirement. Too often in my 16 years with the County, I have seen budget pinches resolved largely at the expense of staff, with reduced or blocked raises, furloughs, etc. This is a very expensive area in which to live. Public servants typically make salaries that provide only modest comfort and very few luxuries. While the whole nation is reeling from the unfolding financial crisis, public servants and all who are close to retirement have little chance to rebuild savings, and we have no margin for covering large hikes in benefit premiums. We deserve to be able to expect that our employer will abide by assurances made at the time of hiring. Even if a change needs to be made in this area, the change should be applied only to persons hired after the new policy, as I understand Loudon County has decided.

I am a loyal part-time merit employee of 14 years and have chosen to stay with my county position, "solely for the benefits". I am writing on behalf of myself and all current part-time county employees that were hired with the agreement and understanding that benefits would be the same as full time employees. The changes in the rate of coverage of health insurance proposed in the upcoming budgets that part-time employees would have to endure is such a huge financial burden that it would either force me to drop my health insurance or look for employment elsewhere. The benefits offered in Fairfax County are part of our salaries and should not be changed for those currently employed. If changes need to be made to employee benefits, it should only be to new employees, who agree to the circumstances of the job at the time of hiring. Loudoun County grandfathered in current part-time employees when they made changes to their benefits. It is only fair if changes are to be made that current Fairfax County merit employees are grandfathered in as well. I want the county to understand that not everyone has another option for health insurance. My spouse is self-employed and the county insurance is my only option. I should not have to take on an enormous financial burden for utilizing benefits that were offered when I accepted my position. Please do the right thing and advocate for current part-time employees to keep their rate of benefits at the same level.

I have been an employee with Fairfax County for 12 years and I urge you to please reconsider the pending changes in benefits for part-time employees. The increase in benefits would present a financial hardship for many of us who work part-time. I would ask that you please consider grandfathering those of us who have been dedicated to the mission of Fairfax County and uphold our benefits. I fully understand the difficult budget decisions that must be made and I ask that you look at changing the part-time benefits for those employees hired after July 1, 2009. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

My comment is that the majority of part-time employees are women. If the health insurance premiums for part time merited employees are raised as planned, this is in effect DISCRIMINATORY to women. If nothing else, consider grandfathering in old employees and change the policy for new part-time hires.

If you raise my real estate taxes because you didn't plan, I will move to Loudoun County. The thought of that makes me sick. Please, in this economy, don't raise my taxes.

I am deeply opposed to the proposal to cut health care benefits for half-time merit employees. Three years ago I left a job in which I earned almost double my Fairfax County hourly rate just because of the health care benefit I was offered. Now the county is proposing to change the rules after many of us have committed years, even decades of our career to the county. I work for the library, where part-time staff work a disproportionate amount of the evening and weekend hours. We also endure ever-changing schedules and shifts. Many of us accepted such undesirable schedules, sacrificing time with our families, because of the health care benefits that we could provide for ourselves and our families. The new plan will force part-time employees to use a huge portion of their wages towards health care. Many of us will not longer be able to afford health care. Please do not cut health insurance benefits for merit staff!

Mr Griffin, I am writing in opposition of the elimination of the 305 bus service. I use this service 3-4 days a week, to get from my home in Lorton to my work in downtown DC via Franconia-Springfield. Eliminating this service, and I think this goes for the 304 and 303 that service neighboring areas too, will immediately create more congestion on local roads (Hooes, Silverbrook, Pohick, etc) and the arteries in this areas (7100, 7900, I-95, I-395 and beyond), as (former) riders get in their cars to get to work. This will deteriorate the living and traffic conditions in these heavily congested areas. You will also destroy your investment in the Park and Ride lots along the routes, as well as reduce the usage of slug lines that operate from those lots. I do not have the space here to go into all advantages of bus service over individual car usage, and I will assume that the Board is aware of them. If not, please check local websites as http://greatergreaterwashington.org/. Transit is not a matter of cost only. It's also matter of infrastructure, environment and living conditions. I am very surprised that the county is considering eliminating these bus lines because ridership has increased due to the high gas prices last year. The reduction in gas prices, nor the increase of the bus fare have made people stopped from using the bus, proving that the bus is a very good alternative for the car. If cuts are completely unavoidable, I would like to suggest to find a way to combine the 304 and 305 routes to at least maintain partial service. Or I would suggest a merger between the Fairfax Connector and the Fairfax School buses. New York City and other urban areas have done this already, with great success. It is certainly odd that the County can maintain dozens of school buses riding through my neighborhood, which is next to the South County High School, while it is impossible to keep a commuter bus service running. You have increased fares, and property taxes, and I have paid without complaining, understanding these are difficult times. However, now I ask you to do your part and keep up the services you were offering, and not pass more of your shortsighted savings onto the bus riders who will have to spend more to get to their work. Oh, and please give the (remaining) drivers a defensive driving course. 90% of them could use it.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Slash the spending in the budget as much as it takes to prevent any tax increase. Eliminate frivolous positions such as Director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Eliminate school board member junkets to foreign countries - this is an unconscionable waste of tax payer money at any time but especially now.

According to the information that your provided the services of routes 402 an 403 will cancelled. This will be a great problem for people like me, I am a handicapped person and like me are other 4 people that the only means of transportation are this services at 6:36 a.m. This services is the only way for Vienna Metro station to Dunn Loring Metro station. We pay our taxes for services like this, will be a disgrace to abolish this services, usually are more than 15 people who use this bus .

Do not cut transit service. People use transit to get to work. Why not cut some of the luxury programs such as subsidizing housing and other 'nice but not necessary' social programs.

Focusing on the local transit cuts that are proposed for the upcoming budget, I would like to say that these cuts are a step in the complete wrong direction. I know money can't be allocated to everything, but public transit is finally on the rise in this are and the entire country for the most part. The Northern Virginia area has a wonderful transportation system and with the proposed cuts, the system will be fragmented even a little more. After looking at the proposed lines to be cut, I see that there're a few that are not probably as big on ridership and may very well be a better thing to cut. On the other hand, there're also some lines that are incredibly useful for commuters, which adversely helps everyone by eliminating traffic on major arteries. Please reconsider these public transit cuts again before passing the budget. Thank You.

Dear Sir or Madame, I am writing in opposition of the elimination of the 922 bus service. I use this route everyday as the last connecting link in my commute from DC that gets me from the Herndon-Monroe Park and Ride to my office. I use this service 5 days a week and by eliminating this service will add another 45 minutes onto a commute that already takes well over an hour and a half as it will leave 950 as the only bus that serves an area near my office. Although ridership is high on this bus, it is very slow and takes a very meandering route through Herndon. The elimination of this route will also, undoubtedly add more traffic onto the Herndon Parkway, which is already too crowded for a small town street. Unfortunately if this route is cut I'm afraid I'm going to be forced into finding work in the city, which I was hoping to avoid, but with such a long commute I'm afraid adding another 45 minutes is a very unappealing option. I am also surprised that the county is considering eliminating this (and other) bus lines because ridership has increased due to the high gas prices last year. The reduction in gas prices, nor the increase of the bus fare have made people stopped from using the bus, proving that the bus is a very good alternative for the car. I grew up in Herndon and my family still lives out there and I make a point to visit quite frequently. But I have to say that the action you are considering, diminishing public transit, is one of the reasons why I decided to move into the city. I urge you all to do your part and keep up the services you were offering, and not pass more of your shortsighted savings onto the bus riders who will have to spend more to get to their work. You getting my tax dollars and other spending perks depends on it.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Fairfax County Supervisors: Please do everything in your power to continue the Fairfax County Route 595 (Pentagon Express) This route is essential for those who use it. Eliminating Route 595 will force me and others to commute to and from work by private vehicle, contributing to the already difficult morning and evening rush hour congestion on both the Dulles Toll Road and I-66. The alternate service option (Route 505 to Metro Rail to Pentagon) is not practical. This option is more costly and the commute to the Pentagon takes more time. Instead of eliminating Route 595, I recommend County Supervisors consider alternatives that will increase needed revenue so that this vital bus route can continue (i.e. a fare increase that will cover cost of operations and therefore preserve Route 595). Thank you in advance for continuing this essential bus service to Fairfax County residents.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed cuts in health care benefits for part time merit employees. I have worked for the county for 15 years; most of my tenure has been as a full time merit employee. I went to part time status one year ago to accommodate school (pursuing an RN degree that would be used for county work); my schooling is relevant to my work in the county. I cannot believe that the county would propose such an action because as a part time worker, I work more than 20 hours a week and am uncompensated for those additional hours. In addition, over my career, many workers have gone to part time work only to return to full time without any changes in benefits. These proposals unfairly target women. The county needs to rethink its proposal.

This comment is regarding the proposed health insurance changes in part time merit employees. I would suggest the county examine their entire health insurance program and make changes that are more in line with other major companies i.e. INOVA. INOVA Fairfax hospital has become a nicotine free campus and changes have been made with regards to the costs of insurance based on an employee's nicotine consumption. The new Fairfax County health promotion program, which is geared towards prevention, should be focusing on linking the costs of benefits with prevention--individuals who take care of their health and are less costly to the system should be rewarded, no matter what their status is with regards to hours worked. The reason this has not been considered across the board is that this is being blocked by a few individuals who are "in power" and are in upper management that would be negatively impacted. Therefore it is easier to target the part time workers. I suggest being fair and looking at the bigger picture overall.

The County Executive and the Board of Supervisors should resist increasing taxes such that the County employees can have a pay increase. There is people out in the County that are loosing their jobs and/or facing pay cuts or no pay increases at all. Fairfax County employees should be counting their blessings that they have a secure job with many good benefits. I work for the County and I'm going to loose my job as July 1st. How good it would be to have a pay cut or no pay increase at all but be able to keep my job and have a pay check. We all have to "sacrifice" and do are part during this time of tough economics. The tax payers should not bare the burden of the demands of the EAC and the many employees that even complain of having to read the Courier online or because they are a bit cold/hot.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Regarding the proposed cuts to benefits for part time workers: I did not realize that the county endorsed discriminatory treatment of employees and that somehow the part timers are less valuable or important. Clearly in statistics involving the pay for performance, it appears as if this is the case because upper management (who make all of the decisions) score higher than admin workers. And now the county is trying to say that part timers are less important and deserve less?

Honor your promises; fulfill your contracts. Part time workers (many of whom have also worked as full time at some point) were hired under a specific contract and the county is responsible for honoring that. You have a legal obligation to do so. Grandfather people in if you must but fulfill your obligations. If you must revamp the health care costs, then do it across the board.

SACC Program. Hello my name is Carolyn Beard and I currently have a child in SACC at London Towne Elementary School. I understand that there is a proposal to outsource SACC and I do not want to see this happen. My child has been in several other child care center in the Centreville area. Some good; some not so good, but none could even compare to the exceptional care and teaching of our children that the SACC center provides. There are too many questions about the outsource proposal. We do not want to see the quality of the care changed. We know that our SACC Program as it is now if wonderful. Let's keep what we know works.

Please Restore Funding for Pentagon Bus Service 595 The Fairfax County Transit System has proposed eliminating Fairfax County Connector Route 595 rush hour service from the Reston East Park and Ride to the Pentagon as a cost-cutting measure. While I understand the need for budgetary adjustments given the current economic situation, eliminating a well-used bus route in the busy Dulles Corridor at a time when Fairfax County and the country are focused on getting people out of their cars makes absolutely no sense. The rationale seems to be that there is duplicative service available through bus and rail service via West Falls Church. The recommendation ignores the much longer travel time that would require. Do Fairfax County officials really want to take our men and women who work for the defense of our country away from their families for even longer periods of time? With transfers at West Falls Church and Rosslyn, the 35-minute current bus trip takes at least an hour, assuming all three pieces fall nicely into place, which in my experience, they seldom do. The longer trip will cost those commuters 25 percent more. That means that many Pentagon employees, who already work long hours, will take to their cars, potentially adding up to 67,000 additional car trips on Fairfax County roads each year (Transit Authority numbers). I've also heard many passengers on the bus say they don't know how they will get to work. I find it hard to believe that this is what Fairfax elected officials and transportation planners really want.

The county is only as strong as its reputation; individuals and businesses think highly of this county for a reason. If the county starts to engage in "bait and switch" tactics with its employees, most of whom live in the county and pay taxes, that reputation will be eroded. The county needs to honor its commitments and treat the part time employees fairly. Make changes across the board in cost increases; be fair.

Re: Health insurance premiums for part time employees: As a county employee with over 15 years of service, the proposed increase in health insurance premium would imply that my pay check would be just over $100 dollars, meaning that most likely, my family and myself would go without it. Please maintain the benefits that were promised to us when I accepted the position with the county.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I take the 952 Fairfax connector bus daily in the morning and in the evening for my work. There is a proposal to eliminate the bus service, please reconsider it , as it would be very difficult for me get to work, as there is no other bus in that route. Also the bus is always full, in this route. Please reconsider and do not eliminate 952 bus service. Thanks in advance.

I am writing to express my strong disagreement with the Board's proposal to increase the kiddie tax levied on athletes across the county. This application fee is only levied on organized user groups that submit field permit applications to CRS. The County rule is that 40 or fewer people on a field DO NOT need a permit to use the field. Of course, if a user group with a permit comes along they can ask these non-permitted "walk ons" to leave. The walk on issue is a huge problem with soccer as hundreds of highly organized non-permitted users (in uniform, with referees, etc.), who have not paid any user fees, roam County fields on weekends in droves looking for a place to play. This means rectangular fields are repeatedly damaged or destroyed by users NOT paying the user fee - which affects ALL rectangular sports - soccer, lacrosse, football, etc. Therefore, the County is selectively levying this tax on some but not all users of County fields! Additionally, part of the revenue generated from the increased tax would go to a fund to replace turf on current synthetic turf fields. Another serious issue is that many of the turf fields were constructed from bond money. Bond money should be used to replace synthetic turf on fields developed from bond, not from revenue raised by increasing the tax on user groups. Finally, at a time when every citizen is counting every dollar, why would the County make it more difficult for children to participate in youth sports by imposing an exorbitant user fees on families? Participation in youth sports has many benefits. Physically, sports help a child's overall health, coordination, and fitness. Socially, sports help children learn to cooperate and compete with other children, understand the value of being on a team, and learn responsibility and leadership. Additionally, sports help children develop self-esteem, learn to make decisions, deal with anxiety and stress, and learn responsibility. Aren't these the things the County should be encouraging rather than discouraging with this onerous "kiddie tax" increase?

I have been a dedicated employee to Fairfax County for over 20yrs. I am currently in a job share merit position. If the suggested proposal goes through on increasing my share for health benefits, then the health benefits will be unaffordable for my family. Fairfax County should honor the contract under which job share merit employees were hired, which is the same for full time merit employees. Loudoun Co. honored its employment contracts with its part timers who were already employed. Fairfax County should be a dedicated employer and do the same for the job share employees and grandfather us into the existing employment contracts.

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

There are certain "lifestyle" health issues that are within control of the individual. The county should charge higher premiums ACROSS THE BOARD for individuals who do not attend to these in a responsible manner and should offer incentives for those who do. This is the up and coming trend and the county should align with this.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Instead of eliminating the 556 Fairfax Connector bus line, why not reconfigure the RIBS4 line slightly so that, instead of turning right onto Baron Cameron Ave. from Bennington Woods Rd., it would first goes straight, to the Reston Town Center bus station (where riders could transfer to the 505 to get to the WFC Metro station) before going out to Herndon. As it stands, the paths of these two bus lines coincide for part of their respective routes.

Dear members of the Board of Supervisors and County Executive, Thank you for reading my remarks. I will be out of town next week and cannot testify in person. I believe that we, the people, should re-evaluate property tax relief. Our property tax relief program is generous, and we can't afford it in this current budget climate. We should have a philosophy of everyone pays their share - even if it's a small amount. Then take away from that philosophy whatever is not practical to collect. The 65+ age group should be differentiated, too, from the permanently disabled. I am targeting my remarks primarily at consideration for the 65+ residents. A deferred tax (payable when property is sold or owner dies) option should be part of the formula. To keep our current tax relief is unfair to anyone who struggles to stay in our county who is not 65 years old. Those in today's workplace who don't have the same retirement playing field as those who are retired today. The retirement picture has changed a lot over time with less long-term job security and fewer defined benefit plans those non-seniors with no health insurance or paying a high price for health insurance, vs. seniors who are covered by Medicare or their retirement plan insurance. I don't see health insurance in our current formula. A deferred tax option would help senior citizens and disabled who want to stay in their homes, are land rich (have more than one acre) , and cash poor. The tax could be deducted when they sell or die. The current system is unfair. If you are 65, have a comfortable home, your mortgage is paid off, medical coverage, a car in good working order, and get senior citizen discounts by way of discounts widely offered for senior citizens by way of government service discounts and clubs such as AARP - $ 52,000 is enough money to have some left over to help pay for the services you use think about the younger person with no company-contribution retirement plan, no health insurance, children to feed, no job security, no discounts offered to them at the rec center, etc. They will be driven out of the county before they ever get the chance to arrive to the lucky state of being encouraged by the county to stay as a senior citizen. The above is just one scenario and I'm not trying to use that as the typical one, but rather trying to say our tax system should be about 'pay a share' when offering any discount - especially in today's budget environment. Other remarks: Let's levy a higher real estate tax on vacant properties and a higher one if the property is in unoccupiable condition - to encourage completion of work, and occupancy, and pay for the extra burden imposed on the county and its citizens by those properties.

To whom it may concern, I would like to express my thanks for the incredible service you provide to the employees of the Armed Forces through the Fairfax Connector route 595 from Wiehle Ave to the Pentagon. This service has been a blessing to me as it saves me over 45 minutes of commute time everyday. I am amazed how many people use this service, thereby taking vehicles off the road and reducing traffic & emissions. I recently learned discussions have been brought forth on the potential of eliminating this service. I would recommend your institution evaluate this measure's negative customer service implications and environmentally unfriendly results. Fairfax Connector has been recognized with various awards for its outstanding service it provides. I implore you to continue that trend and not end the 595 line. The passengers on this line have discussed this matter in great detail and all agree that a modest fare increase to keep the line running would be welcomed versus the alternative. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

To Supervisor Hudgins, etc, This regards the proposed cut of the Fairfax Connector bus route 595 to the Pentagon. I believe it is short-sighted to cut this route primarily based on the rationale that there are duplicative transportation services available. Bottom line, this is the only bus from the Herndon/Reston area that travels all the way to the Pentagon; destination of a large population of employees. The direct route saves valuable commuter time and multiple transit connections. I've not tested the alternative yet - bus to West Falls, rail to Rosslyn, rail to Pentagon - so can't calculate the required additional commute time. However, I previously used the metro bus from Herndon to Rosslyn, then rail to Pentagon. At a minimum it added 20 minutes each way on my commute (and that's if the afternoon bus was on time). I would recommend two other alternatives: 1) trim back service on all routes losing money, and 2) raise the price on the 595 route. Example for option 1, cut the first or last run of the morning and last run in the evening for 595. On option 2, I saw comments from xxx xxxx that the board approved a policy for standard fares, therefore they don't want to set different prices. That is an unbelievably terrible reason. If you need to make more money to cover costs on a route, and if customers are willing to pay a higher fee, by all means you should do it. I would certainly be willing to pay a few extra dollars a day. Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Mr. Griffin and BOS- Please reconsider the proposed increased employee insurance contribution/reduced county subsidy for part-time employees. We will lose most of our physicians and nurses if this occurs. Plus this puts an undue burden on our lower wage earners in admin. Community/Government Service-CSB cannot compete with the public sector for pay. But we do have good benefits. If we cannot offer these benefits we will not be able to retain our medical staff. As for admin, for a PT staff member who may clear 800.00 per pay period-to now have to pay between 300-400 dollars for family coverage becomes untenable. We have agreed to freezing wages, unpaid holidays, furlough-please don't make government service unworkable. Our community will greatly suffer and our most valuable asset-our employees will be hurt. thanks-Marcia Greco

Dear Chairman and Supervisors: I have worked for the Fairfax County government for almost 19 years and work 20 hours per week. I am very distressed regarding the change under the proposed FY 2010 Budget to substantially increase my share of the cost of my health insurance because I work 30 hours or less per week. I have worked part time for many years and unfortunately, I am not able to work full time now because I am caring for my 97 year old mother in my home. (She has lived in the County for over 55 years.) I currently pay a premium of $191.07 biweekly for my medical insurance. Under the proposed budget, my health insurance biweekly premium is scheduled to increase to $334.37 effective January 2010 and increase to $477.67 effective January 2011. Thus, in less than two years I will be required to pay an additional $573.20 per month or an additional $6,878.40 per year for the same medical insurance coverage. As a life long resident of the County, I do understand the critical need for the county government to reduce it operating expenses. It will be very difficult, though, (maybe impossible) for me to financially absorb an increase of this amount, particularly over such a short period of time. Yet, I want and need to provide medical insurance coverage for my family. Therefore, I ask that the Board of Supervisors not approve the proposed increases to the cost of part time employees' health insurance premiums. Thank you for your interest and support in this matter.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I like to comment about the FY2010 proposed budget that will affect the SACC program. I personally think that there is no need to make any changes. Usually the changes never benefit the children or working parents. Why can we just leave things as they are the current program works well. Why do we spent our budget in unnecessary programs and start thinking about our children's future. I think we should put our children's education in first place.

I would like to comment about the 952 bus route. On the 952 the are school children that ride the bus which get off at Hunter Mill and Sunset hills. How would they commute to and from school. There are people that ride that work deep in Business Center Drive, which is off of Sunset Hills. Walking from Wiehle Avenue would be a distance to walk. Have you even thought about having the 505 come up Sunset Hills and then through the Park and Ride and detour back onto Sunset Hills? I think all of this should be considered before eliminating the 952 bus route all together. Thank you for listening!

Please keep Fairfax connector routes 303 and (especially) 380. If necessary, limit 303 to high-use times of day.

In response to the proposed FY 2010 budget, I oppose the elimination of connector bus routes as a method of cost savings. Those who are already struggling without other sources of transportation, such as personal vehicle, will be those most hurt by this. Because of the economy, many are already struggling in their families with loss of employment and possible foreclosures and those who rely on the connector buses need this life line to survive. I live at Springfield Oaks at Alban and Rolling Roads, where there are 382 town homes and we rely on Route #304 which is proposed for elimination. Additionally, we recently adjusted to increase in traffic with the new UPS Distribution Center on Alban Road and now construction for the Proving Ground which will be the location for 8,000 employees. There will be an increased need for bus transportation to eliminate additional vehicles on this route. We appreciate your reconsideration in this matter. Thank you.

Why not ask County staffers to take voluntary furloughs? I'm sure that many would be willing to take a day to a week furlough when it would be convenient for them. This would certainly save a lot of money. Fairfax County Public Schools are wonderful. However, teachers get paid VERY WELL and get huge raises every year and many merit staff who do not work for FCPS work for "market pay", which is often below surrounding jurisdictions. Teachers are also well paid for the 9-10 month year they do work. Non-FCPS year round merit staff make considerably less than their FCPS counterparts. FCPS should be held to the same cuts being felt by non FCPS workers.

Dear Mr. Griffin: I am a part-time employee, a clinic nurse in the Springfield office of the FCHD. Like my colleague in our job share, both of our husbands are self-employed and we took our positions because of the health benefits. If our benefits are cut we feel that we will be forced to leave the county to find part-time employment elsewhere. Part-time hospital nurses and Kaiser telephone advice nurses make on average $15 more an hour than we do. The loss of this benefit is a huge salary cut for us and we are quite distraught both because we feel that we are basically being let go and because we know how badly this will affect services in our office. Please consider another alternative. Health benefits are paramount to surviving this downturn. Thank you for your time.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am currently very against cutting back the bus service by 40% on the 301 route. It is the only bus that covers much of Telegraph Road, and the only bus that services me and many other individuals. It already does not run on the weekends. I could see eliminating maybe one run a day, but not by 40%. This cut back would likely mean I am not able to ride the bus any longer, and you would lose my ridership, along with many other people's. I believe you need to rethink the amount ou cut the route by. In addition, I believe you need to make changes to the way you handle the public hearings. You have 2 of them at 3 pm, when those of us who need bus service are at work! I realize you may well be trying to use this to your advantage, but it appears underhanded. Thank You.

I would like to comment AGAINST the proposed "kiddie tax," or 136% increase in fees for using Fairfax County's athletic fields for soccer and other similar use. This "user fee" is unfair and represents an increase that is not acceptable. Please reconsider this fee.

As a rider of Connector 952, hope that there would be no change of 952 for FY 2010 budget. There would be two alternatives to the 952 elimination as proposed: 1. Reduce hours or frequency 2. Provide AM service only Thanks so much for providing excellent services every day.

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

Increased taxes hurt the people much more than cutting back on non-essential spending.

One way to eliminate the fuss about part timers and their health insurance woes is to consolidate the position, offer the ones close to retirement an early out and do away with half time positions.

Please consider repealing that ridiculous formula of years plus service=80 rule for part time people to get retirement. If we have to pay equally for health care then we should be able to retire after 5 years of being vested just like full time employees. That way \people might actually leave their posts and younger, newer persons would not be at risk for RIF.

Part of the proposed budget cuts is the Seniors on the Go cab service, also is the Fastran Program (trips of necessity) for seniors in our area. On behalf of the Residents of " the Lewinsville Retirement Residence" community, approximately 144 residents, Please do not cut this vital service. Many of our residents have no other form of transportation to Medical appts., grocery stores, banks and drugstore for prescriptions etc. thank you for your consideration for our senior community.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Mr. Griffin and Fairfax County as a whole - I am writing in response to information I read regarding the proposed SACC changes. This appears to have numerous impacts on those parents who have come to rely on SACC as a high quality before and after school program. The SACC program has made it possible for our family to stay within a reasonable budget and eliminate complicated logistics of before and after school pick up/drop off. I could not think of any alternative available to families like ours. Any negative impact on the SACC program will have dramatic impact on many families, as well as the treasured employees at SACC. I do realize the constraints of the budget and there are not many options but raising taxes and/ or moderately raising rates for programs like SACC may need to be considered.

Dar Supervisors, Don't Change SACC!!!! I would like to comment on proposed changes to the SACC program. My family has been in Fairfax now for three years and my daughter is in both the afternoon and morning SACC at Timberlane. My husband and I love this program and so does our daughter. I am very pleased with the quality of the staff and I believe that this is because the staff are fairly paid and full time county staff. Before moving to Fairfax, we lived in another jurisdiction where the staff were paid hourly. Although the staff were nice- they did not have the high professional and personal qualifications that we have at Timberlane. We really saw a difference when we came to Fairfax. They have great programs and learning enrichment. I view it as so much more than after school care. Often times, when I get off work early, my daughter does not want to come home- she asks me to come back at the end of the day. Other parents have told me the same thing. When a staff member left after a couple years- my daughter cried for two days. The County SACC is an excellent program- it works well because the county is able to attract good staff because of the salary and benefits. If this is privatized, the quality will go down and our children will suffer. My husband and I pay the full amount for SACC and we consider it very worthwhile investment in our child.

I strongly oppose the "kiddie tax" that is being proposed at $13 per player for each sports season. Athletic groups contribute millions of dollars to the County annually to maintain and improve grass fields and develop synthetic turf fields, mainly via the County's adopt-a-field programs as well as through public-private partnerships, MOUs. (This contribution is in addition to the current $5.50 application fee.) Athletic groups also donate thousands of volunteer hours annually to mow and line County fields, and pick up trash. It is simply unreasonable, at best, that the County would tax these contributors and volunteers in the first place with an application fee, let alone increase the fee by 136%. Any increase in the tax will ultimately lead to fewer field adoptions and partnerships, and reduction or elimination of a club's scholarship program for players with limited family income, a lose - lose situation for all.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As a daily rider who see the importance of this service to the government, I am appealing you to keep the Fairfax Connector Bus 597 or 595, or both. First of all, both buses (595 and 597) are basically for DoD workers (government employees or contractors). Some of the riders have been using the services for many years and they are providing their services to the government and mostly to the Pentagon. Without 595/597, some of these frequent riders are going to either change their jobs or retire from service or drive their cars to find parking at the Pentagon or Crystal city areas. The impacts on the traffics on I66 as well as the already congested routes to the Pentagon areas ARE obviously substantial. The congestion will be worse than ever. The impacts on the DoD or other government agencies will also be un-calculable due to personnel changes directly or indirectly. Secondly the 585/597 are in service only for the peak hours and most of the time when I am in the bus, it is mostly FULL. Recommendation: consider to combine the schedules of buses so that the bus and bus drivers are fully used. For example, the same bus and bus drive can be used to provide the 595/597 services in the morning and in the afternoon peak hours can be used provide services say in the Reston Town center areas where bus service DO NOT have to be often during the peak hours. Buses to the shop malls or residential areas CAN be reduced during the peak hours. Please keep the 595/597 bus services.

Can you ask speaker #109 at the March 31st budget hearing who asked us to provide comment, how many lives CERT has saved in our county? Then ask the police how many drunk driving stops they caught people? It should be clear which programs to keep. The ones that protect the residents of Fairfax, not the ones that want to.

Can you please keep the school SROs and the outreach people in the Police Stations. They are great people and keep my family and kids safe.

Can you close the government center on Fridays? Most people are gone by 2-3pm. Go sit outside and look at the mass exodus. That would save a fortune.

Can you get rid of two districts in the county? That would cut the costs from paying two supervisors and all their staff. Or if there is law you cant do that, you can job share between supervisors, where they get staff only 1/2 the time. Everyone needs to give up something. Also require account codes on the copy machines to hold the depts accountable for wasted copying spending go green. As a taxpayer I can go into the building and get free copies. The copy rooms are wide open. That does not seem right. And I would be willing to not have that service, if it would save someone's job. Can you charge more for food and make up a little there too?

Please keep the Neighborhood Watch program.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Fairfax County CERT and the professional instructors are the best of the best and provide a world class program. There is no other program in the nation that provides such hands-on expertise with instructors with extensive background. Where else can you find a CERT instructor who responded to Katrina, Pentagon, or World Trade Center? Where else can you find a CERT instructor who is on the Urban Search and Rescue Team and deploys to worldwide disasters? Our citizens deserve the knowledge of these experts who live in our community. Many of us do not have the time to be volunteer fireman, but do have the time to take the CERT training and give back as volunteer instructors and outreach. What other CERT program has been on a National Food Show? Our program has the CERT instructor who was featured to thank for that. Not only should you keep the MA2 position, in times when you need to cut other areas, Fairfax County should be considering expanding the program. Fairfax County CERT expanded the program this past year under the leadership of these three instructors who came up with CERT Basic, 2, 3. This gives more access to CERT program to people in other parts of the county and does not cost the county a dime. Please think again about cutting the CERT program. Losing our MA2 would be a deep lose to Fairfax County. Not only do you need to think about the position, but also the people behind it. The people who have made a difference in our lives.

Keep funding for satellite polling locations for early voting.

There are always those who would prefer to see less voter participation in elections. (Generally these good citizens are Republicans). In any case, the proposed Office of Elections budget cuts should be sidelined. There are numerous ways in which the County wastes money, but holding fair elections is not one of them.

Please do NOT outsource the SACC program. Two of my children just started with the AS program in January - after spending 2 years in a private day care program. The difference in the programs is notable! By outsourcing to the very same day care providers, programming needs will be "traded off" in favor of covering salary costs and other operational needs -- which routinely happened in the private day care we utilized -- and it's run by a national company. SACC and it's teachers provides a valuable service to working parents -- and one that is highly valued now. Don't change something that works now by trying to save $$$ - you will end up penalizing the citizens of this county who really need this service to be of the highest quality (and given the recent transportation survey exercise - it does seem that the needs of families with two working parents are often "overlooked" or given less priority). Government should work hard for the needs of its citizens -- and penalizing working parents with what will inevitably be a lower quality option for after school care, just underscores that County Supervisors are losing touch with the "working" citizenry (though clearly they are in-tuned to the single-earner families). Keep SACC intact so that we can continue to have high quality care for our kids!!!!

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I'm a bus route 595 and 597 rider. In a previous email, a County transportation planner explained that farebox revenue only covers about 45% of operating costs for both bus routes. How can costs be that much to run a few buses to Arlington during rush hour? I just don't understand- I mean, those buses cost a lot to ride, and they are always packed- I would think for sure fares would cover the cost. In any case, the alternative, taking a bus from Reston Park-n-Ride to the Orange Line, then transferring to the Blue Line, then on to the Pentagon, takes on average about 25 minutes longer one way than 595 or 597. The LAST THING I HAVE ON MY HANDS IS TIME!! You have to do what you have to do, I truly accept that. But it will be major league bad news for me personally if you cut these two busses. I will either have to drive, (which is a TERRIBLE option), transfer jobs, or just flat move out of the area (read: Kansas or Minnesota). I am unwilling to sacrifice another hour a day just getting to work.

Please do not eliminate satellite absentee voting places. As voters, we should have as many places as possible to vote absentee.

Supervisor Hudgins - I am a current user of the Fairfax Connector Pentagon Express Bus Route 595. I've read claims of under utilization of this service, and would offer that nothing could be farther from the truth. I can assure you from my observations this service has a strong ridership, punctuated by frequent standing-room only crowds. If budgetary pressures are the bottom line, my observations conclude riders would gladly endorse a combination of rate hikes and/or route reductions, over the total elimination of this critical Pentagon commuting service. Like many of my military counterparts, I personally weighed the availability of this service in my home buying decision when I took my Pentagon assignment this past summer. I urge you to support the continued direct transportation this service provides the commuters of the Reston/Herndon neighborhoods. This is a huge quality of life issue for us. Thank you for your consideration.

It is unjust to force even part-time employees, many having worked more than 10 years for the county, to pay a lot more for their health insurance. Instead of attacking faithful employees, you should attack material items first. Reduce first spending on paving, parks, trails, the number of vehicles the county operates, and the like. Stop spending on fancy crosswalks in Annandale and replacement items in parks.

Dear Sir, Ma'am, The budget that eliminates bus routes is a bad recommendation. I would pay additional fare to keep route 304 service. I use that particular bus route to get to the metro every week day. With the President stating our national strategy is to decrease our dependence on fossil fuel, this move will put more motorists on the road in opposition of the national goal. Additionally, there are ways and efficiencies other than elimination of bus routes to increase ridership and reduce cost that do not appear to be addressed to work this issue. I have looked at the route system and could suggested a route combination, however that was not one of the courses of action offered. The surveys that were offered do not allow riders to make such suggestions. Your strategy to meet the budget by reducing bus routes is short sighted.

If you keep CERT you will have my vote in the next election.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Do not raise the price of SACC for people who make more money. My husband works but he could be laid off any day, so I work to make sure we have medical benefits. When I work at the school that pay barely pays for before and after school SACC with the half day kindergarten. Please do not charge us more or please include as benefit to teachers.

Close TJ school to save money.

Have parents evaluate principles and cut the bad ones.

Make teachers work all day on Monday, not have them need more prep time. They get off for art, music, pe, language. NO other place does this.

Please do not increase the user fee for Fairfax County fields. The taxes and fees in Fairfax County are getting ridiculous. It is not fair to over burden families living here with additional fees for our kids to play sports.

are you kidding. work harder so you can get more money. stop taxing our kids. plz

I am writing to strongly oppose the 40% reduction in service for Fairfax Connector Bus Route 301. This route serves southern Fairfax County where public transportation is quite limited. Route 301 serves communities between the Springfield-Franconia Metro and Huntington Metro. I have been a regular rider of this bus for some time and have seen ridership steadily increase. Traffic traveling north to Huntington Metro are becoming more congested daily and we need to get cars off the road. If bus service is reduced, it will add more cars to these heavily traveled roads and will add significant financial burden to me personally. I also know that others who ride the bus with me will be negatively impacted by a reduction in service and are worried about getting to their jobs. With more jobs coming to this part of the county, it is very short-sighted to reduce bus service in this area. Route 301 currently runs about 30 minutes - that in itself is enough to discourage use of public transportation - and less frequent service will negatively impact ridership. It may sound counterintuitive, but if bus service was more frequent, more people would ride the bus! Please do not reduce service in this part of Fairfax County where few options for public transportation exist! Thank you!

Bus 303 is Proposed to eliminate. Everyday I take 303 from Hillary st, with others. Please don't eliminate this bus service. Thanks,

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Supervisors: I am strongly opposed to the proposed that the 136% increase in the fee in this year's County budget. I feel it is grossly unfair and places an undue burden on the parents and children participating in youth sports activities throughout the County. At a time when every citizen is counting every dollar, you are asking us to pay a 136% increase in the "kiddie tax." That is $13.00 per activity per child per season. This means that a family with two children each playing three sports seasons during the year will now pay $78.00 each year; an increase of $45.00 over the current fee. This proposed increase also will have a negative affect on sports groups' ability to continue field adoptions. In addition to paying the $5.50 user fee for participants in their club, athletic groups contribute millions of dollars to the County annually to maintain and improve grass fields and develop synthetic turf field. Athletic groups also donate thousands of volunteer hours annually to mow and line fields, and pick up trash on County fields. It is unfair for the County to tax these contributors in the first place with an application fee, let alone increase that fee by 136%. Any revenue raised by an increase in the user fee would be offset by loss of field adoptions as athletic groups will be forced to make cuts in their field maintenance budget in order to pay the increased user fee. Why would the County make it more difficult for children to participate in youth sports? Why would the County make it more difficult for sports groups to contribute to field maintenance and improvements? Participation in youth sports has numerous well-known benefits - both physically and socially. Sports groups have been valuable partners with the County by offsetting costs to improve the fields used by youth and adults with field adoptions and other forms of financial support for County athletic fields. Aren't these the things the County should be encouraging rather than discouraging with a 136% increase to a questionable tax? Finally, why would the County only impose a fee on organized users who apply for field permits? The current County policy that groups of 40 or fewer do not need a permit to use a field is grossly unfair to the current groups paying user fees and contributing additional funds for field improvements and maintenance. to How can the County possibly justify placing an even higher tax on those already paying user fees and contributing financially to field improvements while allowing non-paying groups of 40 or fewer to use and damage the fields adopted by another fee paying user group? In closing, I urge you to vote against this increase in the field application fees.

Please do not stop the Crystal city 597 bus from Reston Wiehle Ave. This bus is an excellent service for commuters and is much more user friendly than the WFC-metro connection. This is a great option for commuters and some may choose to drive rather than WFC-metro if the 597 option were removed. Thank you.

Dear Mr. Griffin, The County is poised is to make draconian cuts in health care benefits to its most vulnerable employees, I work as a part time employee and many of us do not make enough money to cover the enormous proposed increase in health care premiums. The County will be forcing us to be without medical insurance because the premiums will be unaffordable. 90% of those affected by the proposal are women. Therefore, the burden of the health care cuts will fall disproportionately upon women who are already earning half that of full time employees. The County's Merit employees were recruited and hired on the condition that we would receive the same benefits as full-time Merit employees. We accepted our positions in good faith. The County is now proposing to renege on their employment contracts.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing concerning Fairfax Connector Bus Route 304. This route is a valuable asset to its many users and would be sorely missed. It is very convenient for me to walk up Donegal Lane and catch this bus at regular intervals.

In the interest of ecology (green) and traffic reduction, both of which are fiscally responsible issues right now, commuting seems like the natural thing to do. Cutting this route would put me, and numerous others, on already crowded roads.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

PLEASE seriously reconsider the elimination of the Fairfax Connector 595/597 bus service to the Pentagon and Crystal City. If the issue is cost effectiveness/profit, MOST, if not all riders WOULD GLADLY PAY AN INCREASED FARE if it meant keeping this bus service - I have polled many of my fellow riders. However, I can't believe the reason behind discontinuing the 595/597 is a money issue. I don't know if any of you have ever had to commute but the options you are forcing on us by cutting this service is untenable. The Fairfax Connector 595/597 bus service to the Pentagon/Crystal City is the only reasonable option we have for commuting into this area in a reasonable amount of time. These buses are now ALWAYS full, some with standing room only (new riders every week), especially since last summer's increase in gasoline prices. It is definitely not an underutilized service. Taking the bus to West Falls Church, as is frequently suggested, and then riding metro adds approximately 45 minutes to the commute each way and that's assuming there are no other issues in the rail system. Additionally, seating is rarely available at West Falls Church this early in the mornings- try standing for 20-25 minutes on the bus then an addition 45 plus minutes on the metro. As it is now, due to the commute, I am away from home 11 hours a day for a 8 and a half hour work day. Without the 595 Fairfax Connector bus, I will be away from home at 12 hours plus a day for a 8 and a half hour work day. I cannot believe that the county really wants to add to the driving congestion in the Dulles corridor by forcing us to now drive into the city, which will become the only option when time is a key factor. This is very much a quality of life issue and is counter to the USA's awareness to become more environmentally friendly by reducing automobile carbon emissions. PLEASE RECONSIDER.

Just this morning a fellow rider of the 556 Fairfax Connector told me of your proposed plan to eliminate that route due to budget cuts. As I am writing to you and telling you that I was on that route this morning must already have given you a hint that I do not want that route eliminated. I moved to Reston in November and specifically chose to live in Archstone Reston Landing because of the convenience of having the bus route along the path of my daily commute to DC. I am puzzled as to why you must feel that this is a route that is not used enough that you would choose to eliminate it. By the time 556 reaches Reston Transit Center it is almost completely full in the mornings. In the evenings it is not quite as full, but the 505 bus from West Falls Church that I ride does not have the same people on it in the evening as it does in the mornings, so I assume that people are riding at other times than I do. If you feel that this line is not as busy as you would like, consider reducing the service on weekends, but your daily M-F commuters use this service everyday. The problem plays out that at the Reston Transit Station there are two parking ramps across the street, however, they have signs posted on them that commuters are not allowed to park there. If you allowed the commuters to park there the early commuters would be able to obtain a parking spot, but later commuters and shoppers would have difficulty getting a place to park. Additionally, there is one gentleman that rides this portion of the route that is in a wheelchair and for him to get to the Reston Transit Station would be difficult. As you enter into your public hearings please add my comments and hopefully you will not choose to proceed with the elimination of Route 556.

Do not increase the field permit fees for youth sports groups. This will drive away the at-risk children who need these activities the most.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am concerned about the potential cancellation of the 595 Fairfax connector metrobus. It provides me and the 400 other daily riders our commute to work every day. Were it cancelled, 100's of additional private vehicles, including mine would be added to our highways. I understand that costs have increased and believe those costs should be passed onto riders. I do not want my county giving me a hand out. I hope that the fair share of the cost for this bus system can be passed onto us so that we can keep our bus affordable for the county. I have been told the bus fares bring in 42% of operating costs. Please consider raising the fares and maintaining operation of the bus route. Bus 595 has the highest ave ridership of any fairfax bus. No other bus generates as much revenue as it does. The only public transportation alternative consists of taking the a different bus to the orange line, the orange line to the blue line and the blue to the Pentagon. This is only marginally more expensive, but it adds an additional 30 minutes per trip. The extra hour of commute time (30 minutes each way) will drive ridership to private vehicles for their commute adding to congestion, and pollution. I have been told that some of your analysts think the additional time is closer to 11 minutes extra a trip. This is simply not accurate. I have taken the trip multiple times and can assure you that 30 minutes is closer to the actual time increase. The 595 serves people who our serving their country. The enlisted and officers that ride the bus all work at the Pentagon. Please consider supporting them, while supporting the county by raising the fare so the 595 Bus can pay for itself and remain in operation.

Please do no cancel the 402 and 403 Connector Bus. I have been riding the connector 402 and 403 bus for the past 11 years. I take the first bus in the am and the 4:30 bus in the pm. I am visually impaired and count of the Fairfax Connector to get to and from the Vienna Metro. I am employed by the U.S. Justice Department and need to be in my office by 7AM. There are three gentlemen on my bus route in the morning that are blind and also count on the 402 and 403 Connector bus. Please consider our needs and other visually impaired riders a cab is to costly.

I am opposed to the exorbitant increase of the "kiddie tax" on youth sports participants. During a time that families are counting every penny, I can't believe Fairfax County would impose this tax, possibly putting sports out of reach for some families. Organized sports is an important way to keep our youth active in something positive and off the streets. I have 3 children that play multiple sports, year round. This means, my family pays this tax about 12 times a year. That doesn't seem fair to me. In addition, particularly with soccer, the clubs and teams maintain the fields themselves. This costs the county little or nothing. The clubs are often maintaining and repairing fields that get damaged by non-permitted, non-tax-paying individuals and organized groups. I also feel that raising the out of county tax to such a high amount in unfair. Many of the out-of-county players play on teams in Fairfax County because their parents work in Fairfax County. We also live in such a mobile area that families are often moving in and out of the county. Parents often want to at least keep their child on the same sports team. This is often one of the few stable things in the lives of kids in the low end of our economy, whose parents may be forced to move around often. In closing, I hope this huge increase in the "kiddie tax" will be reconsidered. Families with children are the most vulnerable in this economy and it seems like we are being forced to pay and pay.

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Dear Mr. Griffin, I am writing you today to express my sincere concern regarding the recommendation that the contribution that part-time employees make towards their health insurance be increased. I am a part-time employee and have co-workers presently who are also part-time. Although this decision would not impact me directly as I am covered under my husband's insurance plan, it would hurt others who aren't as fortunate. I have one team member who expressed last week that if this measure is implemented it would take the vast majority of her paycheck. Essentially she would be working to cover the insurance premiums and would have barely anything left to take care of other daily living expenses. Also information that the EAC has been providing does not support the need for this particular change from a fiscal standpoint. Additionally, part-time employees were given this benefit when they were hired and it would not be fair to them to make changes now. Please do not follow through with this recommendation. Many hardworking employees and their families are depending on you and the Board of Supervisors for their survival.

I believe taking away the line would cause more disruptions in the area than the benefit. I am sure you have explored all the possible solutions for this matter; however, I feel many of our neighbors rely on the bus service to get to and from work. It would cost more for the commuter to take metro versus driving to park at the parking center in the Franconia-Springfield Metro. Taking the bus seems to be a part of the community; along Alban road in the evening, the traffic is very backed up and you would have even more cars driving since the bus service would not longer be available. I would beg you to reconsider and think about reducing scheduled times for service or eliminating the service only in the middle of the day - anything.

Save our county's natural resources by NOT cutting valuable FCPA services and positions. Believe it or not, providing education and experience in natural resources, as well as preserving those resources, are essential to the county's future. Our natural areas and naturalist programs also are essential to the knowledge and peace of mind of many citizens. Good staffs, which your budget would cut, are the core of all volunteer and education programs that bring people closer to nature and teach them to care for it. Those are just the human benefits. We have compressed and the undermined the natural world, and both science and lay observation clearly show that we cannot count on the viability of our environment to restore itself. We have cut too many roots of our natural systems. The budget for these valuable services is already too small, less than 1 percent. Apparently no one has calculated the benefits to be accrued by investing now in the much-needed care of our local environment. You must be aware that caring for our local watersheds (which can only be done through education and community effort) translates to improved health of our greater watershed and the Chesapeake Bay. Cuts here undermine the efforts and money spent to repair the damage we continue to do to the Bay. Foremost, they undermine the respect we must instill in younger generations for whom nature barely exists. Rethink this budget, and make the more far-sighted investment in our natural resources and the people who care for them.

Please do not cut the Fairfax Connector Bus Route 556 to North Reston. This is a very large geographic area and riders would be forced to walk very long distances for alternate buses or to commute by car, adding to congestion and air pollution. Buses are the most efficient and environmentally friendly method for transporting commuters from this area.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I have been a part-time merit employee for 12 years. I took the part time position knowing that I would get the same health benefits as full time. This was the contract. It appears that the county can break their contract. If the rates go up I will have give up health insurance. I barely make enough to survive as it is now. I am a single female supporting my self and an increase in health insurance would be a grave hardship. Please don't let this happen. Thank you for listening. Suzanne Malone

Please do not take away the bus services of 595 and 597 away from the passengers. Fairfax County would benefit by increasing the fare to $4.00 one way.

Reinstitute the car stickers and raise the amount to $50. We are the only local jurisdiction that does not have them. That would help share the burden of the current financial crisis with all and not just homeowners who are already struggling to stay in their homes. Also increase the fine to $500 so folks will be motivated to get their stickers in a timely manner and reduce the admin cost for late fees.

I am a Fairfax county resident and a mother of a 5 year old who participates in all year round basketball association. We were informed that there will be an OUTRAGEOUS INCREASE OF FEES OF THE KIDDIE TAX this year. 136% is too much for the struggling economy that most of the families are experiencing right now. This increase of fees are driving the families out of budget therefore not allowing the child to participate in any sports thus not benefiting physically, emotionally and socially to the well being of each participant. Also, I think this proposal is (136%) is too much to begin with, so that if the county reduces it to 100%, parents and organizations is left with a notion that it is better than 136%. The children should not be suffering and shouldering county's budget shortcomings and should think about the interest of the children and the families that are paying the taxes. An increase of 25% is acceptable.

Hi I just want to ask that you do not get rid of the 304 bus. I use this bus everyday to get to work and it is the only bus that goes there. I would have no other way to get there. Also have a comment. I notice that the flyer with the information about the budget was not displayed in Spanish. Some people I ride with on the 304 do not speak English that well.

Please do not eliminate the 952 bus. Perhaps you could cut service down a little. I take this bus everyday home from work. I would even welcome an increase in my bus fair if that was necessary.

When Fairfax County stopped issuing decals for vehicles, it also cut out the $20 for decal fee. Other localities that cut out the decals kept the fee. I know of one that I formerly worked that changed the bill to read "license fee", for the purpose of owning and driving a vehicle on the City streets. Another suggestion would be in regards to the issuance of business licenses. We currently have 2 flat fees of $30 and $50 for businesses that gross under $50k and $100k respectively. I propose changing to one fee of $50 for all businesses under $100k. This would add extra revenue that amounts to a tank of gas, and also reduce the administrative nightmare of determining which renewal form to send businesses whose gross receipts straddles the threshold consistently.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Eliminating the 305 Connector Route will make it difficult for me and others to get to work. I note no suggestion was made to trim service, i.e. go back to the old timetable with fewer buses. Why was that not considered? My only alternative will be to drive to Springfield Metro adding yet another automobile to the crowded roads not to mention the extra cost involved with gas and parking. And as I do not drive well in the dark it will be even more difficult during the winter months. Years ago we had no bus service in my area of Lorton (off Southrun Road). It is a darn shame that the County - and we hear all the time of Fairfax being one of the wealthiest counties - can't operate at least a few buses on this route. Please consider at least going back to the old timetable.

In the county executive's proposed budget, 524 merit positions stand to be eliminated. With that in mind, instead of wasting time and money recruiting for vacant positions that are posted weekly, why isn't DHR matching the vacant positions to employees who will be affected by the RIF? Instead of actively recruiting for vacant positions, employees who have already undergone a background check and completed the extensive county new employee training could take these vacant positions. It reflects poorly on the county to continue to hire new employees outside of the county when hundreds of current employees will lose their jobs.

Route 595. It is unfathomable that the county is considering removing route 595 from the budget. There are two simple things the county can do to bring fare revenue up to operating cost. 1) Provide equipment that a bus operator can reset if impacted by the military common access card microchip. Route 595 operates at times with free fare due to the operators inability to reset the smart card trip machine when impacted by a CAC. 2) The county can increase rates for route 595. The President released a stimulus package that has increased the amount received by government and military (prominent majority of route 595 riders). Passengers on route 595 have expressed view points of rather paying higher price fares then give up the bus route all together. Xxx xxxx goes so far to suggest to a 595 passenger that suggesting a far hike is not something the county wishes to do. Why not? If the ridership is all in agreement - why are you not offering the service? xxx makes the note that fares are uniform across the region - however, I would state that the 595 and 597 routes are not standard routes. It is an untrue statement for xxx to say that "increased bus fare will reduce ridership". If you have not surveyed the riders how can you make that statement? I ride 595 everyday - for the past 7 years. Riders are speaking out about the proposal to cut these routes and are stating they would rather pay higher fares then lose the service. These are two simple suggestions that the county should be able to execute to serve the people it was intended to serve - the tax paying people.

Please do not increase the tax that is added to youth sport registrations!

I would like to express my dissatisfaction with the proposed FY10 Fairfax Connector changes. What logic was used to determine these changes? 303, 304, and 305 are being proposed for elimination, yet 101, 109, 151, 152, 161, 162, 171, 310, 321, 322, and 401 are keeping all day schedules (half hour intervals) AND weekend schedules? Who made this idiotic suggestion? Some of us require the bus to commute to work on the weekdays, but as was the case with the recent strike, Fairfax County would rather strand us with no transportation whatsoever while providing others with all day service every half hour and on weekends. Why don't you cut one of those 11 lines to rush-hour only with no weekends before completely eliminating someone's only mode of transportation?

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Executive Griffin, Please reconsider increasing the field application user fee. As a single parent and volunteer, it would become increasingly difficult for me to register my child for year-round sports with such a high fee associated with registration. My son, has benefited from participating in these volunteer run organizations tremendously. He gains the benefit of exercise, meets new peers, and learns the value of being a goods sportsman. During a time when gang activities are on the rise, having something constructive for a teenager to participate in is of high importance. Any increase in the tax will ultimately lead to fewer registrations for those children who need constructive activities the most. Please reconsider increasing the access fee for youth sport organizations.

I take the 505 daily from Reston East Park and Ride to West Falls Church metro and I have an irregular schedule so it is very important to me that it runs every 15 min. I hope it is not changed to every 30 min. I find this bus is almost always busy. I would rather pay an increased fare than have the service cut by 50%.

I am shocked that you want to raise taxes 14% during a recession, especially when you've increased spending 27% on an inflation adjusted basis since 2000. The time has come not just for cuts, but a re-structuring of how we compensate county employees. The time has come to stop raising our taxes to pay for 1950s-style benefits for county workers. With a deficit of 20% of total spending, we don't have the luxury of paying for outdated benefit programs. We must remember the county exists to serve taxpayers, not unions who've contributed to campaigns, or staff who are being paid with money that's simply not there. This horrible budget situation provides Fairfax County a chance to modernize its compensation system, let's not waste this opportunity.

FCDOT Seniors On -The Go! program is of great help to the Senior Citizens who are either not able to drive or unable to afford a car due to their limited low income. Elimination of the facility would cause lot of hard ship to them. I and my wife would, therefore, suggest that if it is considered absolutely essential to curtail the funds, then reduce the number of coupons provided each year rather than complete withdrawal of the facility. This would enable the Senior Citizens at least to go to their medical appointments on occasions when they are not able to get a ride from relatives, friends or volunteers. Once a program is withdrawn it becomes a big task to restore it but if a facility is curtailed it may be easier to bring it back when the things improve in future. I hope my proposal would get the consideration it deserves.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As a part-time merit employee and Mental Health Clinician, I am insulted and outraged that the county would place optional services above honoring a professional employment contract. The proposal to cut benefits for those who have faithfully fulfilled their professional contractual obligations insults the highly experienced clinicians who manage very difficult client populations, in high stress situations, with fewer resources. As it is we work in an environment with dangerous people, pests, vermin, mold, dirty furniture, non-functional heat and AC, no parking. If you treat people as though you don't care about their welfare, no raises, uncompensated overtime, AT THE SAME TIME AS THE MONEY COLLECTED FOR THE COUNTY BENEFITS EXCEEDS THE EXPENSES, you send a message that you'd rather lose those employees than find another place to cut costs. We are working WAY too hard to be treated this way. My suggestion is that you look at cost-cutting measures that have to do with THINGS not PEOPLE. Clean the brass banisters at your offices less often. There are perfectly good computers that are replaced here. Cut out the Toastmasters at the Gov't Center (we don't have time to even think about attending such bonus meetings.) Experienced clinicians dealing with more stressed out people in the community who are losing their jobs, homes and health care benefits, when the county and state cannot provide them, is a recipe for disaster.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed elimination or unfunding of Green Spring's Community Horticulture Park/Rec Specialist I position #37549. My husband and I are both long-time Fairfax County residents and Green Spring Master Gardeners. I work full-time, but still manage to volunteer as Green Spring Master Gardener, heading our Speakers Bureau (to give gardening lectures to local groups) and co-chaired this year's annual EcoSavvy Symposium, teach sound gardening practices. We had a sell-out crowd of 100. My husband, also through the Master Gardener program, is involved in the Ready, Set, Grow program, which reaches hundreds of 4th-graders throughout the county. This program supports the Virginia Standards of Learning. And there are over 140 other volunteers in our group that work at Farmers' Markets (which are becoming such a staple for many of us), community fairs and events, and help man the Horticultural phone and email hotlines. Our programs are an important part of Fairfax County life, and contribute greatly to the quality of life here. The community horticulture Park/Rec Specialist I staff position at Green Spring Garden Park is responsible for coordinating the work of Master Gardener Volunteers and the annual Master Gardener Education/certification classes. Eliminating and/or unfunding this position will have a serious negative impact on Green Spring Garden's ability to deliver horticultural and environmental education to Fairfax County adults, families and school children at current levels. This action will further reduce revenue to Greenspring programs both directly and indirectly. Moreover, this action will surely result in a significant loss of volunteer service to the Fairfax County Extension Office which has already been reduced to a minimum in response to the economic downturn. As my husband and I consider retirement and perhaps moving, we've always thought there is no better place to live than Fairfax County. I am happy that our taxes go to support our schools, roads, and public servants such as the community horticulture Specialist. We ask you to consider reinstating and funding the Park/Rec Specialist I Community Horticulture position at Green Spring Garden Park. The loss would be quite a blow.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Strongly Oppose Tony Griffin's proposal to discontinue supplementing contributions to Part-Time employees' health benefits. I ask the Board of Supervisors to reconsider. Should the Board continue to feel this is a cost saving benefit they wish to pursue; that this policy be grandfathered so that current employees, who were hired with the understanding that the county would pay a portion of their health care costs, would continue to receive the same benefit. This proposal unfairly discriminates against part-time employees. During the March 27th open discussion hosted by Tony Griffin, a participant asked if the county had considered spreading the $800,000 deficit over all county employee's health insurance contributions. In other-words, instead of eliminating all subsidy of part-time employee benefits, if the county would consider reducing the contributions over all merit employees, part-time and full-time. Tony's response was that in doing so, it would not be fair to the full time employees because they are already not going to receive pay raises over the next year or more. I am not sure why it is fair to the part-time employees? They work equally as hard and contribute their fair share. Part-time employees are not going to get pay raises either. So I am unsure what the premise was to his counter argument. Additionally, part-time employees are typically not the highest paid employees and work in positions among what is considered the front line. This proposal places the burden on those employees who can afford it the least. This certainly appears to target a specific group of employees, and certainly not management. This burden should be shared among all staff and not a select group. This proposal most likely will have a negative impact to business. During the March 27th open discussion hosted by Tony Griffin, those handful of employees affected by this concurred that they would be forced to leave the county. This will cause a negative impact to business and service delivery. As one person stated in that meeting, the impact to business in their work area will be the equivalent of loosing 2 employees who both work the same hours to cover a high traffic time of day in hopes to reduce customer wait times. Additionally, agencies such as family services and human services utilizes part-time employees in an effort to meet the high demand for management of caseloads. For most, these part-time employees contribute greatly to the business. They seem to be working for the health benefits. By reducing the subsidy that the county contributes, it will force them to find full time employment where benefits are offered. Some may argue, "times are tough, we all have to do things we don't want to do" but the message this gives employees is that "the county no longer cares". Thus, the unintended consequence of this is poor morale and the inability to attract and maintain quality staff. There was a time when Fairfax County was known in among other jurisdictions as being a leader and innovator in the areas of work life balance. This reputation will be gone, and the pay that Fairfax offers isn't enough to keep the quality of employees you have now. When employees feel undervalued, it only takes a short period to poison the quality of work. The county can't have happy customers if the employees are unhappy. This proposal balances the budget on the backs of the county employees. The net effect to the employee is a pay cut on top of the looming certainty that there will be no raises for the foreseeable future. This proposal is contrary to the direction the country is going. Newly elected President Obama commented at his March 24th address to the nation that the number one issue facing Americans is health care and health insurance. At a time when the President is sharing with the country that health care is the main concern, Fairfax County proposes to cut health care benefits to the lowest paid employees. What message are you sending to the community?

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider any budget cuts that would necessitate the elimination of Fairfax Connector bus route, 303. I use this route to commute from the Lansdowne subdivision to downtown Washington D.C. daily. Elimination of this route would drastically affect my daily commute and lifestyle. It would require me to either significantly lengthen my commute or purchase a second automobile. The last thing Fairfax County should be doing is making changes that add vehicles to the road. Mass transit options are vital to the survival of our community. I urge you to reconsider any changes to the budget that would require elimination of Route 303 on the Fairfax Connector bus system.

I am a resident of Fairfax County, and I depend on the Fairfax Connector to get me to and from work, as I have a learning disability and eye problems, that make driving difficult, almost impossible. Please do not cut service on the bus routes, especially the 952 route. Cutting bus service, in my opinion, is effectively punishing residents who like me, depend on public transportation. I am shocked and appalled that the option to raise fares was not even discussed. Please do not do this to us. I did not ask to have these eye and learning disabilities, and I certainly do not expect to be penalized for them as well.

I was surprised and disappointed when I reviewed the proposed FY 2010 budget. For a year when County tax revenues are expected to drop by approximately 9% the county proposes to increase spending above FY 2009 levels. Even as property values decline and county residents face financial hardships the County response is to propose an increase in property taxes rather than reduce spending to a sustainable level. The County should not engage simply in across the board cuts, though every program should see budget reductions. As is the case with the private sector, County employees should have their salaries frozen: no pay raises, no cost of living increases, no step increases based on time in place or seniority. County management needs to spend more time analyzing county budgets from other parts of the country in order to better understand what services are truly essential and what services are non-essential. The most significant cuts should be directed at these non-essential programs. Any budget presented by the County must be limited to existing resources. It is unreasonable and irrational for the County to expect, at a time when its citizens must cut back to cover their own living expenses, to expect taxpayers to sacrifice even further so County officials can expand their expenditures.

If at all possible I hope you will find a way to keep the 305 bus running. It is the only way I have to get to work. There are quite a few people that ride it with me, and we are all dependent on the 305. Even a reduced schedule would be preferable to no bus at all. Please take this into account and act accordingly. Thank you.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Mr. Griffin, It is both equally disheartening and absurd to read that a potential reduction in the budget for Fairfax Connector will be considered for the county. Though I share the grief that must come with balancing the local government's expenditures, I truly believe that scaling back, or in my particular case, eliminating bus lines that serve an expanding jobs center is counterproductive in the short-term, and extremely backward in the long-term. As you may already be aware, all modes and methods of transit are never free, nor should they ever be viewed exclusively as a line item for financial decisions. I have personally seen Fairfax county take significant strides in making the area progressive in redevelopment around transit-oriented development, as well as taking efforts to reduce carbon emissions and making serious reforms at creating livable communities for work and living. The great backbone of this is the county's commitment to transit options in areas where the car is the only way of participating in society. I take the 952 bus route from West Falls Church to Herndon. Though I believe every route is critical, I have yet to see in your budget as to whether some of these lines could be combined rather than eliminated. I will also tell you that I am a practicing architect who also works diligently to promote transit use (especially Fairfax Connector buses) as part of my firm's sustainable practices, and it would be a horrific failure to see another backward example of a county choosing short term budget relief at the expense of eliminating a critical piece of infrastructure. If I am forced to be limited to using only my car to get around, I can most assuredly tell you that in the future I will vote with my feet and make my home in some other county.

The 380 and 304 routes generate more revenue than your drivers are collecting, due to FREQUENT outages of the smartcard readers. I estimate, conservatively, that the smartreaders are inoperative 25% of the time on these routes, which results in your revenue and RECORDED ridership totals for these routes to be far lower than reality. This means you are proposing to cancel the 380 and 304 routes, which in reality are generating PROFIT per route, and you are negatively affecting the livelihood, home values, and quality of life for thousands of county residents that you exist to SERVE. This is entirely a management problem, not a business model problem or lack of riders; the public is very much aware, I say again, very aware of this and will make their displeasure known if the county administrators proceed with the proposal to cancel the 380 and 304 without good data, at tremendous detriment to the county citizenry.

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

To: Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors I have been a merit employee with the county for the last six years. This is a third career for me. I took time off, semi retired so to speak, when my children were young to stay home with them. After they had grown, I decided I needed to go back to work for several reasons, one of the most important being I needed health insurance. My husband had taken early retirement at 55 years old. Private health insurance was draining our accounts and my husband and I would rarely go to the doctor due to the costs. Even with health insurance at a rate we could afford, I still had a $5000 deductible and limited coverage. After being with the county for five years, I had the opportunity to job share while still being able to keep my health insurance at affordable rates. I took that opportunity and have been doing this job for the last year. I truly enjoy my job and look forward to going to work. I rarely if ever call in sick, probably having used 1 sick day per year for my time with the county. If the county changes the health care coverage, I am not sure what I will do. The cost of the increase in insurance will make it not feasible to work part time, as most of my income will go to insurance. I also need to work till I am 65 years old before I am able to collect on Medicare, which is another seven years. I also understand the financial crisis that the County is under, but I took this job in good faith with the understanding that I could continue my health coverage under the same conditions. I believe that the County has an obligation to us and should possibly grandfather us under our current plan, if they do change the plan going forward.

please, please, please do not increase the percentage of my share of health insurance. i have worked for the county for 28 years, 22 of which have been part time. i switched to part time because i have children and a elderly mom to care for. i would never have been able to switch to part time if there had not been benefits. i need to provide the health insurance for my family. if the percentage I pay is raised, i will not be able to afford it. right now i pay approximately $324 per month. and bring home a little more than $1600 per month. this proposal will triple my contribution and take my wages down to approximately $1000 per month - my mortgage is more than that. we will have to drop the health insurance. i feel if you want to change for new hires that at least they would know coming in to the situation; but it should not be changed for current employees. one of my colleague's is in the same boat; she provides the insurance for her family because her husband is self employed. i was eligible for retirement in December but did not retire primarily because of health insurance. i am only 52 and can not get Medicare until 65; but more importantly i still have a child and i need to provide his health insurance. health insurance is the most important benefit i provide to my family. i think i would rather live with them in a car than not have health insurance. after all these years of living and working in the county, i feel very, very let down and discriminated against. it feels like this is an effort to eliminate part-timers and as most part timers are women; it feels like the old assumption that women do not need to supply the essentials may be being bought into play. in a time when we are trying to be sure everyone has access to health insurance this is a truly unfair thing to do to one group of employees. i am happy to not get raises, i am fine with furloughs, no awards is fine. however i do not think it is fair to balance the budget on the backs of one group of employees. whatever is done, we need to do it together. please do not take my family's health insurance away. thank you.

I live in Nothumberland Rd, Springfield VA. On week days me and my neighbors take Fairfax connector (304) in the Morning and in the Evening timings. So my request is that do not eliminate 304, other wise we will face big problem related to transport. Thanks

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please do not discontinue the Fairfax Connector bus service for 952 which runs from West Falls Church to Herndon. This bus service only runs during rush hour and helps lot of people commute to work. Thanks.

Please vote against the fee increase (Kiddie Tax). Why would the County make it more difficult for children to participate in youth sports? Why would the County make it more difficult for sports groups to contribute to field maintenance and improvements? Participation in youth sports has numerous well-known benefits - both physically and socially. Sports groups have been valuable partners with the County by offsetting costs to improve the fields used by youth and adults with field adoptions and other forms of financial support for County athletic fields. These are the things the County should be encouraging rather than discouraging with a 136% increase to a questionable tax.

I believe that part-time employees are being targeted and that the county is expecting them to be forced to leave the county. I suggest that all employees be required to pay more for their insurance. This way it won't have such a detrimental effect on one group of people instead it will affect everyone across the board. I understand that Tony Griffin believes that all merit full-time employees are already feeling the pinch but part-time employees are feeling the same pinch. We aren't getting a raise also. So now on top of not getting a raise, we also have to pay for our insurance. This is not the county I work for. Fairfax County has always been a leader. This move makes us just another number among the counties of Virginia. We have become a FOLLOWER! Please, consider helping all employees of Fairfax county through this tough time by considering other alternatives.

I have read that the county is considering cutting the program budget of the Resource Management Division by 40%. I am writing to ask you to reconsider. Huntley Meadows, for example, is an environmental jewel. I know that there are competing demands for funds and that the county is in a very difficult situation financially. But a resource like Huntley Meadows must be supported or it will gradually slide into decline--it's a treasure that should be maintained for our sake and the sake of our children and grandchildren. As much as I like bike trails and rec centers, the heart of the Park system are those special areas dedicated to the preservation of nature on a larger scale. They are truly irreplaceable. In the current budget proposal, there are 11 staff positions to be abolished, 7 positions to be funded only 50%, and a 50% cut in seasonal staff budgets. These cut far too deep. At a time when the economy is slowing, free access to the peace, quiet, and wonder found in places such as Huntley Meadows represents an essential lifeline to citizens of this county. Although its benefits are harder to quantify than, for example, the revenue generated by a rec center, I believe they are more substantial and longer-lasting. Please do what you can to protect these vulnerable areas.

Please do not eliminate the 556 bus route. In my household it allows us to get by with a single car, it means fewer cars on the roads, less gas burned, less congestion.

For students who are not getting subsidized lunches, have them pay for bus transportation and increase fees for kiddie activities. Increase class sizes. Do NOT reduce funding for seniors or folks with disabilities. Those folks do not have any choice - limited budgets and physical limitations which are not under their control. Don't increase real estate tax or property tax, it is too high now. People on limited budgets cannot afford to live in the county.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I ride the 595 into the pentagon and have since fc took over from Metro and caught metro bus prior to that and am willing to pay more for this service if it would help get the 595 bus from being eliminated. thank you

In regards to the proposed increase in part time merit employee's insurance: I feel this group is being targeted, when we accepted our terms of employment (& have kept our end of the terms) we were told a set amount for insurance w/periodic increases, as would be the case with all Fairfax County Employees. I have worked for Fairfax County 22 years in addition to living in Fairfax County & my son attending a Fairfax County Public School. There is no way I could afford to continue living/working in Fairfax County w/such a large increase in my insurance. I have no other option for insurance for my son & I. I am a single working mother who went thru the Fairfax County 1st Time Homebuyer Program to be able to live in the County I work in. With the increase in my insurance the 1st Time Homebuyer Program won't really work. I'm trading one for the other. If i had to pay such a large fee for my insurance I never would have bought a home, I can't afford both. It seems this insurance increase would collapse the entire structure I have set up to be able to live & work in Fairfax County. By increasing my insurance the Board will be forcing me to consider other living options. This seems unbelievable as I have owned my home now 5 years this summer. When I asked if I could work 32 hours a week my Supervisor informed me that would not be possible in my position. Please consider re-instating the decal tax w/o the decal or using 1/2 of the penny allotted for the Affordable Housing Program. There are also other options. I had before the birth of my son worked full time for the county (15 years), after giving birth it became quite clear I could meet the demands of single parenting & work full time, I choose to be the best parent I could be by choosing to parent full time & work part time instead of the other way around. Childcare being so costly it made even more sense. Please vote no on insurance increase for merit part time employees. Thank you.

As a Fairfax resident and commuter on the 380 Express bus, I oppose to the elimination of the 380 service. Over the last year, ridership on 380 has increased significantly. The majority of buses running from 0609 - 0754 am and from 0354 - 0624 are full to capacity (often standing room only). Please consider other means of increasing revenue rather eliminating the 380 service, such as: 1. Increase fares (the current $3 fare is $0.65 less than metro rail). 2. Maintain equipment. Fare recorders constantly fail to read smartcards, causing Fairfax County to lose revenue. If this equipment is maintained and functioning properly, this bus route should prove very profitable to the County. 3. Reduce number of morning/evening buses (i.e., cut morning buses after 0800 am and the evening buses after 0700 pm). Adjustments like these will allow the retention of the 380 Express bus, while increasing Fairfax County revenues. Other important issues to consider: 1. The larger ridership of 380 reduces number of cars on Fairfaix County roads, thus reduces congestion, emissions, road wear and tear (thus maintenance costs). 2. Fare increases would be partially off-set by the recent increased transit subsidy (through the federal economic stimulus package), reducing riders out-of-pocket burden. Please reconsider!!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

SUBJECT: KEEP FAIRFAX CONNECTOR ROUTE 952 OPEN! Dear Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: I am alarmed by your proposition to eliminate Route 952 of the Fairfax Connector Bus Service (Route 952). Many commuters count on Route 952 as their only reliable means of transportation. Others have made a conscious choice to ride Route 952 as an alternative to driving a car, for reasons of economy, ecological responsibility, and to reduce automotive gridlock. Reliable transportation -- such as the clean, efficient commute offered by Route 952 - is often a requirement for employment. Eliminating Route 952 would, at best, severely inconvenience citizens for whom the Fairfax Connector is their only reliable means of transportation. At worst, it would force these salary-earners, and taxpayers, to seek employment elsewhere. Would you like to be a job-seeker in today's economy? Is the social cost of unemployment really worth the so-called "savings" appearing in the County's budget computer models? But it isn't just hard-working commuters who would suffer the loss of Route 952. Others who would be affected include: Students and Retirees, who rely on mass-transit; Clients of businesses and services along Sunset Hills Road; and all responsible citizens who believe mass-transit is an effective counterforce to automotive pollution and gridlock. People who choose to commute with Route 952 know the solution to serious issues like air pollution and jammed highways begins with individual choices that benefit the community. Taking mass transit, and Route 952 in particular, is one vital step toward realizing that goal. Fairfax County Supervisors, do the right thing: Keep Fairfax Connector Route 952 open!

Mr. Griffin, Please reconsider the drastic changes to our health insurance rates, especially for part-time employees. I am part-time and having my insurance premiums paid by the county was a huge incentive. I feel that reducing the percentage the county pays for part-time premiums is discriminating against part-timers. In addition, if the rates are raised as is proposed across the board, most of a part-time employee's salary will be taken by insurance premiums. One cannot live that way. Please reconsider this option. Thank you.

I have participated in the Seniors On-The-Go program for several years. I have never abused it nor overused it. It has been used for trips to the airport (perhaps twice a year) and medical appointments. I live on Shreve Road and have no bus service out. Also I can't tell you how impressed outsiders are when they hear of this Fairfax county benefit to seniors. I have lived here since 1973 and have always paid my taxes to Fairfax county. I would find it an added financial burden if the program were to be discontinued.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing to oppose drastic service reductions in the Fairfax Connector system, and in particular 40% reductions for the routes 553 and 557. Rather than eliminate some routes and cut service on 553 and 557 by 40%, the Country should modestly increase fares to spread the burden more fairly. The buses are priced very reasonably - a modest increase should be acceptable. Buses are essential to commuting for many in the County, but bus use benefits the whole community, even those who don't use buses. Buses reduce traffic, easing the commute for those who drive. They also cut emissions and our dependence on foreign oil. The county should ensure that as many citizens as possible have access to buses without needing to drive to already crowded park and rides. Routes 553 and 557 cover a huge swath of South Reston. For many citizens, including me, they offer the only option to commute to DC. Cutting service drastically on routes with sparse schedules already (553 runs for only three hours in the morning at roughly half-hour intervals) will unreasonably reduce commuting options in South Reston, forcing more people to drive all the way to DC or pack into the crowded park and rides. Encouraging bus use benefits the whole community, not just those who use the buses. Continued County subsidies coupled with a modest fare increase would be a much better and fairer option to deal with budget issues than dramatic service cuts that would affect only citizens who ride the affected buses.

Removal of 595 at the same time when Congress has increased the transit subsidy to government employees to $230 per month does not make sense. You have the Federal employees who live and vote in this district, and who are being subsidized by the government to take mass transit, being told by Fairfax County government to drive if you want to reach work at 0630. At a time when 595 busses are full or standing room only, and the federal employees are willing to pay more. Raise the fare for government employees.

I am struck by how the 595 is being slated for elimination at a time when it has higher ridership and income than the bus routes being maintained. We voted for change, but telling people to drive to work because Fairfax County doesn't want to continue an express bus, wasn't the change we voted for. The consultants who told you there was a 7 minute difference when taking metro didn't actually time the ride from Weihle to Pentagon Metro. It's significantly slower, more unreliable, and if you drive to the Orange Line you pay for parking as well as dealing with I-66 traffic. Keep 595.

I'm sure you are going to be hearing a lot of whining from parents, but GREAT IDEA on upping the "kiddie tax" for people to pay a fee for their kids to use the Fairfax fields and gyms, as well as adding a "non-Fairfax County" fee. Other counties do it, and DC does it, so why not? If they want to use it, they should have to pay. If they don't like it, they don't need to let their kid do that hobby. I don't need to fund their kids hobbies; I'm already paying HUGE personal property taxes ($23k/yr; I live in Great Falls) for their kids to go to school. BRAVO!! Keep it up! Little bits like that can add up to a lot of budget money.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear People, After being laid off from my job last December, I was truly shaken by the RIF and our nation's poor economy that had me believe I would be out of work for months and months-maybe a full year! I have blessed to get a new job, even though it will have me comminuting to the Pentagon from North Sterling. Now I understand you are considering cutting out my ability to make this all possible! I take the 595 bus from East Reston Park and Ride. It really is the only viable, economic route and a time saver as well. I would otherwise have to take a bus and two Metro trains, making my commute about 1.5 hours! I worked out some figures and cannot understand why your management is finding the necessity to cut the 595 and 597! Why would you give up revenue of almost 1.2M for these routes (of fare was $4)? Ridership is 3,250 people per week who use the 595 route; bringing in a revenue of $9,750. Of course if you raise the rate to $4.00, then there would $13,000 per week. Ridership at 2,500 people per week using the 597 route, the revenue would be $7,500; or at the rate of $4, $10,000 per week. Please DO NOT cut these routes! Too many of us depend on them! If you ever had to meet the demands of both professional livelihood and family, you would understand how critical it is to have these routes continue.

Please do not discontinue the bus service from the Pentagon to the Wiehle. I would pay a higher fee to continue riding. Thank you

I know you think you have to cut positions. This economy is bad. But for the CERT program, in class I talked to 3 or 4 instructors who are out of work. The job they have now is to volunteer with CERT. That does not support a family. I feel they use CERT as a crutch to not look for work and just collect unemployment. That means taxpayers are paying them in a way. They could be too busy to find work because they volunteer at the CERT table all the time or stay-up very late teaching the class. Can you hire them part time to give them some real income. They are great guys, look good in CERT vests and can help solve a moral problem once you lay off people. Take action now!!! Pay the volunteers who do the jobs of government employees and the employees just complain complain complain complain complain let them stand on the unemployment line!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I think cutting what the county is paying for health insurance for part time employees is uncalled for. In my eyes you will be breaking a contract with the employee. I accepted a job that came with benefits that were paid for by the county at a certain percentage. If you must change this you should grandfather in all previously hired employee's. It would be hard to find another job at the moment. If you change the benefit amount I will be forced to make a choice between health insurance and no money or no health insurance and a pay check. Please consider this.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I would like to suggest a gasoline tax be imposed to balance the budget, and not eliminate the Seniors On-The-Go program, which is very important for retired people. We have probably the cheapest gasoline in the civilized world.

I have been a FT Merit County employee since 2001 and only recently gone PT as a Merit employee, after the birth of my daughter 14 months ago. I understand that my benefits are looking at a sharp increase of 150% and at this time with the cost of living prices going up, our property values going down and no salary increase we would not be able to afford this increase. I am a social worker and see first hand what happens to clients who cannot afford good health insurance. As a county employee, this is one of the main reasons and attractions to continue employment with Fairfax. I do not want to be considered just another statistic and feel that my health insurance is one of the most critical benefits that support my family as I strive to support the families of FFX County. I am in favor of increasing property tax assessments to deal with the shortfall. WE are already overworked and stretched beyond our capacity, please consider the overall health/stress of the entire workforce. Just because we are PT does not mean we are of less value and service to the county and families we serve.

I know that these are very difficult financial times. I just got a job after I moved to this area two years ago to be with my terminally ill father. I get to my new job by walking to the end my street and taking the Fairfax Connector Bus #301 to the Huntington metro station. Then I take the Yellow Line and switch to the Blue Line to get to McPherson Square and walk to my building. This all takes about an hour and a half and $4.00. I have lived in cities in 6 other states and this is the most difficult and expensive commute I've ever had to get to work. Now I learn that the one bus that runs by my street is on the list of routes recommended for a cutback of 40%. This route already doesn't run between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm nor does it run on holidays and weekends. What is left to cut? I also feel badly for people who live on routes that could be eliminated. At a time when people can't afford to put gas in their car or park in this town; at a time when we are supposed to cut back on carbon emissions to help the environment and stay off the roads to help traffic congestion; at a time when the bus may be the only way a person has to get to work; why would you want to cut back or eliminate such a critical service? What do I suggest you cut instead? Let the grass grow a bit longer in the parks. Plant a few less flowers. Don't hold a big fireworks display on the 4th of July. Last year standing in one place I could see 5 displays at the same time. I hate to say it, but increase the bus fares. At least I would be able to get to work. Even worse, I say increase taxes. Once fundamental services are cut it is no longer a choice to take a bus, go to a library, or visit a park. They just won't exist any more.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

The proposal to eliminate the Motor Carrier Safety Vehicle Inspection program would be a mistake and endanger the citizens of Fairfax County. The unit is doing an outstanding job protecting the public from unsafe trucks and buses. The inspection program fills that gap between the interstate vehicles and those that skirt the weigh stations and travel the back roads to avoid the inspection stations. The police officers are certified under Federal Standards and are conducting vehicle inspections under the auspices of the North American Standard Driver/Vehicle Inspection programs. The State of Virginia is currently receiving Federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program funds to conduct vehicle inspections. Fairfax County should also apply for these funds which will be available during the next budget cycle. They do an outstanding job protecting the public and this program should not even be considered to be cut due to the public safety function. As a former Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration employee I urge you to keep the unit active.

Regarding the proposed increase--more than doubling--in the "FIELD APPLICATION USER FEE", I'm strongly opposed to it. Lots of people use the fields without paying a thing for their maintenance, including real estate taxes. You should get some money from them first before asking those of us already paying to pay A LOT more. If it were a dollar or two then ok, but 136% increase? That's simply too much. Now if you wanted the money for fences and locks to keep non-permitted groups off the fields I'd gladly pay up. But we won't get anything significant in return for the extra fee. I don't recall getting anything for the fees we are already pay ... except maybe a trash can or two for us to use when we clean up after ourselves. Why do the contributing citizens always have to pay extra to make up for those who are not contributing?

I am concerned about the proposal to eliminate Fairfax Connector bus service on Route 556. This is a bus that operates during weekday rush hours. I use the bus. I always schedule appointments at hours that allow me to use this very convenient bus service. I do not want to drive and prefer to use public transportation. Thank you. Please reconsider and do not eliminate this bus route.

This has to do with absentee voting. The current system of absentee voting. The current system of letting voters vote at satellite locations, works and should remain as is.

Dear Mr. xxxx, CERT PIO Thank you for creating the attention about the CERT program being cut. If the 1.3 million residents would benefit from CERT can you explain how? The other counties in DC area cut it a long time ago. The schools do not train people to be volunteer teachers and Fairfax already has a volunteer fire program as you note in your website. It is noble what you do for Fairfax and not to take away from that. Can you talk to other counties to see if they can hire your MA2 person and have her take the Fairfax CERT program with her. Call it a Montgomery and Fairfax County CERT.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Fairfax County Connector Bus Route 595 (Reston East Park & Ride / Pentagon) rush hour only service. RESTORE FUNDING FOR THIS VALUABLE, HEAVILY USED SERVICE. Switching from a direct bus to a bus & orange line metro & blue line metro route is not a viable alternate solution. Multiple transfers and the increased trip time kill this proposal. A large portion of the 595 riders receive the DoD National Capital Region transit subsidy. That subsidy was raised in March 2009 to $230 per month per person. Raising the 595 fare from $3 to $5.48 has no out of pocket costs for those receiving the subsidy. Other riders welcome a fare increase versus elimination. I personally do not get a subsidy and am fine a rate increase to $5.50. A majority of the 595 route expenses can be covered directly by a fare of $5.50. Route 595 has one of the highest numbers of riders per revenue hour, 32.8 compared to a system average of 23. Consider elimination of one trip eastbound and one trip westbound daily on the 595 Route, rather than cancelling the entire service. Establish a return bus route in the morning for the currently empty buses returning to Reston from the Pentagon. Fares can be collected to transport passengers from Arlington to Reston. This is the environmentally (green) friendly approach and improves the transit partnership between Arlington and Fairfax Counties. Establish a bus route in the afternoon for the currently empty buses heading to Arlington from Reston. Fares can be collected to transport passengers from Reston to Arlington. This is the environmentally (green) friendly approach and improves the transit partnership between Arlington and Fairfax Counties. I encourage you to support the military and civilians defending our country that ride the Fairfax Connector, Route 595. I have been riding the Reston East to Pentagon route since 2001 (due to 9/11), first on the 979 route and now on the 595 route. It has been a wonderful experience and is a Fairfax Connector success story by reducing single occupant vehicle trips which in turn reduce pollution and congestion. Do the smart thing and retain the Fairfax Connector 595 route with a higher fare and eliminate one trip each way, a perfect compromise in these touch economic times. KEEP the FAIRFAX CONNECTOR 595 ROUTE RUNNING, thank you.

I have a few comments regarding the FY 2010 Budget. I think it is not necessary to eliminate the whole bus line since they might be essential to lives of the population living the areas of the line. I think it'll be more appropriate to reduce some lines by a percentage based on the times when most passengers use the service. For example, if most passengers are using the bus at 6:00 AM and a very few at 7:00 AM, then the 7:00 AM line could be cut and only have the 6:00 AM line or combine them into a 6:30 AM line.

Do teachers work on teacher work days before holidays? They deserve the day off. But with budget problems should not get paid that day either. It should be pay for work.

I was given second hand information regarding Mr Griffin's proposed FY01 budget, in that budget, some Bus 306 riders were told that this route would not be funded. I can speak for myself and various other people that rely on this route to get to and from Springfield, Landmark Mall, and George Mason from the Pentagon. Bus 306 currently picks up after Metro 17A and so in the last 2 years that I've riding the metro I've relied on this route because it is more reliable than Metrobus. I understand that our nation is doing everything to save money during this recession, but there has to be other routes that can pick up Bus 306 during the afternoon times when Metrobus is not actively running routes.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am a Fairfax County resident and taxpayer. I consider open green space an essential part of our quality of life and Fairfax County Parks like Green Spring Gardens provide this. I am not a golfer and rarely use the Rec Centers but I really enjoy walking in the parks. I think the county should be adding as much parkland as it can now before all the remaining green space is gone. I am also a Green Spring Master Gardener volunteer and am a member of the first class which graduated in the spring of 2002. The Master Gardener Coordinator position at Green Spring Gardens is slated to be abolished but it is essential to the Green Spring Master Gardener Program.. The Master Gardeners espouse sound horticultural practices which affect pollution and runoff and the general quality of life in the county. Master Gardeners play an important role in getting this information to the public through presentations, classes and the Horticultural Help Line. In a county as large and as well educated as Fairfax, we should be able to maintain the Park Authority budget which is only 1 % of the county budget.

I am a senior citizen living in North Reston, and I object to the proposed termination of Fairfax Connector Bus Route #556.

Pls do not eliminate the 556 Fairfax Connector Bus route. I and many others depend on it daily. On the early morning 556 I take (departing Arbor Glen Way at 6:50 A.M.) there are two riders with physical disabilities, one in a wheelchair and the other nearly blind, using a white cane. They pick up the 556 directly in front of their homes. The 556 is heavily used; many mornings in recent months people have had to stand, and ridership has steadily increased over the two years that I have riden this route, as the cost of commuting by car has risen. The 556 decreases congestion on Reston's streets and the toll road, saves fuel, enables people with disabilities to commute independently, and is an aid to environmental quality. Please do not eliminate it.

LOB 100-40-144 Impact of Reduction fails to address the following Impacts of Reduction: 1. Bus riders not being picked up in neighborhoods will have to drive to work or to a Metro station. This transfer of traffic will increase county road congestion and further increase air pollution. Last time I checked, Northern VA is in a Non-Attainment area. THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT NEEDS TO BE FULLY ASSESSED! What is the county going to do to offset increase air pollution and road congestion, maintenance & repair. 2. Bus riders going to Metro stations (i.e. Franconia-Springfield) will make the parking situation even worse. The cost of increasing available parking (presumably @ Springfield Mall) has not been assessed. LOB 100-40-143. I am a regular patron on bus 380. For months, the electronic fair boxes were not working correctly - resulting in uncaptured revenue and the revenue value for 100-01 is likely under reported. The revenue number for the last 8-10 weeks is more reliable since the electronic fare boxes where fixed. Review the revenue projection using the Feb & Mar 2009 data, and not the past 12 months. The buses I ride are either standing room only or very close to filling every seat @ $3 per person. I remember when buses 383, 384, and 385 provided outstanding service to the Pentagon. There was a good following, but several years ago diverting service through Franconia-Springfield Metro caused patronage to drop off. People will pay for good service, and with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Federal Government employees can get additional stipend for public transportation up to $240/month. Why not increase the bus fares? I prefer to ride the bus over rail: faster transit time due to few stops, less walking, more comfortable seating, no tunnels that cause my MP3 radio to not work, and more personable service.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Board of Supervisors I have been taking mass transit and in particular the bus service between Reston and Crystal City for the past 29 years. First on Metro and then on the Fairfax Connector when the routes were taken over, years ago. The service between Reston to/From Crystal City/ Pentagon has been and is always at capacity. A lot of times the buses are at standing room only. Over the years in the 29 years that I have been taking these buses, budgetary issues have questioned the need for these routes. I find it very interesting that only one night hearing was scheduled. In the past when these routes have been considered to be cancelled the meetings have been overflowing with concerned citizens. I believe that the Board of Supervisors or others intentionally scheduled only one night meeting to limit public participation since most people work during the day, thus limiting the outcry of trying to cancel these routes yet again. I believe that more public hearings are needed in the evening so riders such as myself could attend and address my concerns in person. These routes serve many many people such that they are performing what they were meant for, to get people to take mass transit instead of driving. If the 597/595 (Reston - Crystal City/Pentagon) routes are canceled then many people will probably revert to driving thus adding to our congested roads, I know that I probably will. The commute on the subway will cost more in time and money. The Metrorail (orange line) in the evening to Vienna is at overflow capacity. Passengers can not board trains at the Rosslyn Station to even get to West Falls Church until multiple trains enter and leave the station and yet what you are proposing is to put more commuters on that Mass transit line, this does not make sense. I guess in the end I would suggest that you consider possibly raising the cost of the 597/595 routes if that were the only way to maintain them. It is better then the alternative.

It is my understanding that organizations like Green Spring and Senior Softball are concerned about the budget. Green Spring is about gardens? And softball for just a few hundred people? Make the softball program operate the same way as SYA or CYA. In tough times does that program benefit the county or just a handful of people. The same for the garden group. To keep the garden group and to help with the parks, can you roll the Green Spring volunteers into the Park Authority. For the Senior Softball, I really have no suggestions and some programs might need to get cut, pay more, or just scale back.

If positions like police, fire, schools, parks, are to be cut, then why are not more of the employees who are at risk fighting for their jobs. I have seen little if any of the employees that are impacted. Must be after hours, so they are not there to talk.

Please do not eliminate the bus services. To compensate you can cut the frequency of service (e.g. provide hourly service instead of half-an-hour) or raise the fair. How can people go to work if the service is being eliminated? Please compromise for the people. From a rider on bus 305.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please stop services that are provided to illegal aliens. Has anyone estimated how much funds that would save the budget? Why are we providing emergency room care to an illegal alien that has a common cold? Why are we providing alcohol and drug services to an illegal alien...shouldn't they be deported, especially since they have displayed a behavior that is a threat to neighbors and communities? These are not necessary services for the protection of life or safety. You explained that we do not provide housing assistance, however we are paying their rent when they are facing eviction and we are paying two months security deposit so they can move into a unit? Coordinated Services Planning does not check for immigration status and they are the connection to all services (care for children, elderly, disabled; food, clothing, housing, transportation; health care, medical, dental, maternity, family planning; job training, employment, education, legal assistance; recreational activities; and so much more.)

The net cost to the federal government in 2002 for public services provided to illegal aliens was $10.4 billion or $2,736 per household according to a report by the Center for Immigration Studies. Estimates for 2005 put the amount at $11.7 billion or $3,080 per household.

The U.S. may be foregoing up to $35 billion in lost tax revenue because of the growing size of the underground labor market using illegal workers in the cash economy, according to a January, 2005 report by the Wall Street firm Bear Sterns.

Health Costs: Medicaid costs for illegal aliens and their U.S.-born children are $2.8 billion annually, according to a study by the Center for Immigration Studies. Approximately 70% of households headed by illegal aliens have at least one person without medical insurance, compared to 20% of all other households. The federal government spends $250 million each year reimbursing states for emergency medical services provided to illegal aliens, which is less than 10% of the true cost of those services.

Education Costs: The Center for Immigration Studies has shown that federal aid to K-12 public schools for the education of the children of illegal aliens is $1.4 billion annually, not including the cost of free school lunches. The total cost to state and local taxpayers for educating 3.5 million children of illegal aliens is estimated at $28.6 billion, according to a Federation for American Immigration Reform study.

Incarceration: Illegal aliens account for less than 5% of the U.S. adult population, but were 17% of the federal prison population in 2004, imposing a net cost of $1.8 billion in court and incarceration expenses.

Public services provided to illegal aliens was $3,080 per household in 2005 according to a report by the Center for Immigration Studies. Why can't we cut back these services to help balance the FY 2010 budget.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I have given the County 15 years of dedicated service. First as a volunteer then as a Merit Employee. I took the part-time position because it offered affordable health care and benefits. I am a single woman living completely on my own and on my meager salary. If the proposal for higher rates on health care passes I will have to give up my health care. Is this what the best County in Nation wants for it's dedicated employees? It is not fair. As a part-time Merit employee, I may survive the County's reduction-in-force only to face a drastic cut in my health care benefits and consequently my wages - perhaps to the point where I will have to forego health care insurance altogether because it will be unaffordable. The County is proposing to increase by January 1, 2011, the employee's share of medical insurance charges by 284% for single part-time workers and by 150% for part-time workers with families. For example, if you are insured for family coverage under Blue Choice POS, your premiums will increase from $3,921 a year to $9,802 a year. Family coverage under Blue Preferred PPO will increase from $4,586 a year to $11,464 a year. The County is targeting only part-timers for this draconian action. I was hired on the basis of receiving the same level of benefits as full-time employees. In short, the County is proposing to renege on its employment contract with me. FAQs The County's Merit employees were recruited and hired on the condition that they would receive the same benefits as full-time Merit employees. These employees accepted their positions in good faith. The County is now proposing to renege on their employment contracts. The County is poised is to make draconian cuts in health care benefits to its most vulnerable employees, many of whom do not make enough money to cover the enormous proposed increase in their health care premiums. The County will be forcing these employees to be without medical insurance because the premiums will be unaffordable. 90% of those affected by the proposal are women. Therefore, the burden of the health care cuts will fall disproportionately upon women who are already earning half that of full time employees. The County has the right to decide on benefit rates, but these should be implemented across the board. Both full-time and part-time Merit employees were promised the same rates when they were hired. By targeting Merit part-timers only, the County is discriminating against one part of a group. Loudoun County is the only local Virginia jurisdiction besides Fairfax County that has offered the same level of benefits to both full and part-time employees. A few years ago it decided to offer pro-rated benefits to new-hire part-timers. At the same time, Loudon honored its employment contracts with its part-timers who were already employed under the old system by grandfathering them in.

I am a daily commuter from Reston to Washington, D.C. and take the Fairfax Connector buses from Reston to West Falls Church. It seems to me from what I could see to review, all the cuts in service are in Western Fairfax in the Herndon-Reston area. Where is Catherine Hudgins? You need to focus on getting to work the people working and paying all the taxes and cut all these wasteful programs. Why aren't you cutting this so-called "affordable housing program" recently created for which you steal the real estate taxes of those struggling to get by to give to everyone else. Even at 6:00 a.m in the morning the buses from Reston are packed. Are we to sit on the roof? Why would you think in this economy we could pay more taxes? And why are retired folks given a break on real estate taxes when those of us working with less income are required to pay the full freight? This budget really is disgraceful.

Suggestions: 1. Paycuts for ALL county employees to restore RIFed positions and avoid potential layoffs. 2. Eliminate the DROP program 3. Early retirements 4. As many furlough days as it takes to save jobs 5. Unpaid vacations during summer time 6. Shut down county offices between Christmas and New Year to save big on heat and electricity.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing to protest the proposed elimination of the Connector Bus Route #556 in Reston. For years I have taken that bus (which goes by the entrance to Arbor Glen Way where I live) to go to the West Falls Church Metro and from there to DC. It allows me to leave my car at home and thus not contribute to the local as well as DC traffic problems! Please reconsider deleting public transportation at a time when more, not less, is needed.

Good Evening Council Members, Today I writing you to represent my community about the position of Fairfax County to eliminate bus routes, particularly bus route 304 Saratoga Line. My wife and I had purchased a house in Springfield mainly because there was a bus route to Franconia Springfield metro and in walking distance from our house. We only own one car and we go to work at different times, so having the bus route 304 Saratoga line was a big factor when we decided to purchase our home. I would like to address several key points for the government of Fairfax County to take into consideration: People in our community rely on the bus service to get to work, because they do not have any other means of transportation. How are they going to get to work now? They can loose their jobs causing unemployment to rise. . I know several disabled and elderly persons that ride the 304 Saratoga line. How are they going to get to places? . What about the impact it would have on the bus driver's job and family. The unemployment rate would increase if the county decides to eliminate 40% of the bus routes. I am sure there will be lay -offs that follow. . You are compelling citizens to buy a car to get to work, and then the county will hit us with a personal property tax. This is not fair at all. . What about the obligation of Fairfax County to go green? By eliminating the bus routes, you are putting more traffic on the road and causing more pollution. Council Members of Fairfax County the bottom line: "It is not the communities fault the government of Fairfax county do not know how to budget money correctly! Why does the community have to suffer for the county's mistakes? We pay our taxes and property taxes and remember we elect you. I think the community would be willing to accept a reasonable increase on bus fares or the option of combining the bus routes. Thank you for your time

Please do not outsource SACC for outside group to manage. We pay full SACC fees. My children loves their SACC teachers. Please don't change something that is not broken.

The Fairfax County Connector bus service is a vital service to county residents. I can understand that the bus service needs to be reduced due to budget constraints. However, I noted that many bus routes will not be affected while others are being eliminated, and that appears to be unfair to some residents. I would suggest that the service for all routes be reduced across the board to be fair. Specifically, bus route 305 service is at its capacity during rush hours and I cannot accept any argument that the service is under utilized. An alternative is to increase the bus fare for some bus routes including route 305.

Please reconsider discontinuing Fairfax Connector route 597 to Crystal City. It is always full, and is the most efficient way to commute from Reston to CC. What is the impetus that drives this decision? Do you know if you are losing money on this particular route? If so, have you looked at what the price would be in order to sustain the route? If that is too hard, raise the price to 5.00 and see what the ridership is then. Either we will pay and continue, or the riders will desert 597 because it isn't cost effective. Regardless, someone need to do some cost-benefit analysis, and not arbitrarily discontinue the service

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not. It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bare the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increase fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage. I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. As a point of comparison - swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money and no one is allow to use these facilities for free, why are the soccer league being penalized.

I would like to urge that the Connector route 595 be retained. While its elimination would affect the commute of many individuals including me, it would have other negative results. It appears to me that many riders are of retirement age, like me. We could simply choose to leave, thereby reducing ridership and revenue. Related effects would be a reduction in tax revenue as we take our upper-level incomes and leave the area. Also, the places where we work would lose our knowledge, skills and "corporate memory". Of course we would be replaced, but by newer people with less of the attributes that come with time and experience, resulting in lower taxable salaries. And isn't the stimulus bill supposed to provide money for things like preserving public transportation? Thank you for your attention, and I hope the route will stay. If not, perhaps I will send you a postcard from Vegas. I understand housing there is pretty cheap right now.

Provide seniors a reduction in the real estate fees by reducing their assessment by some percentage --- since they do not have students attending schools. This is currently done the in Atlanta area. This would provide those on fixed incomes to cover other cost increases such as food, medicines, and utilities, etc.

Suggest a bottoms up review of the top heavy management and admin in the school system. Some positions can be consolidated , others eliminated.

Recommend the students attend a full day on Mondays. This could result in a savings by shortening the school year.

I am a Fairfax Country resident and am opposed to the proposed increase in application/user fees for the use of soccer fields in Fairfax County. I am against this fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. The Park Authority claims fields are built with public money and maintained with public money; therefore they should be free for all. They are not free to us (FWSA). If fields were truly free for all, nobody should have to pay. Before there is any raise in fees, the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields, swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money, but nobody gets to use them for free.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Board of Supervisors, I see that in the draft of the FY2010 budget that one proposal is to cut bus service. I would like to voice my sincere discouragement in taking such a step. I am not only a daily bus rider, but also a concerned citizen and public transit supporter. At a time when people are struggling to make car payments and need access to transit in order to support their livelihoods, it is not an appropriate time to cut transit services. As well, Fairfax County and the United States at large need to address the real issue of climate change - and public transit use should be encouraged by everyone in local government. I, myself, ride the 556 and 505 routes to and from work daily. In the proposed changes, the 505 is looking to take a reduction in service and the 556 may be eliminated. As someone who decided to live in Reston due to the community services provided, I am very disappointed with these proposed changes. Many people take these buses during the morning and evening rush hours, and often the buses are packed to a point where it appears obvious that service should be increased not decreased. I ask the Board of Supervisors to seriously reconsider the reduction in bus services. This would be an action that moves Fairfax County backwards, not forwards.

I am opposed to the elimination of Connector bus route 556 which comes right by our development. We use the bus to get to West Falls Church metro and then into the District. This eliminates our having to use a car, one more car off the road.

Please do not cancel the bus routes 595 and bus 597, to help the economy raise the fare from $3.00 to $5.00. Thank you

I hope you will re-consider the proposal to cut service to the 556 bus through North Reston. This is a very important link to Reston Town Center that myself and others find essential to connect to the 505, which then links us to the West Falls Church metro station and therefore, to DC. It would be very unfortunate if you chose to cut this service so I hope you will decide to keep running the 556 bus into the 2010 Fiscal Year.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I understand that there is a proposed increase in application/user fees and out of county fees for the use of our playing fields. If this increase were to cover administrative expenses there "might" be some merit to it. However, it is NOT (how stupid do you really think tax payers are?). This increase is clearly intended to supplement shortages in the athletic services budget and it's outrageous. Let me give you the Board the benefit of the doubt. Assuming that the increase is really for admin. purposes THEN a "User Fee" should be charged to ALL users of our fields. From Dog walkers on up. Oh wait, these are "public" fields built with "public" money. Good point, so then why is it that fees are assessed only to those who apply for a permit? Oh, another thought.....our PUBLIC POOLS are built and maintained with "public" funds, and yet ALL USERS must pay to use those facilities. To charge just one group a USER FEE is wrong. Either apply the user fee to everyone, or to no one. I will be watching this vote, and it will reflect my vote in the coming elections. I am tired of my elected just taxing me whenever they fail to administer our budgets. You need money to maintain your costs, then cut some of the lame programs in your budget, and reduce your labor force in proportion to the programs you cut. The soccer community is against this fee because it is We feel this fee is not an application fee covering admin expenses but it is We feel all field users should be charged this fee. So far, however, Park Authority claims fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. We all know they aren't free for us. We developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance and others use what we consider our fields without paying. pay the same fee to use fields. Swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money, nobody gets to use them for free either. Respectfully, but angrily submitted.

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, The proposal to eliminate service of the 595 and 597 Fairfax connector buses to Crystal City and the Pentagon is the wrong way to cut the budget. These two bus lines provide a critical direct linkage between Reston and neighboring areas and dozens workplaces in Arlington. If these lines with minimal service and full buses are not yielding significant revenue, it would be far better to raise the rates than to eliminate them altogether. As a resident of Reston, I ride the 595 bus every day to and from work. The trip takes 45 minutes, and every bus is filled with passengers in both directions. The fare is $3.10. I know of three people in my office alone who commute via the 595 every day. On days that I am not able to leave on the 595's schedule, I must take a connector bus to West Falls Church, ride the Orange Line to Rosslyn, transfer to the Blue Line and complete the trip to Crystal City and then walk to work. The trip takes 1 hour and 20 minutes at its fastest, and up to two hours at its slowest. The fare is $4.55. If the 595 bus line is removed, there is no reason for me to use public transportation; I will drive. As someone who works already long hours every day, I simply cannot afford to spend an additional 35-75 minutes on each leg of the commute (that is between 1 and 3 hours a day added to my commute!!!). One of the main goals of public transportation is to provide a cost and time effective solution for commuters to travel to and from their workplace. This is particularly important in an area like Reston where roads are already jammed and efforts to reduce rush hour traffic congestion are critical. Furthermore, with evidence of climate change mounting, reducing the availability of well-used public transportation options is simply unconscionable. There are many ways to cut the budget, as have been proposed for FY10. However, eliminating important and well traveled lines of public transportation such as the 595 and 597 connector buses is not the solution. Please do not cut these important bus lines.

Thank you to the speaker last night on the senior softball. If it were not for him I had no idea they would be impacted by the budget. But why should they get special treatment? If the seniors cannot afford to use the fields and less people to go into the softball program, so be it. Is it better to keep a job or let people play ball? The priorities need to be clear. If less people will participate, that is true for all programs in the current economic situation. It seems there is one person per every 5 to 10 families who has been laid off or knows someone. Stop this cycle. Some of those softball players who will not return are probably out of work. Do not JUST blame the increase in rates for people leaving. Across the board people are watch their money. The county should help them find other things to do like volunteer as a coach for a youth program or volunteer at the local rec center where they can get their exercise and be around other people. I know the parks and rec centers are hurting to get senior volunteers. That would help the county in tough times and keep them active.

I urge you to vote against upping the fees for use of county fields!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am certain that you receive numerous entreaties to save programs under budget review for reductions. My entreaty is no different. I am extremely concerned over the proposal to eliminate inclusion support provided to Fairfax County Park Authority ($110,000 reduction). My step daughter is disabled. She has been attending this program since she was a little girl. She is now 20 years old. This is the only program that exists to occupy her during the day. In the absence of this program, she would spend the summer with no recreational program or activity. I cannot tell you what this program means to her and us. The counselors are excellent; although she is non-verbal, she leaves each day with a smile on her face. The staff has proposed that an increase in the fees could be used to offset the cost of this program. I heartily support this alternative. We would be more than willing to support an increase in camp fees if it would save this program. There are no other alternatives for disabled children. Thank you for your consideration.

i am disappointed in the proposed cuts to the Fairfax Connector buses--especially pertaining to the 553, 557, and 585 buses that I typically ride each and every day. On the Fairfax Connector main page, the "purpose" they mention specifically includes the word "convenience" but with a 40% reduction in service, convenience would no longer apply here. Many of us rely on reliable and timely bus service to get to and from work each day. Fortunately, I vanpool to work in the morning but I do take the bus in the evening and quite often I have activities going on in the evening for which I need to get home at a particular time. In a time when gridlock and climate change is front and center, the Fairfax County Government should be doing all that it can to promote activities that ease these problems. Instead, County leaders and their short-sightedness and illogical thinking have left me completely baffled and terribly disappointed in their proposal to cut vital bus services.

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not. It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bare the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increase fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage. I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. As a point of comparison - swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money and no one is allow to use these facilities for free, why are the soccer league being penalized.

I urge you not to cancel Fairfax County Connector Bus Line 380. This is a valuable alternative to support not only Pentagon Employees but those who need to access the Pentagon transportation hub to transfer onto other lines. I ride 380 every day. It provides a level of confidence not afforded by the Metro system. 380 going from the Pentagon to Springfield is always standing room only during rush hours and my rides in the morning are full. The ride is half as short as a Metro ride and surely is profitable to the Connector Bus system. As a Fairfax County Taxpayer and Voter I urge you not to delete route 380.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am a player and Board member with Fairfax Womens' Soccer Assn. I am against the proposal to increase application/user fees and out of county fees for fields. I am against it because it will only be assessed against those who apply for permits. If you are going to charge this fee than it should be charged against all users. So far the Park Authority claims that the fields are built and maintained with public money and should be free for all. We know they aren't free for us. FWSA developed the Pine Ridge fields and we pay for their maintenance and others use these fields without paying. If fields were free for all, then nobody should have to pay. Before there is any raising of fees, I want to see present field user rules applied to everyone. Either nobody pays or we all pay.

Please do not go through with all the proposed cuts to Fairfax Connector Service. I take the 304 on a daily basis and if service is completely eliminated it would put an undue hardship upon me and my family. If you need to raise fares or reduce service that is one thing. Completely eliminating service would cause me and many others to have to find other, more complicated ways to get to the metro. These service cuts would push more and more cars into our already overcrowded streets and parking garages. Please do not completely eliminate service to my area.

I live in the Saratoga area of Springfield VA and depend on the #304 Fairfax Connector bus to get me from home to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station. Eliminating the #304 bus service- without providing another alternative - would be a significant hardship. Please do not eliminate the #304 bus.

Eliminating Route 304 Saratoga would eliminate the ability for residents to get the metro from South County and then to get to work. In the economic downturn it would hurt the people with no other capability to get to work. Making the economic drag on the County even greater. Cut a few stops maybe, or even limit it to one route an hour (one bus running the route). But to eliminate it altogether affects a large number of people that rely on mass transit and can't get to work otherwise. That is irresponsible. Consider alternatives to just slashing the whole route, like combining it with others or making fewer stops in the middle of the day to reduce the number of hours paid to drivers. If this has already been considered please let the community know.

Don't get rid of the 304 route. I need it to get to work.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

To Whom It May Concern, Fairfax County Government is seeking advice on ways they can reduce spending to help with the current budget crisis and projected unprecedented shortfall that it's facing. What is essential is changing the perspective of what top executives believe they are entitled to being paid. They need to alter their excessive spending patterns - which are totally out of hand. The compensation paid to all executives at the top of the hierarchy is over-inflated and change needs to occur by reducing their salaries. What I propose to help the top officials in their deliberations to reduce spending will help in the short term and long term. I am certain that I speak for the majority of taxpayers. Specifically, reduce and permanently cap the salaries and bonuses of the following and cut their vehicles paid for by taxpayers: Reduce by at least 15% to 20% and cap the salaries and bonuses of the following: . all staff minus the Receptionist who work within the Office of the County Executive; . All Department Heads who earn over $150,000; . School Superintendent. . School employees whose salaries are above $150,000. New policy needs to be implemented to clearly state that compensation packages of those at the top of the hierarchy are to be permanently capped at a certain level and no higher than that equivalent to Federal Government employees. For individuals to justify their outrageous salaries as if money grows on trees for the taxpayer is quite frankly, highway robbery. Those in positions of power at the top of the government's hierarchy are seriously overpaid and begs one to question the measure of their worth as public servants. What value do they bring to society and how do they really enrich the lives of taxpayers? One thing for sure - they enrich their own pocketbooks and futures! Do top local government officials believe they are entitled to their high salaries and perks just because Fairfax County has a reputation of having an affluent rich population? The reality is that the majority of taxpayers are in debt up to their ears, wealthy Royalty is limited to only a few people, and the government officials live in a fantasy world with arrogant egos with a sense of greedy entitlement! Just as CEOs nationwide are being demanded to reduce their enormous salaries, perks, and benefits, so should the Fairfax County government's leadership at the very top. There is no justification for the enormous salaries paid to those at the top of the hierarchy. They have at their disposal 24/7, award-wining technology and a cadre of competent staff to do their work. These top dogs are routinely seen at fluff events such awards and recognition ceremonies, they are given generous travel stipends and vehicles to drive, and they do not generate meaningful work which enriches the lives of the taxpayers. Facts will reveal the bitter truth that those employed at the top of the County's hierarchy are paid far more when compared to those employed by the Federal Government or Congress. Why should the County Executive or School Superintendent of a local government be allowed to make a higher salary than that of the United States Vice President who serves on a global level, a Supreme Court Justice, members of Congress, or Governor? The same can be said for the enormous salaries of department heads! Due to the fact that certain salaries are over-inflated within the Fairfax County government bureaucracy, these proposed savings measures warrant serious consideration and immediate action. I not only propose, I demand that the compensation of all top leadership be reduced and permanently capped by at least 15% to 20% immediately. Doing this will result in significant savings both for the short and long term and demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

The county is able to offer excellent services due to the few merit half time positions. Please do not make the positions impossible for people to accept by reducing the benefits so drastically.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear Board, Please do not cut back support for the Fairfax Connector bus services. These are extremely valuable to effectively connect my FFX Co residence to my Arlington place of work. An even longer public transport commute may force me to leave FFX and find a residence in Arlington or MD, as driving in is not a realistic option, given the traffic on #66 and the Toll way. To raise revenue, I propose setting up speed cameras over the 35 mph easypass lanes on the toll way - few drivers slow down to under 50mph. Penalize the speeding polluters, not the public transport system. Thank you.

I would like to oppose the proposed elimination of Fairfax Connector Route 403. It is one of only 2 bus routes that travels to the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metro station from my area of Vienna, along Route 123. The only other bus route that travels to Metro from where I live (Mosby's Landing condo community) is the 2W, which goes the wrong way around from the station and takes 3 times longer than riding the 403. I ride the 403 bus to and from the Metro station 2-3 times per week. The only reason I do not ride it more often is that I am a graduate student with evening classes that run late 2 nights per week, so I must either drive to the Metro station on those days (and pay the parking fee) or take a taxi home after class. Given the current economic climate, eliminating the 403 bus route would be a financial hardship for me. The Metro parking fee is currently $4.50 per day and will likely go up by the beginning of next year. Taxis are even more expensive and cost around $10 per ride just to go from the Metro to my home. Instead of eliminating service, I propose raising the fare for this particular bus route. I would be willing to pay up to $2.25 per trip on this route since it would still be half as expensive as paying for parking. I know I am not the only one riding this route (I see people on the bus every day!), so others would be affected equally by its elimination. Thank you for your consideration.

I currently use the 304 and 402/403 on a daily basis (monday through friday) and it will be very difficult for me to get back and forth to work if these routes are eliminated. I am willing to pay an increased fair on the routes in order to continue to use the services.

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not. It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bare the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increase fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage. I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. As a point of comparison - swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money and no one is allow to use these facilities for free, why are the soccer league being penalized. Robin Bush

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

The budget cuts of Bus Routes are based on BIZARRE data! Why are Fairfax Connector revenues for routes 595 and 597 only $155k and $144K respectively? The LOB presentation says that ridership is 25.3 and 31.6 per trip and each make 13 trips per weekday. The standard fare paid by a vast majority of the riders is $3.00 per trip. The bus runs 5 days a week, 52 weeks per year, except for federal holidays (10). So 250 days per year times 13 trips per day is 3,250 trips per route a year. The 595 should have collected $244K, but revenue is being reported at $155k. WHY? The 597 should have collected $302K, but revenue is being reported at $144k. Why? Something is VERY WRONG with revenue collections. You are talking about cutting bus service on FULL buses, based on incomplete and illogical data. Solve the right problem. Fix the revenue collection (and/or corruption) issues within the system. How many free rides are being given annually because of faulty fare boxes? PLEASE FOCUS ON AND FIX THE RIGHT PROBLEM. Cutting bus service is the easy choice for the near term. Make the hard choice based on FACTS, not based on the bad math of a government employee. PLEASE! Ask someone to re-do the math or recount the revenue (or justify the missing revenue). These buses are FULL! They should be a revenue neutral or revenue positive budget item. Why are FULL buses on the chopping block? The subsidized ridership WILL pay more!

I am commenting on the proposed bus service cuts. I just don't know how I will get to work. One fellow bus rider I believe had a good suggestion. Rather an cutting the 303, 304, 305, why not just cut some of the service. Cut the first and two of the late buses. This way most people could adjust their schedule to use the bus. I listened to some of the arguments for many causes on Channel 16. What I would like to say, is at least the bus riders contribute something. I believe most of us would rather the bus fares go up - rather than cutting the service. The 308 makes the commute to the Pentagon from Springfield Meto so much faster. This bus is usually quite full. Just increase the fare. Please don't take these buses away from myself as a tax payer. Needed this service to get to work. Thanks

Hello., we live at north shore driveway and my mom has to go to work at sterling old ox road, root 606. When she takes 922 she just has to walk half a mile which is alot for her but then also she goes. but if you take away bus 922 she will have to walk over 1 and half mile. So this is our humble request that if only you could keep bus 922 running or turn the route of 924 or 926 so it follows that of 922 we will be really grateful. Her English is not that good so on behalf of her i (her son) is writing this request. thank you!

My moms takes bus 922 from herndon pkwy and elden st and the bus drops near the herdon pkwy and sterling and she has to walk half a mile which is a lot but its better then taking away bus 922 as she will have to walk more then 2 miles even if she takes other buses. so please this is our humble request to either keep bus 922 running or change the route of 924 or 926 so it somehow matches to that of 922. thank you!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As a Fairfax County resident that has three children that play organized sports, over the years we have seen fees levied and raised in order for our kids to play sports. Since my kids play on the fields, etc. I didn't have too much of a problem paying the fees initially. However, I have stood on the sides of fields and watched "smaller" groups play on them and tear them up. These teams are just walk ons and don't pay any sort of fee to enjoy the fields. This is the current situation. I think it would be more fair and definitely more profitable to lower the "group" size from 40 people to maybe 20 people that would need a permit to use the field. Charging smaller groups a permit fee to use fields would cover damages caused by these "smaller groups" when they are playing soccer on the same fields that my children's "organized" teams play on. I have given of my own time in the past in order to take care of these fields that I also pay a fee for my children to play organized sports on. You seem to continue to dip deeper into my pocket to cover the costs of these fields when other "groups" are also using the same fields and not necessarily taking as good care of. Please reconsider raising our user fee to find a more reasonable fee schedule to maintain the wonderful Fairfax County fields that are already in use. THANK YOU!

Keep 304 Saratoga bus line! Keep 304 Saratoga bus line!! Keep 304. I take 304 to work every day. I can not live without it. Please keep 304. You may reduce service, but please KEEP 304 Saratoga bus line!!

I am opposed to the proposed increase in application/user fees and out of county fees. The soccer community is against this fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. We feel this fee is not an application fee covering admin expenses but it is used to supplement shortages in the athletic services budget. We feel all field users should be charged this fee. So far, however, Park Authority claims fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. We all know they aren't free for us. We developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance and others use what we consider our fields without paying. If fields were free for all, nobody should have to pay. Before we agree to any raise in fees, we are asking that the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields.

Please do not consider canceling the School-Age After Care (SACC) program as part of budget cuts. It is an incredibly supportive environment for kids and a wonderful resource for families. We feel safe leaving our kids with SACC teachers and the kids deepen friendships by being able to socialize outside of formal classroom environments. If funds are an issue, increase the SACC tuition; my family would be willing to pay three times the current cost, and even pay toward a scholarship fund for needy families. In this economy, schools should be considering increasing SACC and similar programs to help working families, not cutting them.

It is apparent that the budget needs a revamping. With all the money here in Fairfax County, I would think that we would have an adequate supply of money to spread around all programs without imposing such huge increases in particular the "kiddie tax". I am against such an increase and would love to come and balance your budget so such increases would not be needed because of poor use of funds. I do however understand that things go up and that some increases are necessary just do to cost of living/playing. Please keep me in mind when you need some help with that new budget.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As a member of the Founders, Benefactors, Supervisors and Friends of Frying Pan Park, I am deeply concerned about the proposed staff cuts at Frying Pan Farm Park due to the budget deficit. Specifically, I am requesting that you not abolish the Evening Security and Custodial position at Frying Pan Farm Park because this will have grave security consequences, with so many valuable farm animals and historic structures at this park. This is such a unique and popular park in Fairfax County and its security will be jeopardized. Frying Pan Farm Park staff have done an excellent job of generating revenue and have actually increased revenue every year. Budget cuts to the parks will have a devastating effect on natural and cultural resource protection in the county, as well as on the education of the next generation of environmental stewards. Parks are important to the quality of life of people and to the environment. I urge you to please not cut such crucial positions as the Evening Security and Custodial position at Frying Pan Farm Park.

I ask that Fairfax County continue the Fairfax Connector service for Route 305, which services the Sydenstricker and Gambrill Rd commuter lots, plus bus stops along nearby roads and the Fairfax County Parkway. I rely on Route 305 (and Route 380) for my daily commute to the Pentagon. Fairfax Connector provides more reliable service and longer hours than Metrobus, which occasionally doesn't even show up during the evening commute. This morning (1 April) provided fresh evidence of Route 305's importance when Metrobus's 18R bus broke down at the Gambrill Rd lot. Fairfax Connector's 305 bus arrived and saved the day!

Don't you dare think it is fair or right to raise the athletic fees by over 130%!!! You have no business taxing the very activities that are going to prevent health care issues in the future. Tax the cigarettes, tax the alcohol, tax my car and tax my dog, but do not tax physical fitness!!

I am horrified to read a proposed 40% reduction in the 585 Fairfax Connector bus service. This is the only service that links my community with the metro system and, as is, it is not enough. If metro has issues, and I just miss a bus, I have to wait 30 minutes for the next. The lack of service outside of peak hours makes attending doctors appointments etc so inconvenient that I end up losing a days work. These are major quality of life issue, detracting from family time and you are telling me this is going to get worse !!!! Please define these proposed 40% reductions. Where are you going to make these cuts to a virtually non-existing service to begin with ???? I have seen this service ridership increase over the past year or so. I watch the 425 and 427 buses come and go at West Falls Church metro station with just a couple of passengers on board while the line for the 585 just grows longer. At a time when you should be encouraging people to use public transport you are making it even harder. In addition you hyped-up the prices at the beginning of the year only for us to face service reductions. Incidentally, I don't know how much money you wasted on the new fare machines a year or two back but they are unreliable and often people have a free ride because the machine can't read the SmartTrip card or the dollar bill won't go in. I am sure a lot of money has been lost because of this !!!!

RE: 402 / 403 bus route proposed elimination. If there has to be a cut on these routes, eliminating the 402, a good budget cut as there are few people on that route, although you do have passengers who depend on that route. Eliminating the 403, not a good choice. That is the only route to Navy Federal Credit Union and the surrounding Federal Government buildings. Ridership is full at least when I am on at 6:25 am and the return trip in the evening. This is the only route to get to work and seeing all the passengers who ride this route, I can't see the point in eliminating service.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

I strongly oppose the elimination of the Fairfax connector bus #304 Saratoga line.

I am distressed to hear that the county is considering eliminating many of its most popular commuter bus routes, including the 597/595 Crystal City/Pentagon City lines that I use every day. The problems caused by excessive driving are so well known they have become cliché: time wasted in traffic, the danger of collisions, increased costs for road construction and maintenance, increased parking demand, dependence on fuel prices, and pollution. Every one of these problems costs the county money, directly or indirectly. It is short-sighted to think that scaling back public transportation would be a net benefit for the county's budget. If the short-term budgetary problems are so bad that the county cannot maintain the current level of subsidy for the connector service, I would be willing to accept a small increase in the fares, and I think I am not alone on this point. Every day the bus is standing room only, so the demand for these transportation routes is certainly there. Finally, the convenient access to DC and Arlington workplaces is for many people, myself included, an essential factor in their choice to live in Fairfax county. The county has benefited from this economically via higher property values and population, and if residents believe the commute is no longer tolerable we will certainly consider living elsewhere.

I recently learned of the county's proposal to eliminate the 556 route. That route is vital to those commuters who use the 556/505 route to get to WFC. There are passengers along Bennington Woods, in homes and apartment complexes, that rely on this service to get to work. In addition, it doesn't make sense for the county to encourage more cars when parking at the Reston East lot exceeds capacity and there isn't any designated commuter parking in the Town Center.

To the Board of Supervisors, I have heard that the County is proposing to increase the individual user fees for athletic facilities from $5.50 to $13.00 and an increase to the out of Cy fee from $20 to $30. I play for the Fairfax County Womens Soccer Association (FWSA) and have played in the league since 2001. FWSA is already paying for the upkeep of Pine Ridge and also contributing to the cost of installing the artificial turf at Wakefield. It is completely unfair to raise the fees of organizations that are already providing such support while there are walk-on organizations that pay nothing. The soccer community is against this fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. It doesn't seem as if this fee wouldn't cover admin expenses but is being used to supplement shortages in the athletic services budget. All field users should be charged this fee. So far, however, Park Authority claims fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. I know they aren't free for us. FWSA developed the Pine Ridge fields and we pay for the maintenance and others use what we consider our fields without paying. If fields were free for all, nobody should have to pay. It's time to revise the present field user rules so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. Swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money, nobody gets to use them for free either. Thanks for the consideration.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

RE: the proposed increase in application/user fees and out of county fees. The soccer community is against this fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. There are many teams that use the fields without permits when no one is there even after the country closes the fields due to rain.

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not. It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bare the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increase fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage. I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. As a point of comparison - swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money and no one is allow to use these facilities for free, why are the soccer league being penalized.

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not. It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bare the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increase fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage. I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. As a point of comparison - swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money and no one is allow to use these facilities for free, why are the soccer league being penalized.

Please do not raise the fees on adult women's soccer. It seems like I pay such a huge price to play not many games on an already exhausted schedule of fields. I also feel like my league, FWSA has contributed greatly to fields in the area, and the raised amounts that are being suggested are outrageous.

Sir/Ma'am, I currently ride the 595 bus and I would like to strongly voice my opposition to its elimination. I began riding this bus a few years ago when the Crystal City and Pentagon routes were combined. When the routes eventually split there was a short period when the bus had enough seats for the riders and there was hardly a time when people had to stand. Over the time though, this route started to fill up quickly and now, the majority of the time, this bus has passenger that are standing all the way to the yellow line. We have even had occasions where we couldn't fit anymore people on the bus. Many of the people that ride the bus already work extremely long hours and having to take a bus to West Falls Church, train to Rosslyn, transfer to Pentagon just adds a significant amount of time to the daily commute. I would prefer a rate hike if that would assist in keeping this bus running. I request your reconsideration of this proposed elimination.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not. It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bear the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increased fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage. I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. We have a large number of women and senior women in the soccer leagues who will be impacted by this fee increase while those who play on the fields without a permit will continue to do so at our expense.

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

We suggest to keep Deer Control in the Budget to keep Lyme disease away and protect people.

Please preserve the money previously allocated for deer control. The severe damage to our natural areas brought about by over-population is obvious. The hidden constant threat of Lyme disease to humans and pets is more subtle but growing. We all know multiple people infected with this debilitating disease. Deer control should be increased ... not decreased!

Please don't cut the deer control line item--there were more than 20 in my yard the other night! It's a public health hazard.

I understand the need to said revenues and close the budget deficit gap. So, regarding the proposal to raise athletic field fees 136% per child per sports season in order to increase revenues is excessive and shouldn't be considered. I don't think parents would disagree with an increase that matches inflation every year, but this "historic" increase is equivalent to the newly passed cigarette tax and I don't think you want to equate cigarettes to youth sports. We need to encourage our communities to enroll their children in youth sports...this proposal will discourage them and this will have consequences (both foreseen and unforeseen) on individual children, families, and communities. Purse strings are being pulled tight everywhere, but no where as much as in the individual home. Asking parent(s) to pay more than twice what they're paying now for athletic field fees in a time of economic crisis is not the right thing to do...you have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the welfare of your residents. You should propose a significantly smaller increase in fees (~10%) for next year with an increase of x% annually that is tied to the consumer price index (inflation). This accomplishes a long-term objective of increasing revenues while limiting the economic impact on children.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Eliminating deer control from the budget would have long-term negative effects: * Increased Lyme disease for people and pets * Increased automobile accidents * Loss of oak tree shoots and other native vegetation

Hello, I recently found out that Fairfax Connector Route #556 will be eliminated and it has left me deeply disappointed. One of the best reasons to live in the area that I do in Reston is Route #556. It has really helped me go green. I rarely use my car - whether it is to get around Reston or to the West Falls Church metro, it's been a blessing. I understand that these measures are being brought about my the recession. But I hope you will at least consider reducing the frequency of the route and not eliminate it completely.

Hi, I heard about the possibility of eliminate Fairfax Connector route 597 (express crystal City), I think this is a really bad idea.... I see every day a lot of passenger for the buses.... and I think all are worried about this. I used to drive from Reston to Crystal City (Oct 08 - January 09) and believe me the bus is the best thing ever..... I think everybody will agree in pay a little more instead of eliminate this service. Please listen to the users, this bus is something that I really appreciate.

I want to talk about "senior on-The-Go!" Program. This Program is so important for seniors who cannot afford to have a car or get a taxi to do their stuff. Also, it is very good program for seniors who have disability. In my case, my father is a diabetic person his vision does not allow him to get a driver license, so he can drive. He is not working, so he cannot afford to buy a car as well. My job put me on travel all the time I could be out of town for a month or more. My father needs to go to his doctors; he has to see at least 3 doctors a month because of his health conditions. In addition, he needs to get his medications from the pharmacy twice a month. Also, he wants to do his grocery shopping at least four times a month. All these trips are necessary for his life. He was using "senior on-the-Go" to do all his trips. I don't know what we are going to do if you as a county eliminate this program for seniors. This is my story and I'm sure there are many and many stories similar to mine in the county. Please do not stop funding the senior programs such as "senior on-the-Go!" in the fiscal year 2010 budget. I hope you as a board of Supervisors listen to my story and considered in your decision at the budget meeting.

I have been a resident of Virginia my entire life, mostly within Fairfax County. This is the first time I've written to my lawmakers with a request. Please don't pass the "kiddie tax" that would increase fees per child who play sports on FFC fields. I have two children that play soccer in the Great Falls Soccer club. I think this tax would unfairly burden large families in FFC. I also feel it is unfair to people who join clubs that commit to maintaining the fields but then share the fields with groups who use them and DON"T obtain the proper permits. There has got to be a better way.

Please figure out a way to continue deer control. Lyme disease is so rampant now, doctors don't even test for it, they just start you on the medication. It's a terrible disease if left unchecked and it's hard to know if you've been infected. I routinely have a herd of 7 deer in my backyard and I'm afraid to let my grandsons play back there because some of those deer are huge. I have virtually no garden left because they've eaten everything. Please round up volunteers, make deer season longer, or increase the number of deer a hunter can take to 100! There has to be a way.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

OPPOSE "KIDDIE TAX" (FIELD APPLICATION USER FEE) I am writing to oppose the 136% increase in the field application user fee proposed in the FY2010 budget. My arguments against this tax: 1) This tax will make it difficult for many families to afford for their children to participate in community sports. Our sports leagues are the pride of our community - they provide a safe, community-oriented activity for our children that also promotes their physical health, emotional development and well-being and sense of social responsibility. Many families will not be able to afford to participate in organized sports with this exorbitant increase in fees. 2) Athletic groups contribute millions of dollars to the County annually to maintain and improve grass fields and develop synthetic turf fields, mainly via the County's adopt-a-field programs as well as through public-private partnerships, MOUs. Athletic groups also donate thousands of volunteer hours annually to mow and line County fields, and pick up trash. It is simply unreasonable, at best, that the County would tax these contributors and volunteers in the first place with an application fee, let alone increase the fee by 136%. Any increase in the tax will ultimately lead to fewer field adoptions and partnerships, and reduction or elimination of a club's scholarship program for players with limited family income, a lose - lose situation for all.

I am very angry about the proposal to increase application/user fees and out of county fees for Fairfax County fields. I am a member of the FWSA soccer league and participated in the clearing of the Pine Ridge fields many years ago in conjunction with the development of the fields. Considering the number of people using the fields that do not pay a fee, it is unconscionable that those of us who do pay for permits should be assessed even higher fees. Either the fields should be more closely monitored and closed off to non permit holding people or we should all have access to the fields free of cost. Not only does our organization pay for permits but we have also helped maintain the fields over the past several years. This is an unreasonable proposal and extremely unfair to all who purchase permits.

Please do not cut funding for deer control. Deer carry the ticks that cause Lyme disease, and I have several friends and relatives with late stage Lyme with multiple, serious health problems. This is a very dangerous and under reported disease. We need the deer curtailed in Fairfax Co., to prevent the spread of this awful disease. Thanks for all you do!

I feel the field use fee is unreasonable.

In regard to (FCDOT) Seniors On-The-Go program for the fiscal year of 2010. You cannot stop funding for this very important program. I live in a Senior Community in Herndon and we have many, many seniors who depend on this service because they do not drive any longer nor do they have cars. They depend on this service for food shopping, doctor visits, getting them to and from the airport, etc. Please leave this wonderful program in place. I personally still drive my car but still buy tickets in the event that I cannot drive myself to the doctor's office because I am going to have a procedure. Many of us do not have family that live near by so the program is very much needed. I see also that if the budget does not get approved that the Senior On-The-Go Program will end at the end of their fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2009. I just purchased two books of coupons which I will not use by the end of June. What happens to the money that was put out to purchase these tickets. Do we get our money back? Please keep this program in place.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE BUDGET FOR CONTROLLING THE DEER POPULATION. LYME DISEASE IS SPREAD BY TICKS THAT DEER CARRY AND IT IS A HORRIBLE DISEASE THAT HAS DISABLED MY DAUGHTER. PLEASE DO NOT ENDANGER ANY MORE PEOPLE!!!

PLEASE do not cut back on deer control. I live in a wooded area and have found many ticks on me... leading to tests and medication. The deer have destroyed my yard and I live in fear of contracting limes disease. I believe the health costs of NOT controlling deer will be huge. Traffic accidents, disease, and starving animals. If you will not control the deer, let the hunters do it for you. Thank you.

I understand your budgetary considerations but I feel that reducing public transportation is not the right choice. I use the Fairfax connector route 402 and will be forced to change my commuting options

I am in favor of deer control and am writing to request that you NOT eliminate any monies for deer control from your budget. I have been a resident of Fairfax County for 36 years. The last 22 years have been in Reston in a single-family house which backs up to Fox Mill Park. This park is overrun by deer. I'm going to assume that you are aware of the connection between deer, ticks & Lyme Disease. The more deer we have, the more ticks we have and, therefore, the more incidence of Lyme Disease. Three out of eight households on my street have battled Lyme Disease - including me. It is a devastating disease which has no cure. It can be put into remission if you are fortunate enough to have an early diagnosis. This is not the case for many, like me, who had a late diagnosis and now suffer from chronic Lyme Disease. I can live with the disappearing vegetation as the deer eat every green leaf on my azaleas and rhododendrons - but, I almost didn't live with Lyme Disease. Please, reconsider your allowance for deer control and keep it in the budget.

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the PR fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not. The league is also paying money for the turf field at Wakefield, thus are players are already paying additional fees. There are many teams that play on Wakefield and they aren't contributing to the funding of the turf fields which isn't fair. It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bare the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increase fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage. I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields. As a point of comparison - swimming pools are built with public money and maintained with public money and no one is allow to use these facilities for free, why are the soccer league being penalized. Also, the additional out-of-county fees and additional fees should be applied to the kids, it shouldn't just be adults. The kids get priority but they pay less which makes no since.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I'm very concerned about the elimination of the Fairfax Connector 402/403 bus route. I use this bus every day, and if I have to take a different bus it will add nearly 30 minutes to my daily round-trip commute. I see many other people who get on the same bus along the part of the route that is not shared by the 2T Metrobus or any other bus. They would also have much farther to walk to another bus, or would have to drive, which adds to traffic. I would be willing to pay a higher fare if it would mean keeping the convenience of the 402/403 route. Thank you for listening.

Please do not deer control from the budget. Health issues and human lives are in jeopardy. It is difficult to arrange for a taxi to the airport from the Lawyers Road area as the drivers are worried about the deer.

Cutting back on deer control will be detrimental to your health. The large deer population in Northern Virginia carry ticks that are spreading lyme and other serious co-infections. Please fight against cutting this service. It is for your and my health. I have a family of five that are suffering from chronic lyme and we do not need to get bit again. Please help us and help those you love. Thank you

Many part timers in the library took it for the health benefits as the surrounding counties pay more. We have no reason to stay if those are gone. My branch manager says she doesn't have enough part timers as it is, she'll have even less if these increases go through. We feel this is a breach of contract & are disappointed in the county. At the very least the current part timers should be grandfathered in.

You will need strong leadership and support because there is 6 Billion that President Obama signed to expand volunteer programs to include Old People, Youth, College, and other programs. Who will manage this program? Pull Ms. Powers from the Fire Department then pay her $10 thousand more. And make her in change of Volunteer Services for Fairfax. Then she will need to respond to peoples emails. You can then eliminate all funding for agencies receiving funding to do the same to cover the cost. Every year there are lots of county wide volunteer recognition programs. Look at all the staff involved with all those people doing the same job of management of the people. You can pool all those people together and probably gut 100 jobs. If you do that you should have enough money to save a fire station. The opponents will say the position needs to stay in department. Then the only solution is sharing people between multiple departments. Monday they go to parks. Tuesday they go to Fire. Wednesday they go to schools. Thursday they go to another program. Friday they have off. When we get our position of the volunteer bill, they can work Fridays again. BOS take off your political hats and do the right thing.

How do you raise fees on fields in times when people are out of work? The other option is to close them down for 5 years. People will jump up and down. A compromise is that if you are out of work, you get free admission to the county parks that you just started charging or keep the fees to use the fields for these people the same. This would help those in Senior Softball who are out of work.

I am a volunteer with Befriend A Child, a mentoring program through CPS in Fairfax County. I just want to say what a tremendous job Chuck Berlin and Ann Rieger have done. I am very grateful for their support and expertise. I feel that they really listen and respond to issues to make real positive changes in the lives of underprivileged kids in the county. I am sorry to see that the program is being downsized.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

The present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields, before we agree to any raise in fees. Our Women's Soccer league pays for maintenance of certain grass soccer fields and yet the community uses these fields as well. I don't feel it's fair that we have to pay but no one else has to. However, it is also realized that this can't be monitored. BUT, since this is the case, fees should not be imposed to anyone. Also, Out of County fees for athletic leagues are already outrageous. Adding to this fee would be a discouragement for players to return AND counties are so close that it seems ridiculous anyhow.

My name is Denise Crank and I have been a Fairfax County employee for 32 years. I took a job share position 4 years ago. I did have to think long and hard about my change. I took into consideration the differences in how I would accrue leave and how it would affect my retirement. I was accepted into the job share position with the understanding that my health insurance coverage would not change. I do not feel it fair or appropriate to change this. The employees that took employment accepted a position that included health insurance, the same coverage as all other employees within the County. If you feel you must cut the coverage I feel current employees of part time or job share be grandfathered. Thank you for your time. I realize these decisions are very difficult ones.

My son is in second grade at Camelot Elementary and has been using the SACC program for after care as well as summer vacation. We really like the current system for SACC. I have heard that the county is considering some ways to provide SACC services. The idea of major changes to the way SACC is currently run is not something I support. The teachers at the Camelot SACC facility are outstanding and the program there is very well run. I do not want to see something that changes how the program is structured or administered. The costs are also very reasonable, though I would be willing to pay more -- within reason-- if that is what is required to keep things as is. Changing SACC to save a few dollars is not a good idea.

I am a mentor with the Be-Friend-A-Child program and think it is a wonderful, thoughtful, high-impact program that broadens the horizons of some very special children. To keep the program going and give it the much needed support, PLEASE do not cut the funding. If anything, this program should be expanded. Mentors invest a TON of time and their own money to help these kids so cuts in funding burden these volunteers and adversely impact the kids of this county. I have been a resident of FFX County for almost 40 years so am invested in this community. This is a tremendous program - please support the children of this county. Thanks.

I am against the proposed fee increase for the usage of soccer fields. It is an unfair fee because it is only assessed to those who apply for a permit. All field users should be charged this fee. The Park Authority's position is the fields are built with public money and maintained with public money, therefore they should be free for all. Our soccer league (FWSA) developed the Pine Ridge fields and we pay for the maintenance. There are others using those fields that have not made the contributions that our league has and therefore play for FREE while we do not? It is an unfair burden for the leagues to bare the expense of maintenance and increased user fees. If fields are free for all, nobody should have to pay. I am opposed to increase fees for leagues and players who play by the rules, contribute to field maintenance and request permits for usage? I strongly believe the present field user rules should be revised so that either nobody will pay or all will pay the same fee to use fields.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing regarding the proposed cuts to Fairfax Connector line 553. This line serves customers along Glade Drive and other surrounding areas during commuting hours only. I ride every day between 6:15 - 7:15 am and 4:25 - 5:25 pm, depending on the day. Regardless of whether I catch the bus at 6:15 or 6:50, there are consistently 10 - 30 passengers (the same in the afternoon). The 553 only runs during commuter hours as is. Further cuts would make it more difficult to schedule and use as my primary method of commuting. The benefit of not owning a second car for commuting (our one car stays with my spouse at home) is of great value to me and to the community. Please consider keeping the 553 on a half-hour schedule for the next few years until the Wiehle Metro Stop is complete and bus lines are reconfigured.

To Mr Griffin and the BoS: Do your job! Balance the checkbook. Have the courage to cut spending 15% across the board and deny services to illegal aliens. Those are the only real long-term solutions. Families are cutting 10%, 20%, 30% in this recession and the county should do the same. Don't raise our real estate taxes. Some people have suggested eliminating satellite and the myriad of absentee voting. I agree completely. If it's truly important to the person that they vote, they will go vote. Stop trying to accommodate everybody by coming up with various hours, locations, methods of voting which adds to the overall costs of facilitating, monitoring, etc. Raise bus fares. For people who use bus service, this is a good (and fair) source of revenue to support the service. Don't change SACC. It's a program that works and is not funded by taxpayer dollars. Don't change something that works and in SACC's case, that works very well. I don't support raising the fees on the highest brackets. We am not rich, but do make over $50,000 and so we would have to pay the highest-bracket fee. How is it fair to raise the fee on the highest bracket? If you're going to raise fees, raise it on everybody. I already pay my real estate taxes and all kinds of other taxes and don't get anything for free that low-income and illegal aliens get. Don't take away incentive for people to work hard to get ahead in life. As for illegal aliens, create a way for people who want to do a good deed get what they want. Let those people be able to donate money to support an illegal alien at schools, hospitals, emergency rooms, clinics, grocery stores, etc. Don't force the rest of us to have to pay for illegal aliens. We have to support our own families. And for residents who don't mind paying more real estate taxes, let them be able to write checks directly to the county.

We are a group of low-income seniors living in Hunters Woods Fellowship House. The Seniors On-To-Go program is of great benefit to us----disables or disables-to-be, with the age of more than 70 or 80 years. We are difficult to walk, and can't approach, in particular those places where no bus passes by. Therefore, we are very anxious that the Seniors-On-The-Go program keep working as ever before. Please consider our difficulty as possible as you can. Thank you. Undersigned by 25 seniors.

I am writing in regards to proposal to eliminating SACC services from next year's budget. Many of us are parents who have school age children and who work full time. We relay on SACC services in order to be able to maintain our very demanding jobs. Without these services, we would need to quit our jobs and move elsewhere. SACC services are essential not just for families to stay in the county, but also for our children. Our children need the safe, fun and enjoyable after school that SACC offers. I hope that the Board of Supervisors identifies and cut unnecessary inefficiencies in the county's administration, rather than cutting very necessary education programs that have a proven track record of helping working families.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am a new mentor in the BeFriend a Child Program. I recently learned that one of the two social workers (Chuck Berlin) will be reassigned to another area/program. Considering that the BeFriend a Child Program has about 60 children in it, I think it would be very difficult for one social worker to manage the program, coordinate activities, and train volunteers, in addition to performing the other tasks for which the social worker is responsible. I know my mentee looks forward to attending the group activities and would be disappointed if the activities were limited because of the lack of human resources. The BeFriend a Child program is a bright spot in the lives of these children (and their care givers and mentors). I encourage you to retain two social workers in the program, so that it may continue to provide support for the children, respite for the care givers, and fulfillment for the mentors.

I am writing to ask you to reconsider to eliminate the 556 route. The people who use this service depend on it for getting to and from work. Having talked to several of them, it is unanimous that we would rather pay a higher fee for riding the bus than to lose the service, which we have come to depend on. I would like to see the Fairfax County put the alternatives of raising the ridership fees and reducing service alternatives to a referendum so that the people can decide the solution. Thank you.

Congratulations CERT your program has been saved. How? A new policy can be put in place to limit the use of county vehicles, you know the gas guzzling fire trucks, for non-emergency use. Do you go to your local supermarket, stripmall and see multiple vehicles there? Effective immediately, do not wait for budget, only one vehicle should be permitted, if absolutely needed. The BOS needs to ask the Fire Chief the following question. When was the last time you saw a Metro or Fairfax Connector bus parked for lunch or walking around the mall. Most people bring their lunch to work. Do you ever see police officers running to the supermarket to buy food for lunch? They might stop for food, but that is part of their normal patrol. Fairfax County cannot afford to have fire patrols, which do not currently exist. In order for them to save jobs, they should not use county vehicles to get food, unless it is on the way to training, home from a fire, or other approved activity. Time for the Fire Chief to look at the vehicle logs and take action. And time for the BOS to demand it. When implemented, this will save many jobs across the county.

I strongly oppose the reduction in Fairfax Connector services because it directly impacts my reverse commute to Reston (Route 952), which I share with many others. There are very few alternatives to this bus route available for those relying on public transportation. Therefore, instead of eliminating service, I feel that, if cuts are absolutely necessary, a reduction in service would be less detrimental. In the midst of an economic crisis, the need for viable alternatives to private cars is important for those dealing with the impacts of the economic downturn. Also, given environmental and traffic issues, Fairfax County should continue its commitment to providing and promoting public transportation. Reductions in service are not conducive to increased ridership. In fact, I would recommend increases in service to promote ridership, thereby, increasing revenue to meet the budget shortfall.

Page 177 of the Reduction Impact Statements for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services, # 001-67-237, eliminating one of two social worker positions for the BeFriend-a-Child Mentoring Program Please do not do this! I have worked with BeFriend a Child for only 6 months and in that time I have been blown away by the dedication and love that these social workers have for this program. Also the work that they do in preventing abuse and neglect is vital to the children in our community!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please do not cancel the 556 Fairfax Connector bus route. While I know there are several bus routes that lack ridership, this one is not one of them, especially since this bus only runs as an extension of the 505 during rush hour. If it's financially not feasible to continue this, we are willing to pay extra to help. If you can charge anyone that gets on the 556 before changing to the 505 at Reston Town Center, I think that would be a fairly good compromise. If the route is cancelled, it's only going to crowd the park and ride lots at Wiehle and Sunset Hill further, which are already strained. Thank you!

Dear Sir, I have been a mentor for the past 3 years and have found it to be such a fulfilling experience. It not only reaches out to the children involved but give tremendous help to the families. Without this program most of them are not able to find other ways of enriching themselves so that they can improve their family situations. Be-Friend-A-Child is able to fill that gap and make them feel that they are part of the community and others care. My first mentoring experience was for a pair of twins who were living in a small room with their mother at a homeless shelter. She was able to still work and they were in school and dressed properly but a situation was grim. Be-Friend was able to lift her up and not feel forgotten by the community due to our reaching out to her. This program would not be what it is today without Chuck Berlin. He is the driving force of this program. From the first day I met him you can tell by is caring ways that it is more then just a job to him. When you meet him you want to be part of this program and be able to help your community in whatever way you can. The children are drawn to Chuck in many ways because of his easygoing manner and ability to listen and genuine caring ways that only he is able to give. I know the success of Be-Friend is due to Chuck Berlin being part of this department. Without him the program would definitely suffer greatly. As the saying goes "People Make The Difference" to people like Chuck its not just a job its his goal to help people reach their goals and succeed in life and be all that they can be. We are lucky there are people like Chuck Berlin in this world that care enough to give themselves to their community.

Spotsylvania County School System has granted early retirement with the following guidelines: 20% of their current salary for three years and their regular retirement stipend. I have three years and eight months until retirement and I believe this would be cost effective for the county.

Please do not raise user fees!! I play on 2 adult teams in the spring, summer and fall; one with FWSA and the other is a co-ed team. As a result, I pay close to $300 a year to use fields for a total of about 30 games. I don't mind paying my fair share, but I see a lot of groups using the fields who are not affiliated with a league and therefore are using the fields for free. I should not have to pay for extra upkeep; please charge everyone equally! Rather than increase fees, let's make sure that everyone who uses the fields are paying their fair share! People who are responsibly organized through league teams should not get overcharged for others.

Regarding the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, BeFriend-a-Child Program. This program is slated to have one of its two positions cut. That means less support and guidance for the children who benefit from this program, and for the volunteers who have sacrificed their time to make a difference in the lives of these children. Please consider protecting the two positions assigned to the BeFriend-a-Child Program. I have volunteered in the program for many years and have seen the fruit of my labor in the lives of the children due partly because of the faithful, professional, and committed service of the Social Workers assigned to this program.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please explain the rationale for eliminating the express bus to the Pentagon. My experience is that the bus is nearly always at capacity. It would seem to be one of the bus routes that IS profitable.

The library should charge for the use of its meeting rooms. The several branches that have after hours room availability has to cost money for utilities and extra cleaning for the few that use them. Taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for HOAs and scout troops and birthday parties to have a free place to meet.

I have volunteered for over two years with the BeFriend-a-Child program and request that Fairfax County reconsider its FY 2010 budget plans to cut one of the two social worker positions that administer the program. I can readily see how my mentee has gained self confidence and become more sociable over the period of our friendship. The Befriend program seems to me a very cost-effective way to make a difference in the lives of scores of children in danger of abuse and neglect. I am concerned that the scope and effectiveness of the program will be limited with only one social worker. I have leaned heavily on the Befriend social workers for support with issues related to my mentee's family. And my mentee and I never miss one of the regular, usually monthly, BeFriend group outings, which are organized and orchestrated by the social workers. I value the outings for the opportunity to network with and learn from other mentors, and my mentee looks forward to reconnecting with his friends. Thank you for considering my request.

I would like to protest against eliminating Bus Route 305. It is the only way for me to get to work on time and to get home after work. The other buses do not run early or late enough. Please keep it.

Why are we still continuing to spend tens of thousands of dollars on furniture reconfiguration for MANY agencies when times are tight? This seems like a waste of money.

I am writing to request that Public Bus 952 route be maintained so that workers at the National Wildlife Federation choose public transportation as an option to go to work. Many employees do not own cars because of NWF's commitment to lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

To Whom It May Concern: National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is concerned that the public transportation bus route, 952, is under consideration for elimination in the FY10 budget cuts. We believe this would be a grave mistake. NWF relocated its headquarters to Reston eight years ago. Given our organizational commitment to decreasing our carbon footprint, it was critical that some form of public transportation was accessible to our headquarters. We took a leap of faith that METRO would eventually build a train line near our work home. We are hopeful to see this come to fruition in 2015. Until then, we continue to need the public bus route, 952. Some of our staff and visitors rely on the Fairfax Connector for their daily transportation. They have no other means to get to work or visit our building because they do not own a car. (This tells the story of their commitment to "living their values.") The immediate impact of this is that some employees may need to seek an alternative work site outside of Reston. This would have a debilitating effect on them, and NWF's ability to attract new employees to our headquarters building would be severely hampered. In November 2008, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments proposed to return to 2005 levels of regional greenhouse gas emissions by 2012. A local Council member in Maryland noted that riding the bus can add up to a big impact and can help save money at the same time. If bus line 952 is eliminated, our employees and others in the surrounding business community could be forced to contribute to increasing our carbon pollution. This is unacceptable to a conservation organization such as NWF whose mission is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. We are hopeful that you will take our request under serious consideration.

Please do not remove bus 952. I take it to work and it is very useful.

Please keep Bus 952 running. Public transit is extremely important to me and many of my coworkers - without it we would have to drive, increasing traffic congestion and pollution. Thanks for your consideration.

The Public Bus 952 stops near my office, and right now it is really the only way for me to use public transportation to get from my home in Arlington VA to work. As you know, public transit is not only important for me as an employee, but also to environmental sustainability and reducing carbon dioxide emissions to fight climate change. I work at National Wildlife Federation, and I believe the organization has sent over a letter supporting this route, because of its employees, guests, and job applicants. Since we are engaged in protecting wildlife, it is essential that we be able to support our own work by changing our behavior as consumers and citizens, one element of which is to use public transportation.

Please do not cut the public buses in Fairfax County, especially near the Lake Fairfax Business Park. This business park has many commuters that choose not to drive and take the bus to work each day. This also provides a way of transportation for those coming from DC for meetings to get here without a cab or car. Taking this away would make it extremely difficult for commuters to get to and from work, increasing the pollution, congestion and traffic in our already congested area. Please do not make a budget cut in this area!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing to ask that you please do not eliminate Public Bus 952 from the Wiehle/Sunset Hills area in Reston. This bus circuit is very important to commuters and visitors traveling to various offices in Reston. The availability of public transportation this area is extremely important to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions, and provides enormous benefit to the community. Thank you.

Please reconsider eliminating Public Bus 952 that runs along Sunset Hills in Reston. Many workers and visitors to our office on Business Center Drive depend on this for transportation, not to mention it reduces the number of cars on the road. Thanks!

I am very dismayed to hear you are thinking of eliminating Bus 952's stop near Business Center Drive. This bus is my only means for getting to work on winter days.

Please don't eliminate Public Bus 952. Virginia is in great need for public transportation. Buses are needed as an affordable, low carbon footprint form of transportation. They must remain a priority.

Do not eliminate Public Bus 952 route on Sunset Hills Road Many staff who work in the Lake Fairfax business park commute from the district and DO NOT have cars. Thus they have no other means for getting to work besides this bus. Unless there is an alternative proposed, these people will not have means for getting to work via public transportation. Additionally, the National Wildlife Federation supports the use of public transportation by staff and visitors as it cuts down on carbon emissions and is better for our environment. Please continue to provide this opportunity for us. Thank you.

Public Bus 952 Please do not eliminate this bus from the current system. I rely on this to get to work as do many of my colleagues.

Eliminating Public Bus 952 (and public transportation in general) is a bad idea. It limits the mobility of lower income people who don't own personal vehicles and makes getting to work more difficult. It forces more cars on the road, adding to already horrific traffic congestion and carbon emissions. Please strongly consider keeping Public Bus 952 running.

Hi, I work for National Wildlife Federation and took the 952 bus to work consistently for the past year. I do this because I care about the environment and even though it's a little bit of a trip from my house in Fairfax, I find it very important to reduce my carbon footprint by not taking public transportation. The 952 bus was very convenient and allowed me to do this. I think it's important we have buses from the suburbs connecting to metro stations. Also, the metro is not expected to meet Reston until 2015-I really think we need to have public transportation available to such a populated area before that-which is where the bus has been serving a great purpose. I know that many office staff in nearby buildings on Business Center Drive commute to and from work everyday on the 952 bus, as well. Please take this into consideration when making your decisions.

Please maintain the important service from Public Bus 952. Strong public transportation is essential for a healthy, livable community. Route 952 is an important route of access to a key business corridor in Fairfax County. Thank you.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

When taking into account the FY2010 budget, it does not make environmental or public service sense to cut funding for the Public Bus line 952 that serves Reston, VA. National Wildlife Federation's headquarter employees and visitors rely on this bus as a inexpensive, environmentally friendly, and essential link to our office and other public transportation lines like the metro. With the metro not projected to reach Reston until 2015, it is essential to continue to provide public transportation in this area.

Dear Board of Supervisors, I wish to urge you to keep the Public Bus 952 route. Because the elimination of this route will affect my personal life, my employer The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and the environment. First and foremost my partner and I decided that we could afford to move to the area based, in part, on the fact that we would not need a personal car in order to live and work in the greater Washington metro area. Public transit from our home to the NWF's Head Quarters, located in Reston VA, insured that we could afford to live in the area. Without the 952 route my partner will have to find another way to get to work. In short the elimination of the 952 route will create an unbearable financial burden for our young family. The elimination of the 952 will create similar problems for other individuals employed by the NWF. Above and beyond the stress that the elimination of the 952 will create on individuals, the 952 is a viable mode of transportation for NWF employees who must make the regular commute from NWF's Advocacy Center located in DC, to Head Quarters located in Reston and vice versa. NWF relies on the affordable and dependable 952 route to insure the success of our organization. Finally the elimination of the 952 will mean more cars on the road. Simply put more cars means more co2 and other green house gasses which have been proven to affect the global climate. The elimination of the 952 route will create unnecessary financial strains on people all over the area, create additional budgetary and logistical strains to organizations located in Reston, and place a larger strain our eco-system. In short, the elimination of the 952 route will create too many strains in the name of short-sighted financial pressures. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

I would strongly urge Fairfax County to avoid eliminating Public Bus route 952. Many organizations, including the 200+ employees at the National Wildlife Federation, rely solely on this bus to go to and from work. Eliminating this bus will make it extremely difficult and expensive to find a reliable way to get to their place of employment. Public transportation is a worthwhile investment and truly the way of the future in Northern Virginia and across the United States. The economic costs of polluting the environment with more cars on the road (as a result of a lack of public transportation) outweighs the cost of maintaining a quality public transportation system. Please look elsewhere for budget cuts besides eliminating Public Bus 952. The hard-working taxpayers of Fairfax County depend on it.

Please continue Public Bus 952 near the National Wildlife Federation headquarters office in Reston. Public transportation is very important to NWF staff and for other individuals who work in our office complex. If you cut Public Bus 952, this will have a serious negative impact on the people who travel to this area. This cut would then increase the use of personal cars which will increase carbon pollution in our area. Thank you.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please keep Fairfax Connector route 952 between West Falls Church Metro and Reston. Many employees at businesses along Sunset Hills Rd east of Wiehle Ave need this route to get to and from Metro during rush hours, the only time this route is active. The alternative route 505 goes directly to Wiehle Ave, skipping the eastern portion of Sunset Hills Road and these office parks. Thanks for considering.

RE: discontinuing bus service to the Lake Fairfax Business Park area. I believe that this would not be the best decision for cost cutting. Many people rely on this public transportation to reach their jobs, volunteer, or even reach their destination for a job interview. This would be a disservice to all who work, volunteer or visit the businesses in Lake Fairfax Business Park. It also is not an environmentally sound decision, considering the effect of increased carbon pollution with no public transportation.

I believe that eliminating the public transportation bus route, 952, in the FY10 budget cuts would be a mistake. Many of my coworkers use this route to get to work each day.

Please consider public bus 952 riders; many of our staff at the National Wildlife Federation depend on this service to travel sustainably and affordably between DC and our office. Some use the service all year round, while others use it primarily during the spring through fall months. Some have no other means of getting to our office. My colleague, Courtney, uses the service every day-- rain or snow. Alternative routes stop much farther from our office and would make commuting for us mostly untenable on most days. Many thanks for considering keeping the 952 bus alive.

Please don't eliminate 952 Bus. This bus is the only way DC residents who don't own a car can get to work at National Wildlife Federation in Reston. Without this bus, I will come less frequently out to Reston and, consequently, spend less money in Fairfax County. If you want to be commuter friendly, expand bus service and raise toll prices on roads. If your trying to go green do the same thing.

Please don't eliminate Public Bus 952. It's an important public transportation element for my colleagues here at work. Thank you.

Public transportation is important to Fairfax County residents. Please do not eliminate bus routes.

Please rethink the elimination of Public Bus #952, going to Reston. The National Wildlife Federation depends on this bus to help reduce the net emissions of our staff, friends, visitors and others. We cannot wait until 2015 to have good public transportation into Reston! This is one expense that should not be cut!!!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed elimination of Fairfax Connector Route 952. I am an employee of the National Wildlife Federation whose Headquarters is in Reston, VA on the 952 Route. I rely solely on the Metro and this route to get to work each day. Should this route be eliminated I will be without a mode of transportation to work. When I moved to the DC metro area in the Fall of 2008 I made the personal choice to get rid of my car because of the efficient and reliable public transportation services and to live my personal values of a lower environmental impact. I respect the County's devotion to public transportation and I would thoroughly sadden to see them take a major step backwards in an effort that they have already made such progress in. Please realize that this bus Route provides employees of Reston VA with transportation to work and that taking that away would put these employees in a major bind. Thank you for listening to my concern.

I ride the 305 and the schedule is already a mess. I believe more people would ride if the service was ongoing all day or a Sunday schedule weekly and weekends. People are scared their going to be stranded or the bus is not running during the hours that they need. These are the problems I've had to face and I've only been living in the area for about 2 months

I've just learned that Fairfax County is considering cancelling the 952 bus to Reston. This is the only bus that comes near the office complex where I work at the National Wildlife Federation. It would be a hardship for NWF employees and visitors and reduce our ability to cut carbon emissions by taking public transportation, an important belief the organization and many of us who work here hold.

Eliminating Public Bus 952 among others as part of your FY10 budget would negatively impact your constituents. We rely on public transportation since the economy makes it difficult to acquire other means of transportation. Public transportation also allows residents, employees and guests of Fairfax County to reduce their impact on the environment by keep their cars off the road and sharing a ride. The metro will not reach Reston for another 6 years so now would not be a good time to discontinue Public Bus 952. It's not good for Fairfax County or those who live or frequent it.

I believe that eliminating the bus that runs through Reston is extremely irresponsible. Not only will the elimination of this route be harmful to our environment by increasing our carbon emissions, but it will be incredibly inconvenient for people who rely on this route to travel back and forth from Reston to the rest of Fairfax. Reston is already difficult to travel to because of the lack of bus/metro routes, it would be terrible to eliminate the few that do.

Please do not cut Public Bus 952. As a commuter with a personal vehicle, I depend on public transportation as a way of life. I also know that dozens of my colleagues depend on this means of transportation. With the environmental, economic and energy crisis facing America, now is not the time to cut public transportation which offers a step toward progress on all three of these issues. With the Metro rail system not scheduled to reach Reston for at least 6 more years, it is imperative that we continue this bus for the many commuters in NOVA who have no other choice.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please continue the connector bus to the Burke VRE station! The bus allows two of us to avoid using our cars to travel to and from the train station. One or both of us takes the bus both ways almost every day. Neither of us works regular hours, so that it would be difficult to predict in the morning whether we would need to drive two cars to the station or one. Though we have a second, very old car, we rarely use it in large part due to access to the commuter bus, and we have discussed making our household a one-car house. That would be not be an option if the connector bus is cancelled. The bus is extremely convenient and, even if it is not full on all the trips to all trains, it is used by many commuters on a daily basis. Construction of the garage at the station did not eliminate the benefits of providing alternative bus service. Continuing to provide public transportation allows these commuters to keep their cars off the roads, improves the environment, reduces traffic buildup at rush hour around the station, and should be a priority, especially during these times of reduced financial resources in both the private and public sectors. We fully support continuing to provide public transportation throughout the county, but this bus in particular has a significant impact on our daily life and we rely heavily on it. The bus reduces the stress and challenge of commuting. Please don't cancel the connector bus to the station.

As a long time Connector user, the news that the 952 route is on the chopping block is maddening. It's the only route that serves the Sunset Hills east area much at all. With no other public trans options that are the least bit workable, this will just force more people into cars. Not what Fairfax needs. I know times are tough, but there are other areas to cut. How about all them pricey toys the "first responders" have sitting around 100% of the time since 9/11. Gotta love the these public servants but just like our military, millions in fancy gadgets isn't making us any safer.

Sir, I read that there is a proposal to reduce service of Route 301 of the Fairfax Connector. I have been taking that route for many years, normally taking the 5:37AM bus from South Kings Hwy, and wish to express that all who take it actually rely on it to keep their jobs. Without that line, I do not have a clue how many will get to work and retain their jobs in DC. (Note that there are many lower income workers along Route 301) It is my hope that the County of Fairfax will retain all of the lines that transport working people to the metrorail stations so that they retain their jobs. In addition, the bus system is the only system that will even permit our residents to consider keeping their cars off the road. If the bus lines are reduced/eliminated, even the idea of using mass transportation will vanish from our consciousness. Route 301 of the Fairfax Connector keeps our residents working. It keeps them from being destitute, and being placed in a situation that would result in turning to dangerous activities. We all need the buses operating.

countywide pay cuts.

Specifically targeting part-time employees health insurance benefits costs to reduce the overall budget is unfair to part-time employees as the cuts are significant and will greatly impact individual employees and their families. I have been a County employee for 14 years; mostly full time but part-time for the past two years. I would not have gone part-time if I had known I would have to incur such a huge cost on my health insurance. It seems that spreading the cuts across the board to full and part time employees will significantly lessen the impact for everyone.

To eliminate employees in DROP and hire people to do the same thing at a lower salary, pay them for their remaining time in DROP so they will retire.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I am deeply saddened that due to a budget shortfall, Fairfax County is considering eliminating Public Bus 952. I commute to work with public transportation and currently ride this bus. To seek an alternative means to get to work would be virtually impossible for me. I also use this bus as a means to refer potential employees for their interview process. Please do not eliminate Public Bus 952.

I work with the Library Foundation and my position is threatened by RIF. Please consider alternate funding towards this position (e.g., moving funding allocated towards now retired librarian staff) being that the Foundation is a revenue generating entity and is already short on staff prior to me coming onboard. I have made excellent strides in this position, received great feedback from Foundation Board members, and received a stellar six-month evaluation. The Library Foundation cannot afford to loose this position, which contributes to the smooth administrative operation of this organization. Thank you for your consideration.

Dear sirs, I know that the Fairfax Connector is going to reduce service next year, including 922..... Proposed - eliminating service. As a rider every day, I strongly recommend you not to eliminate 922, I rely on it to go to work. And also, many workers from the Tech company ride it every day. 922 is so important to us, please remain the 922 service. Thanks, Irene

keep Public Bus 952 , as a public transportation supporter and user, it's necessary to have it to comment to and from work.

The Fairfax Connector 952 that runs on Sunset Hills has been invaluable in allowing me to commute easily from my office to DC. If this route was cut I would be unable to work in Fairfax County.

I wanted to stress the overall importance of the bus line (942) that stops at Business Center Drive is to National Wildlife Federation, its employees, guests and commuters. Cutting that out may force them to have to drive, which defeats the purpose of mass transportation and its environmental effects as well.

It is wrong to cut the income of only one group of employees. I am referring to the proposed cuts in the County's health insurance contributions for part-time employees. These employees can least afford such a significant increase in insurance premiums due to the very fact that they are part-time employees earning part time wages. They were hired with the promise of certain benefits, just like all Fairfax County employees.

I understand you are considering reducing service on the 557 South Reston Line. I would like to point out that this is the *only* Connector line that services Soapstone Drive in Reston, and the RIBS bus does not service it at all. Please do not cut back service on the 557 on Soapstone Drive in South Reston. It is all we have! It may sound crazy, but I suggest cutting back on the 551 instead. That one is always full from WFC to the Wiehle Park and Ride, but most people get off at Wiehle - they don't use the rest of the service. Some of them could just as well take the 557, which would increase ridership on most of the route.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

This is in reference to the Budget, page 177 of the Reduction Impact Statements for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services, # 001-67-237, eliminating one of two social worker positions for the BeFriend-a-Child Mentoring Program. I am a tax payer of Fairfax County, and I would like to advocate for the county's vulnerable (abuse and neglected) youngest benefiting from the BeFriend-a-Child Program. I am a volunteer mentor with the program and have witnessed the tremendous benefits mentees and their families received through the program. Eliminating one of the two Social Worker positions for the BeFriend-a-Child Program will have negative impacts on the live of the number of children participating today, and in the future, children than without the program will have no or limited opportunities for a better future. As xxx xxxx, one of the volunteer with the program stated "The dedicated BeFriend-a-Child volunteer mentors are the true heart of this program that changes lives. We share our time, our talents, and our money. We praise, we nurture, we support, we provide opportunities, we teach. We model, for the child and their family, appropriate behavior, respectful communication and how to express feelings. We help empower wounded children in at-risk situations to see they can make decisions that give them a future outside the cycle of abuse." Although the volunteers are key players in the program, we can not operate in isolation. Without one of the two positions, the BeFriend-a-Child Program, will lose the ground already gained and greatly reduce its impact on one of the most vulnerable groups - the neglected and abuse youngest and future generation. Please consider the continuation of funding for the two Social Worker positions for the BeFriend-a-Child Program.

I am voicing my concern about the proposed elimination of Fairfax County Connector Bus Route 305. If this route is eliminated, it does not appear that the county is furnishing an alternative bus schedule to cover the areas of this route. I ride to and from the Sydenstricker parking lot on Hooes Road to the Franconia Springfield Metro. Parking at the garage is not an alternative as the garage fills up prior to my arrival.

Please don't stop the 556 service, if we need to go to the Town Center to catch the 505 we don't have any place to park, We don't mind if we need to pay just a little more for services like these. These service take REGULAR customers for a long time Thank you

Fairfax Connector 556 is a very important route for getting North Point area residents to and from West Falls Church metro (via Reston Town Center.) Total elimination of that route would create a substantial problem for commuters who might be forced then to drive. If the RIBS 4 bus were to go directly to and from North Point to Reston Town Center without a long loop through Reston, then the RIBS could be an alternative during rush hour.

Please continue the SACC program as we know it and do not cut funding or change the program. We adore and rely upon our SACC teachers and the services they provide.

Please, do NOT eliminate Fairfax Connector Route 303.

Please, do NOT eliminate Fairfax Connector Route 303.

Please, do NOT eliminate Fairfax Connector Route 303.

Please, do NOT eliminate Fairfax Connector Route 303.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please, do NOT eliminate Fairfax Connector Route 303.

Please, do NOT eliminate Fairfax Connector Route 303.

Please, do NOT eliminate Fairfax Connector Route 303.

To whom it may concern, The proposal to delete the 595 Fairfax Connector is a decision to negate a service that provides your customers a level of service unmatched by other transportation agencies in the area. This bus is standing room only at 7 am 5 days a week, it is hard to imagine cutting a service with this level of demand from your customers. Please reconsider your decision and retain this service!

Dear County Executive Anthony Griffin: I live in Fairfax County. I am strongly opposed to the proposed that the 136% increase in the fee in this year's County budget. I feel it is grossly unfair and places an undue burden on the parents and children participating in youth sports activities throughout the County. At a time when every citizen is counting every dollar, you are asking us to pay a 136% increase in the "kiddie tax." That is $13.00 per activity per child per season. This means that a family with two children each playing three sports seasons during the year will now pay $78.00 each year; an increase of $45.00 over the current fee. This proposed increase also will have a negative affect on sports groups' ability to continue field adoptions. Why would the County make it more difficult for children to participate in youth sports? Why would the County make it more difficult for sports groups to contribute to field maintenance and improvements? Participation in youth sports has numerous well-known benefits - both physically and socially. I'm asking you kindly Sir to reconsider this proposal.

I want to take this opportunity to make sure my voice (and many of my neighbors' voices with whom I have spoken) is heard and taken into account as one who strongly opposes the county's FY 2010 proposed budget. I believe it is unreasonable and irresponsible of the county to continue the seemingly reckless spending behavior it has undertaken over the past decade. A government cannot expect to maintain the same standard of living at a time when many of its citizens are being forced to cut back with their own spending as a result of the current economic downturn. My employer has already cut out our first bonus payment for this fiscal year and is likely to cut out year end bonuses also which equates to a 12 - 15% pay cut for me. My employer has also cut back on what they will reimburse, which effectively reduces my household income by another $840 this year. Another policy change which was implemented late last year resulted in a $2600 annual reduction in most employees' paychecks. The bottom line here is that the county has not been responsible in its expenditures and commitments over the past 10 years, and as a result finds itself in a financially difficult situation. It is now time for our local leaders to make some tough choices and make the required spending cuts to reel in the out of control spending the county has undertaken over these years of plenty. Please make the right choice and don't burden us with the planned property tax increases for the FY2010 budget.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I have been riding the 595 Fairfax County Connector since 2007 and have used its predecessor when I lived here before from 2001-2003. Since I work at the Pentagon this is the most convenient way to get back and forth to work each day. Driving my car to either park and ride lot then taking two different trains is not an option for me since I normally work at least 12 hours everyday. I am willing to pay more money for the bus, and my belief is that most others would do the same, especially since the monthly stipend for federal workers in the National Capital Region has recently increased. Cutting this service will result in my driving everyday to work thus adding to our already overcrowded road network. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

How is the money that the county provides to the EAC spent? What would the impact of cutting this funding be? I am a county employee and definitely do not feel that the EAC represents me or my points of view. Does the county provide funding to the police or fire unions?

Solution to the CERT program is to remove the MA2 person and put a temp in her place. She really only does part time amount of work anyway for the money. Or get rid of Mr. Katz and give Ms. Powers the job for her current pay. Problem Solved.

I appreciate the services provided by Fairfax connector. I recently moved to Herndon and we moved looking at the service of 929, which is proposed to eliminate. Other than eliminating, if you can reduce its trip to rush hours only, morning 6 to 9and evening 4 to 7, it will be very good for people like me dependent on the service. Thank you so much. Resident of Herndon

Do not cut the Clinic Room Aids from the Health Department, for it will have an impact on the students.

Please retain intact, or on a slightly reduced scale, the budgetary provision for the Seniors On-The-Go Program. Its benefits to the old and infirm senior citizens in facilitating their mobility and access-- to the essential places, such as local shopping centers, parks or even to the metro stations-- are critical to their physical and mental health and well-being. The budgetary impact in terms of savings will be nominal, but the impact on the seniors of the termination of this crucial benefit will be enormous. It is likely to result in greater demand on county's health care costs as the home-bound seniors, in the absence of the Seniors-On-The -GO coupons, will simply fall sick from boredom and depression. SO KINDLY RETAIN the wise budgetary support for the SENIORS-ON-THE-GO (and Fastran) programs for this important segment of your constituents. The Fairfax County and its Board of Supervisors are known for their compassion and welfare services and look for savings elsewhere and pl. spare the helpless old and disabled citizens from the curtailment of these facilities in these times of increased economic hardship afflicting them. May God bless you!

I live in fairfax county and also work for fairfax county ,and i just want to say one thing :it is ok to raise taxes and all that but consider not laying off public safety (police and fire) personnel because this is going to lead to really bad consequences and also will affect any employee who is affected by the RIF in a way that may be will take their lives downhill and i am one of those because my wife just lost her job and i could lose mine .Just imagine how it is going to be ?

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Allow more employees to telework. It saves the county money in energy usage. Employees are more productive. I work for an agency that has positions that are suitable for teleworking, however the supervisors deny requests.

Stop spending our budget on illegal aliens. All county agencies and services should be mandated to check citizenship status prior to offering services/benefits.

WHY do the police and schools thinks they should be exempt from cuts? and certain supervisors seem to agree. Is this perhaps vote pandering?? If the board had not reduced the real estate property tax a few years ago there could have been rainy day money and it's pouring now. but in order to get reelected they reduced the rate. Supervisors get a little gumption and do what is right. tell the police and schools they have to reduce their spending too and don't be taken in by their scare tactics and lobbying. there are other needs just as or perhaps even more important -- homelessness and services for the mentally ill and other vulnerable citizens in this county. I am sick and tired of hearing about police, fire, and schools.

Why are emergency personnel allowed to get overtime, when at the same moment you are cutting emergency jobs. Why not keep the same number of employees and stop overtime. Overtime is hazardous because when someone is overworked, they might not be capable of responding correctly in an emergency.

Fairfax Connector -- routes 595/597 are proposed for elimination. Both routes provide many federal government workers transportation to the Pentagon/Crystal City are -- for $6 a day. A rate increase should be considered. These buses appear to have a high ridership rate yet it does not appear that this was part of your "decision tree". I understand that these routes are considered duplicative -- since some folks believe that riders would take a bus to West Falls Church metro, then metro to the Pentagon area -- at least doubling their commute time. This "alternative" will merely ensure that current riders of 595/597 will drive to work adding to the existing congestion. I understand and appreciate the current issues facing the county but it appears to me that this proposal was accepted without any analysis.

I am writing to urge you not to eliminate Public Bus 952 in Fairfax County. I work for the National Wildlife Federation and this bus serves our Headquarters Building. It's important to me to have the option for public transportation to this location. Also, considering the growing concern around climate change and air pollution, now is the time to be expanding public transportation, not cutting it!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Dear County Budget planners: I have reviewed the proposed 2010 county budget have noted cuts of significant concern. The following are some cuts which will have a deleterious systemic effect, especially as the HOT lanes and Tysons Metro work ramp up in the district. Please try to eliminate the following cuts if at all possible.

001-40-134 Reduce Capital Projects and Operations Program Budget 0 0.0 $70,272 We need traffic calming assistance.

001-40-135 Reduce Consulting Support for Transportation Modeling 0 0.0 $100,000 Planning is desperately as part of Tysons Metro development

001-40-139 Eliminate Position and Limited Term Funding for Transportation Planning 1 1.0 $93,919 It is vitally important for someone to be monitoring developer proffers and waivers.

Dear Budget planners, I have taken a detailed look at the 2010 county budget and have noted some cuts of particular concern as regards recent progress in the area of trails, sidewalks and bridges. Please note the following and do all you can to prevent the budget knife from striking there. Thank you for your time and concern,

001-40-134 Reduce Capital Projects and Operations Program Budget: $70,272 Now is not the time to cut funding for traffic calming.

001-40-137 Reduce Operating Expenses for Bicycle Program: $170,456 Much work is needed to enhance this important transportation option - especially in the Tysons Corner area.

Stormwater Management: 001-29-103 Eliminate Reinvestment Work on Trails, Walkways and Pedestrian Bridges : $80,000 Trail and bridge maintenance should be increased, not cut.

Park Authority: 001-51-174 Eliminate Position for Centralized Coordination of Trail Outreach and Development Support: $84,017 This cut will gut the vital volunteer network used so successfully to build and maintain the Cross County trail and other trails in the area.

I ride the Fairfax Connector bus route 553 from Reston to West Falls church every morning. There is a budget proposal to reduce this route by 40%. I urge the board to please carefully consider this since I know a lot of people rely on this route. If it does need to be cut, I think it makes sense to cut maybe the earliest and latest routes for morning and/or afternoon. This would have the least impact on the fewest amount of people.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

April 12, 2009 To the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: As a longtime volunteer in Fairfax County parks, I am compelled to express my deep concern over budget cuts proposed by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Conservation of parks and open space in the County is threatened by staff positions that are being abolished at county parks and Visitors Centers. These cuts will have negative effects on natural and cultural resource protection in the county, as well as on the education of the next generation of environmental stewards. Both the public's experience in the parks and their understanding of the importance of the environment will suffer. The FCPA cuts disproportionately affect the Resource Management Division sites. At Huntley Meadows Park, the sole Administrative Assistant position is being abolished. This valuable employee takes care of all administrative duties, teaches programs and supports visitor services. There are only five merit staff who work at Huntley's Visitor Center. Abolishing this position amounts to a 20% cut in staff! I'm sure that is not a percentage you will see at Park Headquarters where no positions are being abolished. The Board of Supervisors' stated environmental goals are in great part carried out by the Resource Management Division. The three primary goals include energy conservation, protection for the County's natural resources, and the major charge of "Open space conservation, which seeks to preserve and protect stream valleys, woodlands and other ecologically valuable areas to protect plant and animal life". Fully half of the FCPA's mission encompasses the goals set by the County Board. Besides creating opportunities for recreation, the Park Authority's mission is to "set aside public spaces for and assist citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations". Cutting staff that directly serve the public at county parks will result in a decline in natural resources, in education and in the goals of the county and FCPA. Parks are important to the quality of life of people and to the environment. In the FCPA's own 2006 household survey, walking in parks was the number one preferred leisure activity by the majority of respondents. Losing access through the inability of the Park Authority to maintain and staff parks will deal a blow to many people in the county from schoolchildren on field trips to families enjoying nature walks and programs. While the FCPA budget is less than one percent of the county's total budget, its mission is central to the health and well-being of the county's citizens and the environment. Fairfax County officials have consistently touted and promoted the quality of life in the county, especially its wonderful park system and natural resources. I ask that you stand behind your commitment now. Please do not allow the FCPA to abolish key positions at county parks.

Please do not increase the amount that 20-hour merit employees must pay for health insurance. It will cause a lot of misery for not that big a savings. It is unfair since these employees were hired under the same system as the 4o-hour employees. If the payment proportion changes, do the right thing and grandfather in employees already hired.

I would like to request that the Board of Supervisors seriously reconsider the proposal to raise insurance premiums for part-time employees. If it is absolutely necessary to make this change, I would request that it apply to new-hires only and that existing employees be permitted to keep the full benefits package they were promised when hired. We were hired with a particular expectation and have organized our lives accordingly. I am a single mom and am responsible for providing my children's insurance. I made this commitment in court, and losing insurance is not an option. If this proposal goes through, by the end of the two-year price adjustment, I will only have a remaining monthly net income of approximately $250. I would have to give up my apartment before I could give up my children's insurance. Please don't allow this to happen to us.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

RE: Proposal 001-52-197 Eliminate Thursday evening operations at Community Libraries. Our nonprofit group, the Ayr Hill Stamp Club, has used the (only) Patrick Henry Library meeting room for our Thursday night meetings for over 20 years. When we can't book the Patrick Henry room, we look for alternatives at Oakton and other neighboring libraries. All meeting facilities are heavily booked by nonprofit and community groups. Eliminating Thursday night and Friday operations at the community libraries will make it impossible for all current users to find alternative dates and times. Community groups are the heart of Fairfax County. I strongly suggest that the Board examine alternatives to this proposal. Although our limited budget would take a hit, I would even suggest user fees for library meeting rooms. A modest fee would provide additional revenues to offset the cost of operations and would also play a useful role in rationing the use of the facilities.

Eliminate sending out ballots and return envelopes for EAC candidates for elections to every county employee. Seems there are more cost effective ways to get ballots out with the courier or e-mail.

To Whom It May Concern: I am sending this comment specifically on the proposed changes to the Fairfax Connector bus routes and schedules. As a resident of Fairfax County since 2006, I have come to rely on Fairfax Connector Route #305 from my home to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station on my daily commute to work. I have relished this route, as a way to reduce my carbon footprint on the environment and by supporting and advocating mass transit. When someone asks me about my commute and how I cope with traffic, I simply state that I have no stress on my commute as I use mass transit. If Fairfax Connector Route #305 is eliminated I will have to drive to the Gambrill Park and Ride in order to pick up the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Route #18R. There are no sidewalks on Pohick Road that would allow a safe walking or biking environment. As such, I will have to drive less than two miles from my home to reach the bus stop. Short driving distances are not conducive to the environment or my gas tank. As such I would implore the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to not eliminate Fairfax Connector Route #305 in its entirety, but perhaps operate at a reduced schedule to allow for loyal riders to continue a healthy and stress free commute to work while not clogging our roadways with unnecessary driving. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Again, we ask the County to honor its contract agreements with current job share employees! Those who were hired with the promise of receiving the same health benefits as full time employees should not be asked to shoulder the unfair burden of increased employee contribution to premiums! We are already being asked to sacrifice enough! Do what is right and "grandfather" these employees in! Remember, your employees are your most valuable asset.....especially those of us who are now shouldering the burden and responsibility of full time workloads due to hiring freezes and staff reductions!!!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please do not cut the parks budgets by more than 10%. I understand that times are difficult, and I do believe that the parks should have to take part of the burden, as should all areas, but please do not cut that portion of the budget more than 10%. I believe that all organizations are capable of taking a budget hit of that amount and still remain viable. More than that and we will see a serious decrease in the quality of programming and services available to the public. As people find their financial situations becoming more difficult, they will begin to look for cheaper and closer activities. We are therefore very likely to see increase demand for programs, and use of the park systems. If we cut this budget at the same time we are experiencing increased usage, we are likely to see a large increase in complaints about parking, staffing, and facilities upkeep. While I agree that all areas must do their share, drastically and disproportionately cutting the parks budget is no way to navigate our way through this economic difficulty. Thank you.

I friend told me that you guys are considering cutting the 380 service. I can't believe that this would even be considered! I find it unbelievable that this route would not be profitable since the bus is always full when I ride it. In fact, I would suggest expanding it since there never seems to be enough room on it. I'd like to know how you came to the conclusion to cut the route.

Please do not eliminate public bus number 952. Many of my colleagues and others in the business park in which I work use the bus as their sole source of transportation. Thus the need is very great. In addition, we must work to preserve as much public transportation as possible in order to meet Fairfax County's green goals. This is a new day and we must all work to reduce our carbon emissions. Public transportation helps us achieve that goal.

.It would be a shame to lose the police officers who work with our youngest citizens on safety issues. The savings they provide by insuring that our youngest citizens receive crucial information about personal safety and responsibility is immeasurable. Their sponsorship with AAA insures that there are safety patrols on buses and walking routes as students go to and from school. The cost of this program is minimal to the price we will pay for not teaching our students the vital safety issues these fine police officers provide.

The 595 bus route to the Pentagon is a must have service! Not only does it reduce traffic and emissions with its high ridership, but provides a service to Military and Federal Government employees that is critical to getting these employees to work. The proposal to shift the 595 customers to the Orange line is ludicrous. Under the current schedule it would at least 35 minutes of time to the your customer's commute, and it would only increase once you reduce the amount of time the 505 route runs from West Falls Church to the Reston East Park and Ride. Additionally, the Orange line is over taxed and over crowded, closing the 595 just shifts the problem to someone else and doesn't address the fundamental need of taking care of your customers. Please reconsider, and keep the 595 running.

Have you tried to get on the Orange line heading west at rush hour? If you have not please give it a try before you cut the 595 fairfax conector service. Not only are you cutting a line with higher ridership than most of your other routes, but you are doing a grave disservice to your major source of revenue, your customers. Please think this one through there are better ways to keep this service running, higher fares or reduced run times, than the draconian approach of killing it off all together.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I have a sophomore at Chantilly High School. I'm very proud of the counselors at this school and the administration in general. It is very important that counselors are not cut as these high school years are critical to the success of students. Not only do the counselors play a key role in students dealing with their college plans, but counselors play an even bigger role in assisting students with their daily lives and the stresses involved. I can't imagine cutting such an important aspect of the high schools. The high schools can't fully help our students succeed without the counselors.

Please give the school board the full transfer amount they have requested. Continue to provide funding for school resource officers and clinic aides. These positions are crucial for student safety - they are not "nice-to-have's" anymore. The Franklin Middle School gang incident emphasizes the important role of school safety officers. Although I enjoy the parks and libraries very much, at this time I would support cutting services and raising fees in those areas so you can limit cuts to education, public safety and mental health services.

Please keep all of the clinical aides in the schools!! My son has severe food allergies and I worry greatly for his life if you removed these aides from the schools! This decision could be the life or death decision for a child. Is that a decision you want to make incorrectly?

One of the only reason I feel comfortable sending my son to a public school is knowing that there is a clinic aid on site. My son suffers from multiple severe food allergies and I would probably have to home school him if there wasn't the help and service provided by the clinic aids in my local public school. I have had great experiences with the clinic aids in the Fairfax County public schools so far and hope to continue to see that service provided so that my son and his younger siblings can enjoy all that Fairfax county public schools have to offer. I would really appreciate it if we could continue to send our allergic kids to school knowing they are safe. There are more and more children suffering from food allergies every year, we are not alone in this situation. Thank you for your consideration.

Just a word an additional word of support for the clinic aides remaining in our schools, and funds for them remaining IN the budget. With food allergies, asthma, and other chronic health problems on the rise, these people are a necessary part of the educational team in Fairfax County. Children with special needs NEED to feel safe and be safe in our schools, especially at the elementary level.

I am writing to request that the monies for the clinic aides be included in the final budget. My daughter goes to Fairhill Elementary and has potentially life-threatening allergies to tree nuts and peanuts. The clinic aide gives me some assurance that someone trained in Epi Pen administration is on site in case of an emergency. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

We all know few work on Friday, so don't have them work on Friday and cut their pay only 10% (versus 20%) for less work. It is a win-win. They don't lose the full salary, and get a day off. In reality, they get a 10% raise and work less. Require the schools to be open, if the full year employees are getting paid in the summer. They are all not open all hours. Yes, they get paid. And for teacher work days... why do so many leave early. The CERT program is just a program to make the elected officials look good. Just kill it once and for. And do that before someone who got CERT trained ends up being killed for lifting a truck with 2 by 4s and ends up getting crushed. The Fire Department should get rid of the extra PIOs and the volunteer coordinators. Keep the PIO maybe the volunteer guy (what a joke) and that is a joke comment. Keep the paid one he is good. When was the last time you saw an ad for an article to become a volunteer firefighter or CERT responder? Tens of thousands spend on what to recruit? Overtime and expensive looking shirts and uniforms for the coordinators and volunteers. A wasted waste. Stop doing all the voting in the county when Connelly left. How much that must have cost. We should have had emergency legislation to do away with the chairman/woman's position. We are in an economic bad time. Great lady, but cut it. Thank you and have a nice day.

Do not keep the Senior Adult Softball program. They are not really seniors, but people in their 50s-60s. Who are still doing well and alive and kicking. Again, a waste of taxpayer dollars. Make them pay like everyone else!!!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

PLEASE ensure that the presence of clinic aides in schools is maintained. Our children have life-threatening food allergies, and although they are still only preschool-aged, this issue will directly affect us in the very near future. It is imperative that children with the kind of issues like the food allergies with which we deal have immediate access to trained technicians, and certified personnel who are available to manage their medications and, most critically, assess symptoms in the event of a reaction to determine whether life-saving measures are warranted. There is not a program more urgent on the slate for consideration. Please support this vital measure in the fight to keep children safe.

I support reinstating Fairfax County school clinic aides. My twins will be starting Kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year in Fairfax County. As a parent of a child with chronic medical issues, he needs trained support to be safe in his school environment.

dear to whom it may concern. i ride the 929 bus to work every day. i saw that it is one of the routes that they are going to eliminate. you have tight now over a hundred people panicking and making calls about this. people need those totes to get to work. i even talked to xxxx xxxx about this. He said as well as fairfax county connector they are taking about 150 complaints phone calls a day about this they are telling us to email you about this. I fell you are causing us a lot of inconvenience, please please read this and have some respect for the customers using these bus routes listen to what i am saying mike burger

It is imperative that school counselor positions are not eliminated or reduced. School counselors are professionally trained to not only improve students' academics and personal and social growth, but they also play a crucial role in dealing with crises such as suicides, school violence, gang involvement, substance abuse, homelessness, etc. As a school counselor who already has 300 students on my caseload, cutting even one counselor position would likely result in an increase in crises and worsened academic success for students. Please reconsider the Fairfax County Public Schools budget suggestion to eliminate school counselor positions.

Please give the schools more funding, and the police less funding. With the use of stationary cameras the police are not as necessary for speed traps, we can redirect police efforts and make better use of them elsewhere. Stop doing the Federal government's job for them. Make ICE come when someone is illegal. Make victimless crimes the lowest priority. (i.e. willing adult buyer to willing adult seller). Save police resources for solving rape and murder cases. With the realized budget savings that the school system has found teacher salaries should not be frozen.

The proposed amount for field usage should be raised even more, in fact, doubled from the current proposed amount. We cannot get on the fields because of all the organized sports, they should be covering the costs more, not the taxpayers. Wah wah, don't give in to the senior softball players complaints.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please keep the clinic aids in the schools! This is a matter of the utmost importance to the health of our children. It is not enough to have a busy administrator watching sick children! They need a dedicated clinic aid to keep an eye on children. When our clinic aid was out sick, one administrator had to run back and forth between her job and the clinic. Is that what you would want if YOUR CHILD felt sick at school and was waiting for a parent to pick them up? Take the time to think about what is most important to the children's HEALTH and how you would feel about YOUR CHILD in that situation.

Cutting FASTRAN services to the most vulnerable of our community seems to be counter productive. Instead of having one bus transport 6, 8, or 10 individuals at one time we will now have 6, 8, or 10 individual vehicles clogging our already clogged roadways! Where are the savings? Certainly there are no savings in energy consumption, quality of life; nor is there savings in time.

My comment / suggestion is with respect to the following proposed cut in "Facilities and Transportation" in 2010 Budget. "$0.2 million will be derived from reductions to bus service to the Gifted and Talented centers where level IV services exist at the base school. All of these transportation reductions will impact the students whose parents are unable to provide transportation. Furthermore, these reductions may have an impact on school populations as students remain at their base schools rather than attending special programming at other sites." This is based on the assumption that the Level IV GT services offered at the Base School is of the same quality as that of the GT services offered at the GT centers. Though the GT curriculum is the same, FCPS does not seem to have, track or provide any data or information that compares the quality and performance of these two GT services (center vs. local level IV based on test scores, etc). This budget cut indirectly takes away the choice currently being offered whereby one can choose if a child can attend GT center or local Level IV, for many parents. As a Fairfax county tax payer and a parent of a child attending a GT center, I strongly oppose this budget reduction. I also request FCPS to provide me with any data or information that compares the quality and performance of these two GT services (center vs. local level IV based on test scores, etc).

I hope you will rethink cutting the Fairfax County Public Bus 952. We at National Wildlife Federation depend on that bus to connect our employees to their homes and we really support the carbon-cutting effects of public transportation. Thank you for listening!

As a parent I would suggest that instead of building new schools you can fund the schools that are existing to recruit more teachers. If you provide bus services to those areas that needs new schools so the children can attend the neighboring schools. You will be able to stop building new schools and give that money to the much needed schools to function properly. There is no point in building schools if you can't fund them to run. Because of these budget cuts our children are in much crowded class rooms. You have to understand that these teachers are also not used to having too many children in one class. I hope you understand what we are concerned about as parents. We moved to Fairfax because you have the best school system but as we can see your system is getting worse com paired to Arlington. I would consider taking more taxes rather than destroying the future of many children. Arlington takes high taxes but no one moves from the place because the schools are good. I assume the same can be done in Fairfax. I am very sure many parents would not worry about increased taxes if the schools are good.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please do not cut part-time employee benefits (health insurance) as a lot of employees have no other options for health insurance. It was agreed upon when the employee was hired that county benefits would be the same for part-time employees as full time employees. Current employees should be grandfathered in - which has been done in other surrounding jurisdictions that have changed health insurance benefits.

Please include cost of living increases for the school and county workers when you create your new budget. This how you get out of a economic downturn. By supporting the people who are working to make the county a better place.

My name is Jennifer Jenkins, I reside in the Stone Haven subdivision of Annandale/Fairfax County, and I am, by career, a teacher with experience in NY, CA, and with the Department of Defense. I am writing to declare that you MUST reinstate the budget for CLINIC AIDES or .... do the better thing and find money for registered nurses to be available all-day and 5 days a week at the schools. In Fall 2010, my daughter, who has life threatening food allergies (milk-eggs-peanuts-treenuts-shellfish) will begin kindergarten. If we remain in our current house, she will attend Canterbuy Woods. If Clinic Aides disappear - we will seriously consider moving to Maryland where in at least one county, nurses are assigned at schools for 1/2 day EVERY day and then supplemented with Clinic Aides for the rest of the day. My daughter's significant health complications require an Epi-Pen Jr to be in close proximity, as well as Benadryl. Should she accidentally ingest an allergen and suffer anaphylactic shock (which she has already experienced in response to accidentally ingesting cheese) she most probably would die. Her best chance for survival is to have a trained, dedicated MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL on the premises who can absolutely and confidently recognize the symptoms & administer the Epi Pen Jr while someone else calls 911. While waiting for 911 - a trained MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL needs to monitor her vitals. Moreover, my daughter is skin-contact sensitive and has suffered mild reactions when coming into contact with "invisible allergens" that remain on improperly cleaned surfaces and people. A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL will be able to discriminate between a mild & major reaction and confidently administer Benadryl before calling 911. This same professional would then remain with my daughter and observe her 100% for any increase in symptoms which could require an Epi-Pen Jr. As an individual who is protected under the American's with Disabilities Act, I believe that my daughter - as well as other children with significant health concerns - more than deserve to have access to a full-time registered nurse during school hours. As a realist, I am able to understand and accept that Clinic Aides are a reasonably safe and acceptable substitute. HOWEVER - I cannot even begin to comprehend the loss of the Aides. They would be replaced by volunteers? Seriously? During my seven-plus years of teaching & attending seminars & training programs - after watching perfectly usable and relevant programs/technology disappear to be replaced by similar or less effective teacher resources (i.e. changing from a Scholastic reading Program to Houghton-Mifflin or trading a 3 year old computer for newer) I can reliably state that you CAN cut out something else and possibly SAVE A LIFE !!!!!!!!!! Educators know that kids are most successful in school if their basic needs are met. If children with health concerns as well as their family members, have to worry about the physical and emotional well-being of their children due to an almost non-existent Medical Staff - you can bet your District's bottom dollar that they will not do as well academically. Fairfax County schools need to understand that it is not a matter of IF a student is going to need a fast competent medical intervention - it's a matter of WHEN a student will need time sensitive medical attention - Thus, funding for nurses & aides should be considered MANDATORY!

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I'm writing to ask you to consider keeping the benefits for current part time employees at the same level as full time employees. The burden of having to pay the amount of money proposed for part time employees would put them at such a financial hardship that many part time county employees may have to drop their health insurance and go uninsured. This would not be productive to have uninsured merit employees working in the county and is not fair to employees as they were hired with the understanding of full benefits. In a time where health insurance in this country is a major issue, do not drop the benefits for employees that have been hired and promised full benefits.

County benefits are the reason I accepted and have kept my job in Fairfax County for many years and I have considered it as part of my salary since surrounding jurisdictions have offered higher paying positions. Proposing to cut health insurance for part time employees is reducing pay for these employees and is not fair. They depend on these benefits and many employees will not be able to afford to keep their health insurance because of the increase that employees will have to take on. The county should honor their promise to employees to keep the same level of current county contributions and not place this enormous financial burden on their employees that make the least amount of money.

Clinic Room Aides are essential in the school system. Their knowledge is invaluable and reducing their hours in the schools would be a dangerous situation.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

April 13, 2009 Dear Chairman Bulova, The Friends of Green Spring Gardens board would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to testify at the recent County Budget Hearings. We know that budgetary pressures are serious and appreciate the difficult decisions that must be made in FY2010. Our concern is the serious impact to Fairfax County parks from budget decisions made by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Resource Management Division of FCPA is being hit particularly hard. Proposed site staff cuts will weaken parks through staffing losses, cut popular programs and erode FCPA's mission of service to the public. Administrative assistant positions are being abolished at the nine parks. Only one administrative assistant works at most parks and often does double-duty, both teaching classes and supporting visitor services The administrative assistant jobs are critical to the smooth operation of parks. Parks are already operating with minimal staff and budget. Since 1999, RMD has seen a -3% reduction in personnel compared with a 28% increase in staff at Park Authority headquarters. Other key positions at parks are being eliminated as well. At Green Spring, the Community Horticulture Program Coordinator position is being abolished. This valuable employee supervises two seasonal workers and coordinates the popular Farmers Markets program, the Community Garden Plot program and the Master Gardener Training Program. There are eleven weekly Farmers Markets in Fairfax County serving thousands of people, six hundred and eighty-two garden plots and one hundred and forty-two master gardeners. This is an active and valuable community-outreach position that greatly benefits the citizens of Fairfax County. New Master Gardeners are trained each year and then do volunteer service in the county. Master Gardeners have contributed over 14,550 volunteer hours teaching at county schools and at Green Spring, creating exhibits for public libraries and working at the Fairfax County Extension Office among other volunteer efforts. To lose the coordinator position would mean losing a very valuable resource in volunteer hours and in services to the county and to Green Spring Gardens. This program cannot survive without a dedicated coordinator. We ask that you not cut the Park Authority budget because these jobs will be lost if you do. The Park Authority is .08% of the county's budget but the damage of these cuts will impact many county residents. The parks' ability to serve the public will greatly diminish. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Please consider charging a nominal "per car" fee for Fairfax County parks that are threatened by budget cuts. For $2 a car, revenue would be generated to keep visitor services intact at park, to save staff jobs and to help support natural resource protection. The Virginia State Parks charge $4 per car. Please consider doing the same.

Please do not cut the Senior Centers Budget any more. Do not close any more Senior Center.

I am disturbed that the county is spending resources to investigate outsourcing SACC programs and is considering doing so. I am a parent of a SACC child and I am 100% satisfied with the SACC program as it is. I strongly oppose the outsourcing of this well run program and hope that this initiative to outsource is put to rest once and for all.

I can't figure out how this so called AAA county allowed itself to be in this situation. You all claim such greatness you should have a big enough rainy day fund that it should carry the expenses of the county for several years. Just what I always said fairfax county should be know as the county that likes to toot its own horn. I work and live in the county and I have yet to see the greatness.

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please consider the overall stress and health of the workplace when part-time employees' benefits are reduced. This will force many employees to not participate in health insurance at all and will place more stress on the workplace when employees are too sick to come to work but can't afford to go to the doctor. Shouldn't taking care of all merit county employees be our main concern? Also the county should honor commitments made to employees at the time of hiring. These proposed cuts would affect part-time employees permanently, not just during hard times. That is not fair to employees that have put in years towards retirement with the county. Please consider saving health care amounts for part-time employees. It's the right thing to do.

I am a parent of two children who currently attend SACC at Lorton Station Elementary School and a voting resident in your district. My children will both be attending Laurel Hill, one of the two proposed schools to have a pilot program and not SACC. I urge you and the other members of the board to reconsider this and fund a SACC program at Laurel Hill Elementary School. Both of my children have unfortunately been in private centers. These centers have never been able to provide or offer all the advantages that the SACC program does. The teachers involved with SACC provide excellent care for my children and offer so many valuable opportunities for my kids on a daily basis. They not only ensure my children are safe, but they are helping them become a part of their community. Every day my children are given the opportunity to participate in sports, games, art projects, cooking projects, theatrical productions, computer activities, cultural events and numerous other activities. In addition, this program has teachers who are dedicated and stay with the program for years. They continually expand their knowledge and skills so that they can provide more for my children. This cannot be said about any privately run program. Taking away this program and privatizing it is going to be a the detriment of our children. In addition, I find it appalling that this is being considered in new schools where children are already going through significant changes. A new school, new teachers, new environment and now a new type of before and after care program. As a parent of SACC and a voting resident of Fairfax County, I don't understand why the county is considering removing a benchmark after school program that is fully funded by the fees we, as parents, pay. To only replace it for a pilot program that quite frankly I am not convinced can even come close to what SACC offers. I urge you to reconsider the pilot program and take the new revenue the county will receive from the increase in SACC program fees beginning in Sept 09 to start new SACC programs at Laurel Hill Elementary School and the Cooper Mine site. There is a reason the SACC program has a waiting list, it is a superior program to anything offered in the area!

The current crisis is going to have a negative effect in our community in the near future, some families are having a hard time trying to provide to their families, the budget cut on the family services program (cut of one social worker) will have a great impact in our county. More help will be needed to prevent gang activity, and more help on the after school programs and mentoring programs. Please try to keep this program for our benefit and our children's future

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Please do not vote to eliminate the 595 & 597 Connector bus routes. These routes provide Pentagon and Crystal City employees with superb service. I understand you can take a different Connector route to the metrorail, but the metrorail is so unreliable. I used to take that route to Crystal city until I realized the 597 existed. It literally cut my transit time in half. I've talked with others that ride my bus and many of them are going to start driving if these routes are eliminated. This is going to cause even more congestion on the roads. They all state the metrorail is just too unreliable and it takes twice as long to get to their jobs. Many also said they would be willing to pay more than the current $3 fare charged for these routes. Most said up to $5 dollars. Could you consider that over complete elimination? The buses are almost always completely full. A fare hike will almost double the revenue generated by these routes. I always brag about how great this bus service is to other metro area bus riders. I've never had any issues with the service and they are always on time. I appreciate you taking the time to consider my suggestions.

I am the president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, a group that studies and discusses the historical events of one of our country's great yet horrific moments - the end of slavery and the redefinition of our country - all of which took about 650,000 American lives. We often study local history because many of the Civil War events occurred in and near Fairfax County. We have over 200 members and average 80 - 95 members who attend our meetings the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Centreville Library 7 - 9 pm. On occasions, we have had over 100 attend a meeting. I'm concerned about our loss of meeting facilities at the Library. The proposals to reduce library hours will force our group to relocate and find another place to meet. We do not have a large treasury and cannot pay rental fees, which will limit what we will be able to use for our meetings. The group needs to meet in the western part of the county due to our need to remain near Manassas & Centreville. However, in the proposed budget, all libraries that will be allowed to have after-hours activities will be in the northern and central parts of the counties. Only two of these, Reston and Tyson, will have meeting rooms large enough for our group's meeting, both of which are too far from Centreville. Another result of the reduced hours will be that the Centreville Lib. will lose our support (money and time) for their Friends of the Library's treasury. If you cannot extend Centreville's library hours on one weekday evening to 9 pm, would you please allow it to have after-hours activities? FYI, there are several Civil War history signs placed on the lawn of the Centreville Library which relate the historical events of Centreville and Manassas during the Civil War.

As an environmentally conscious person, I think that the elimination of any bus service is a severe dis-service to the environment. Any time a bus is eliminated one hundred or more private cars must be placed in service to replace it. Any reduction in bus service also places an unfair transportation burden on those least able to afford alternative transportation. For social and environmental reasons, please don't curtail any current bus services.

The Fairfax County Government can use its own team of interpreters and translators who work for the Fairfax County Public Schools and that will be much cheaper than contracting the same work to other outside companies (ie. INTERPRETER COST= FCPS $17-$19 per hour VS $50+)..... Why doesn't anyone try to fix situations like these, where two departments will not connect and interface?

Comments from the Public on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Why is the College Partnership Program on the proposed cut list? This program helps the entire NOVA area by: - Engages more students in their studies and accomplishments. - Improves the well being of many minority and underprivileged families. - Reduces the juvenile related crimes. - Gives the students a goal and makes them proud to be a student. - Reduces gang violence, crimes and gang recruitments. - Helps the Self Sufficiency Program that the county is spending so much budget on. - etc.....

I have a disability that does not allow me to drive. What I think the board of supervisors needs to know is that the 929 is a commuter bus. Everybody has called in explaining and with the question on what are we to do. Please if you could forward this to the board of supervisors please let them know that you have over 100 commuters that use that route. What I do not think the board of supervisors is realizing and to blind to see is that there are people that do not drive so they use these buses to commute to work. If the 929 can't be stay running what can be done? Is it possible for you to talk with the board of supervisors because you have no only me but over 100 people panicking about this.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Maybe you have thought about this already, but I was talking with co-workers about the potential of offering reduced hours to county staff instead of RIFs. I can only speak for myself, and while reducing my hours would be difficult financially, it seems the lesser of two evils when weighted against RIFs and coworkers or spouse loosing jobs. I would consider reduced hours if I were able to maintain my benefit levels AND with the agreement that when in better budget times I could go back to a full 40 hour week. . . ie: it wouldn't be a permanent solution. Could this be a possible solution and could it be offered as an alternative or even offered as an elective before RIF/Layoff processes. Just a thought, Thanks for listening .

Suggestion . . . The pond in front of Herrity . . . . How much money could we save annually if we turn it into a urban forestry park area that is designed and maintained by the LDS Urban Forest division with native plants and a walking path with benches; similar to what Wetland Solutions has done behind their building in Prince William County. It seems that paying NV pools to service this pond each year is expensive. While the initial cost to fill-in and prepare a native park area may be costly the first year, subsequent years would be significantly less and would provide a nice area for both employees, the children in the ECCC, and customers to enjoy more than a fountain AND . . . the geese would stop using it as a bathroom and nursery. Additionally, what a great opportunity for LDS to demonstrate to the public ways to keep Fairfax naturally pretty and environmentally friendly.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As a therapist in a long term housing program I am concerned about the proposal to cut TTAP. I have witnessed the individuals we serve decompensate when they attempt to transition from a group home to long term housing. The individuals tend to find it incredibly difficult to go from having nearly 24 hour contact with staff to weekly contact, at best. We need to keep our transitional housing programs intact in order to assist individuals with the transition.

I am writing to advocate that the Transitional Therapeutic Apartment Program within the CSB be spared from the impending budget cuts in FY 2010. The current proposal allows individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness to maintain their housing, while offering them no residential supports to maintain it. These supports are essential to the success of the individuals in the program, as they provide on-site assistance to consumers who have been unable to maintain independent living in the past. These services allow staff to monitor mental health stability in natural environments. They allow staff to assess areas of needed improvement in activities of daily living, critical for maintaining independent living. They permit staff to assess consumer's needs and link them with appropriate community resources. They provide an outlet for consumers to address numerous problems with roommate relations that would otherwise sabotage their recovery. Without these services, consumers may face problems maintaining mental health stability, performing and perfecting daily living skills, accessing necessary resources, and mediating roommate disputes. The potential for these problems is greatly increased by the elimination of residential services to these individuals. Aside from the obvious risk of inability to successfully complete the program, additional indirect consequences that can be anticipated are poor relations with apartment leasing offices, the loss of leases, necessary police involvement, and a greater demand for emergency services. Also the likelihood of an individual being placed in permanent housing is drastically diminished once it is established that they could not maintain temporary housing. In short, eliminating these services is setting up consumers for failure due to the lack of support that they will be able to receive. The elimination of three full time mental health therapist positions also has significant negative consequences for other mental health consumers as well. In South County, the TTAP program falls under the umbrella of Supervised and Supportive Services. This team also provides residential services to six other Adult Residential Services programs. In total, the team serves approximately 95 clients. If the TTAP therapist position is eliminated, only SIX clients will be removed from the roster. However, a full-time therapist carries an average caseload of approximately 18-20 clients. The difference of 12-14 clients would have to be added to the caseload of the remaining three county therapists and one contract employee. As a result of their increased caseload, they would have to reduce the services that they are providing to consumers in other programs in order to compensate. This jeopardizes the mental health stability and housing security of all the consumers being served in this area. While I understand that none of the proposals for budget cuts were made easily, I strongly urge you to reconsider cuts to the TTAP program on behalf of the clients, their families, and the team that cares very strongly for their welfare. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I am a long term Fairfax County employee with three years and 10 months before retirement; nevertheless, I strongly recommend a reduction in staff.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

During the presentation of the proposed budget by County Executive Tony Griffin to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Linda Smyth asked if part-time options for employees were evaluated as part of the proposed budget cuts. I would like to encourage the county to evaluate these types of options for working families, in particular those who have just had children or adopted children. The ability to work part-time (without the risk of your job being eliminated) will help the county in terms of potentially losing staff when families are forced to choose between families and work after 12 weeks of family leave. Offering part-time work, even on a limited basis before returning full-time, would help the county in retaining employees with institutional knowledge. Our agency has a significant gap in our staff--we have many staff with 20+ years of experience, and the next highest group I would guess is those with less than 5 years of experience. Keeping options open for the second group will help with staff retention, institutional knowledge, and help to address staffing issues that will develop with upcoming retirements. Thank you for your consideration.

I think there is considerable interest in positions being shared or the possibility of having more part-time employees. This not only saves the County money, it preserves jobs and allows the County to retain talent that it might otherwise not being able to keep. Please consider analyzing the effect of job-sharing and part-time employment, and think of the long-term position the County will be in if there are retirements and many of the younger employees have been laid off.

I need some money

I respectfully request that you reconsider cutting the Administrative Assistants from the Park Authority. I wonder if you have considered the cost the county will incur once I apply for unemployment and utilize the SkillSource resources you will contract for to help displaced county employees. Let alone the impact on customer service that will disappear when my position is handled by a different person each day and throughout the day at my site. Truthfully, I think this was just an easy way out of your budget problem. There are other positions that do not contribute on an hourly/daily/weekly basis within the park authority that should have been considered.

I would like to provide the following for consideration in your budget preparations. I have been employed by the Fairfax County Health Department for over 20 years and have weathered several challenging budgets. The FY2010 budget is by far the most demanding in balancing the needs of the community through providing services while being sensitive to the hardships of the tax payers. The Health Department currently has a fully functional laboratory that provides sample analysis to the different departments within Patient Care Services, Environmental Health, and other county agencies. Most local health districts have no local laboratory and must rely on the State's Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services located in Richmond. This unique level of local laboratory services isn't good enough and the agency is now in the planning process of renovating an elementary school in Fairfax City and building a new laboratory. This endeavor is a multi-million dollar project that is extreme and extravagant during this economy and budget crisis. I find it most disturbing that budget cut proposals have been submitted for your consideration to eliminate vital services that assist the tax payers, primarily within Environmental Health with no mention of the new laboratory construction.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Regarding Part time Health Benefits employer contribution proposed changes: I am not a part time employee, however, I feel this is ridiculous with a hidden agenda to RIF part-time employees without the real RIF process. This is so absurd, these people won't be able to afford to work here with this proposal, we are going to loose GOOD employees who fill a HUGE need in our department, we have a job share partnership in my department where both work the same four hours, during lunch time, to cover customer service functions when wait times are the highest. When you do this, they WILL leave, and we will be faced with excessive wait times and poor and rushed customer service . . .and we will loose GREAT people. So when customers complain to the Board, and they will (they always do). . are YOU going to tell the Board member "oh well?". I think we need to be very careful about how deep we are making these cuts, because while you say the service expectation will be reduced, the truth is, it won't be-we will still be held to the same expectation. I have already seen it- you say "limit overtime" but when a Board member calls and says "come" we can't tell them No. . . . instead we get special exceptions for overtime- the old phrase, do more with less-is getting old. Please don't do this to our staff, please don't penalize them for working part time-they benefit us greatly and serve to fill a huge gap!

Listed below are some of the suggestions for balancing the FY2010 budget: 1. No overtime or no comp time unless it is required by your job. (police, fire & rescue, etc.) 2. No training or travel unless it is required for certification or for requirement of a current job. 3. No Equipment or vehicle purchases unless it is a necessity in doing business. 4. No more DROP program. It is a wonderful program if it works. But the reality is that many people do not actually transfer the knowledge and it is a loop hole where people abuse the program. It's extra income for them. 5. Think zero cost budgeting in cases with overtime/comp time, travel, training, equipment/computer/vehicle purchases, office supplies, and miscellaneous operating expenses. 6. Hold off/Defer any major projects if it's not underway. 7. This is the time to look at each agency especially agencies funded by general fund. To monitor closely if each program or each benefit (i.e. telework, etc.) is working. Let us not become complacent. We're stewards of taxpayers' money. It is our personal responsibility.

Eliminate take home vehicles or charge employees the going mileage rate for the privilege of taking home a vehicle. In the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office, there are many officers and deputies who take home vehicles, especially unmarked ones.

Please don't cut the part time employees health insurance, or increase the amount that we would have to pay!! This would be an EXTREME hardship - you would lose employees who have valuable experience due to their need to find other employment with needed health insurance benefits that are affordable....

I just am concerned about the information being circulated about January 2010 employee contribution increases for the health plans for the County. My plan, Cigna, is rumored to increase 18%. If true, that would take a nice bite out of what I assume will be my last raise for at least two years. That is hard enough to take. Please consider doing what you can to reduce the amount of increase to the employee contribution portion of our health plan.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I keep hearing that the people in the drop program are seasoned workers. My experience with these seasonal workers is that they know they are short timers and they are lazy. We have a new system and they can't grasp the new technology. They still want to do things the old way. The new people are the ones who keep our department running smoothly.

I don't understand the following Rumor Buster FAQ answer. Is the county considering offering employees close to retirement an early retirement or buyout package? No. The only way the county saves money through an early retirement or buyout package, is if the person retires and the position is abolished and it is never recreated. MY COMMENT/QUESTION: If a 20-year employee were to retire and be replaced by a new hire, would not the County save money by the lower salary of the new hire?

Will the Board and the directors get increases in there pay like they have in the past when times were so hard?

The Public Library Agency is as much an educational institution as the Public School Agency. It needs more than 1.25% of the budget to function. A 15% reduction in this percentage will greatly impair the service offered to the community. It would seem that the Public School Agency could share part of their 54% of the budget to help FCPL continue without a 50% reduction in Page Staff and a reduction in the hours of operation.

I have been a part-time merit employee with Fairfax County for almost twenty-nine (29) years, and I have lived my entire life in Fairfax County.

I understand that these are difficult economic times and difficult decisions must be made. However, the proposal to cut health insurance contributions for part-time employees not only creates fundamental fairness issues, it also contradicts the image I have of Fairfax County taking pride in doing what is right**. Like the other part-time merit employees affected, I accepted employment with Fairfax County almost 29 years ago with the understanding that I was being given health insurance at the same cost as full time merit employees. It is extremely unfair to take this benefit away after employment choices were based on this and after long standing career decisions have been made.**

This is affecting almost 400 employees and is only saving $800,000. It is true that some jurisdictions may not offer part-time employees health benefits paid at the same contribution level as full time employees. However, I never even considered working in one of these jurisdictions. The offer of the health insurance was what made me choose Fairfax County for employment, even though it was not a high grade level position.

My bi-weekly health insurance contribution will increase almost $300 per pay period, for a total contribution of $11,464 per year. I do not even have enough take home pay to cover this amount and will have to pay the County in order to fund my deductions. **At a time when our country is very focused on the number of uninsured people, Fairfax County is proposing to make health insurance very unaffordable for 400 people.** **(continued next page)**

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

One third of the McLean Community Center's (MCC) employees where I am currently employed are part-time. I have completed Master's level work, but have worked in a relatively low level position because, like the other ten part-time employees who are employed by my agency, it fit my needs to work part-time. Out of our eleven part-time employees, nine have Bachelor's degrees with two having completed some Masters level work. One has an Associate's degree with only a year more to complete his Bachelor's degree. I believe that the better educated and qualified you are, the more likely you are to be able to best serve the citizens of Fairfax County; and I believe the County has been getting quite a "bargain" by having these well educated and well qualified employees even in low level part-time positions.

According to the first two employees hired at MCC which opened in 1975 (one of whom was the original director for approximately 25 years), they had high employee turnover rates**. Because of the difficulties attracting and retaining top quality employees, they promoted job shares and merit part-time positions, which, of course, included the offer of the same health insurance contributions as full time employees received. This attracted the type of high caliber employees the center wished to employ to promote the appropriate image for the Center.**

Since both full time and part-time merit positions employees were promised the same health insurance contribution when they were hired, if difficult decisions must be made, both groups should bear the burden. A possible alternative solution to consider would be to require EVERY Fairfax County employee to pay an additional amount per pay period towards their health insurance. An extra $10 from each employee would save MUCH more than the $800,000 proposed cost savings from part-time employees.

The County could propose to no longer offer this benefit to incoming part-time merit employees, but grandfather the current merit employees. Loudoun County, for example, grandfathered all current part-time employees when they changed to a prorated contribution. In addition, there is evidently no proposal to change the current benefit plan for Fairfax County Public School part-time employees. **The important point about other jurisdictions is that they have not tried to attract non-union part-time employees by providing health insurance based on equal contributions. Fairfax County HAS solicited this segment of the workforce for decades; and in fact, part-time work in the form of job shares was very much encouraged and promoted by the County. Not surprisingly, it appears that around 90% of the affected employees are women, and most probably older women.**

In summary, it is unfair to make health insurance unaffordable to part-time merit employees who were recruited and hired with the promise of the same County contribution towards health insurance as full time employees. For almost 29 years, I have relied on that promise. This will impact 400 employees and will only save the County $800,000. Although I have certainly enjoyed working for Fairfax County and serving the public all of these years, the impact will be devastating, since in my own case, my premium will increase by almost $300 per pay period to $11,464 per year. Please, at the very least, grandfather in Fairfax County's current part-time employees, and if necessary, increase premiums for everyone.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Recently employed individuals are working for establishments that have contractual agreements with Fairfax County. They have managed to get schedules to accommodate their jobs outside Fairfax County; meanwhile, other staff members work hours which are not consistent with their natural body clock. How effective are employees under these circumstances? Does it cost the county more money in sick leave pay?

I am a probationary employee who will be 1 month short of Merit when the RIF goes into effect. I have worked extremely hard since being with Fairfax County, and feel that I have proven myself as a worthy, and dedicated employee. I do not want to lose my job. PLEASE look at other ways to cut spending, and save us hard working employees who can only make Fairfax County a stronger, better place for the future. Thank you for your consideration.

It is imperative to review the schedules of the residential programs and make necessary changes to accommodate the needs of the facility; in oppose to those employed at other non-profit organizations. Is it cost effective to have schedules changes to compliment the outside work schedule? Are part-time employees being utilized unnecessarily?

I don't understand why part-time employees are receiving full-time benefits. I agree that their benefits should be reduced to 50%.

Why are county vehicles being used for personal use? We can save money by not allowing employees to take county vehicles to their home residences.

The Library should charge for the use of the meeting rooms.

Comment for the current budget: As an employee and resident of Fairfax County I don't feel we have a need for 4 Fire Boats here. I have been a resident and employee for 13 YEARS and I have never heard of a need for fire boats. I really think that is CRAZY. Spending $200.00 for fire boats when people will probably be laid off. One of the ways to save money is to stop having lights on in the Massey Building 24 hours a day that's about 500 offices.

The positions that are facing cuts could be saved by offering buy outs to people close to retirement. Eliminate that position instead of a person with less seniority. Example: 1 position in a department faces elimination offer the person close to retirement a buy out and eliminate that position. This will allow the person with the least seniority position to be saved.

Please do the right thing and find another way to save money other than taking it from the small group of part-timers by raising their healthcare contributions to a staggering amount which by 2011 will leave practically nothing in the paychecks of this small group who can ill afford it. I have suggested some solutions which I hope you will take into consideration. "Grandfather" in the existing part-time employees who were promised full benefits at the time of being hired. Include full-timers as well as part-timers in contributing just $10.00 per month. This would save the county over one million dollars. ($15.00 per month would save over two million dollars!) This would share the burden and relieve the potential hardship on the part-timers. Furlough days for ALL employees.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

In response to Chairman Bulova's budget proposal, I don't agree. If you want to free up dollars to preserve public safety employees, why not stop overtime to public safety employees, or stop dollars that are going out to illegal immigrants. "Both Democratic and Republican supervisors have said they favor cutting the affordable housing fund, which would partly unravel a signature policy of Bulova's predecessor, Gerald E. Connolly, who was elected to Congress in November. The move would free up dollars to preserve public safety employees." Your suggestion just hurts the backs of those that work for you, but can't afford to live with you. We need to preserve affordable housing. We need to save the environment. Allow more teleworking. Stop allowing employees to take home county vehicles (they are not using them for emergency, they are using the vehicles for personal use). Stop putting people in danger by overworking emergency personnel. They should not have overtime.

With the current "trend" throughout the US of budget cuts resulting in people losing their jobs in such a tough economy, this is the perfect opportunity for Fairfax County Government to stand out, step up and stop this trend by NOT letting people go!!!! I have 7+ years with the County and do not want to be part of the reason someone loses their job. Probationary employees ARE STILL EMPLOYEES!!! Don't let good, hard working, people go and add them to the pool of the unemployed. Before anyone loses a job, you should ask the County Employees if they are willing to take another furlough day or a possible "employee fund" deduction out of their paycheck, if this would allow the county to not let anyone go. Save our own people!!!!!

I think the Supervisors would do well to remember that the only people who are required, by law, to be at a given location at prescribed times, who have occasion to avail themselves of county health department provided services, are children. Any cutbacks of service hours by clinic room aides increases the chance that any medical emergency or injury will not receive the proper attention or care thus resulting in a less than acceptable outcome.

I feel it is very necessary to reinstate the 33.00 automobile decal fee if this will avoid the budget cuts in the fire and safety positions, keep police school resource officers, and officers at shopping malls. Community safety should never be jeopardized, and for the welfare of all residents in the County we should not have fire and safety positions cut including school resource officers and officers assigned to shopping malls. I believe that the 33.00 decal fee will help the county budget deficit and it is a small amount for each person to pay once per yr so it will not place a large financial burden on only a select group of residents. Homeowners are facing a tax increase and this is a large financial burden. Reinstating the auto decal fee is way to not cut the fire and safety positions and place a relatively small financial burden of 33.00 on all residents who own vehicles. Also, I believe county employees should not have an increase in health care premiums. As a county employee with a family we provide services to the county and should be able to afford health care and not face an increase in health care premiums. Health care premiums are expensive as is and placing the financial burden on the employees who work hard to provide services for the county is unfair. Many employees chose Fairfax county as their employer because of the attractive benefit packages. If we continue to increase health care premiums we may have a high turnover and staff will leave and this jeopardizes continuity of services to residents. Please do not increase health care premiums we have to provide for our families as well.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

Enactment of the proposal to cut the benefits of part-time employees will hurt both employees and the county. County employees accepted their positions with the understanding and good faith that full benefits were provided. Many will no longer be able to afford to work for the county. The county will lose extensive experience and expertise. If fewer benefits for part-time county employees seem a sound fiscal move for the future, a grandfather clause protecting the benefits of those already in place, will help to alleviate potential impairment to the county.

I have been working for Fairfax County for 15 years. When the opportunity came for my wife to apply for a position with Fairfax County Public Schools, I encouraged her wholeheartedly. She gave up her position in the private sector to come to work for the county, and has thrived in that position from her first day. How proud we both were then to serve the needs of the public in a county such as Fairfax! Now, there is a strong likelihood that she will be forced out of her position due to no fault of her own. This comes despite many, many accolades about her performance. This is especially troubling because the two of us now know full well how foolishly budget dollars are spent in both of our departments, as well as the many departments with which we interact. I find it incredibly shortsighted to lose even one position in the schools, the courts, or in Fire or Police personnel when hundreds of thousands of dollars are wasted frivolously on the public. There is not room to mention what I have observed or heard about how some tax dollars are used, but we all know full well that this is the case. The savings in cutting personnel would pale in comparison to the savings that would be realized if a rationale, results based approach was implemented when shelling out all of the money to undeserving and fraudulent people who abuse the system. How sad to think that my family's housing and overall well being is at great risk, when abuses and waste permeate the county. I guess we should simply then turn our efforts to looking for the handouts that so many of our clients receive! Fairfax County should be embarrassed to ever cut a hard working, outstanding professional. Why do I feel as though I wasted my time even writing this? Does anyone in charge really care? Sure seems like she made the wrong decision to put her future in the hands of the vaunted FCPS system!

My comment is about future budgets more than this one. I think it would be an excellent idea if Fairfax County would pursue establishing a modest meals tax that could be earmarked to support its efforts to build affordable housing and provide supportive services to chronically homeless individuals and families. All other locations surrounding us have a meals tax-its a painless way of raising revenue and collecting some revenue from the many thousands of persons who work in Fairfax, rely upon its services, but don't live here. I assure you that I am not aware of even one person who takes into account whether there is a meals tax when making the decision to dine out. Such a tax would mean that by dining out in Fairfax, we could be helping many others dine in their own homes. Thank you

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

As Fairfax County residents and Virginia Retirement System Health Department employees, we feel the County can save money by addressing one or both of the following issues. Our records show that there are 14 VRS Health Department employees currently eligible for full retirement; 6 eligible in 2010; and 4 eligible in 2011. We've all read the Courier story on buyouts, and we've heard it is not cost effective for the County to do this. However, we think that's a standard answer for ERS/uniform folks, and we get lumped into this response. The fact is we are a different breed. When we retire we're off the County's books (except for a health premium supplement differential the County agreed to in 2005). We revert back to the State. The County saves by no longer paying VRS our retirement contributions, nor does it have to pay our pensions; the State does that. How could it not be cost effective for the County to buy us out, especially when many of our positions might not have to be refilled? Some form of buyout should be considered for Health Department VRS personnel if the County is truly looking for ways to cut the budget. Our second suggestion is to create some sort of modified DROP program in which our VRS members could participate. (The State currently has a PLOP program, which only reduces an employee's pension.) As the County knows, DROP is a very low cost program with real benefit to employees and to the County. Allowing us to participate in a specially designed, similar program would again allow the County to save money by no longer contributing retirement contributions to the State on our behalf, a savings of 13%-14% of each employee's salary. VRS Health Department Representatives

1. Too much cutting from the worker bees, and not enough cutting of queen bees. (How much sense does it make for a grade 25 to be typing, filing, copying, etc.?) Many of these queen bees have to justify their existence. How do they do that? Spend money, come up with more programs, or require lower ranking workers to do more paperwork for them to gather statistics. 2. Circuit Court did not bear a fair proportion of the cut. Do you expect houses to sell at the rate they were in 2004 any time soon? Land Records will not be busy for a number of years. While Mr. Frey was gaming the system by suggesting that the law clerks and court clerks be cut - knowing that the BOS would never do that to judges - there are 15 judges, 15 law clerks, and Lexis-Nexis. It it a relatively recent phenomena that there is a 1 to 1 ratio of clerks to judges, and that started before the wide-spread use of Lexis-Nexis. Cuts could have been made there, too. Mr. Frey also has too many queen bees.
3. Mr. Horan, when the Commonwealth Attorney, ran an office that was drastically understaffed and underfunded. (Check the Northern Virginia Legal Directory. No other court in Northern Virginia had a lower ratio of prosecutors to judges. This impacts court efficiency, and the ability of police officers to determine many issues in a timely manner.) Mr. Morrough's budget should not only NOT be cut, it should be increased.

In my opinion, this budget problem can be fixed by just focusing on the redundancies which will not affect any services but increase efficiency to a great deal. If there are more than one Directors/Managers and assistant Directors/assistant managers, then the layers can be scraped off. For example: There is no need to have a director and assistant director for different agencies of the human services when we have a director of the human services. That one person should oversee all the agencies. Also in each department, there are layers of managers to create confusion and redundancies. We can work efficiently my reducing some unwanted management layering.

Comments from County Employees on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

I recommend that the County issue monthly furlough days in order to save county positions and avoid RIFS. As an employee I would be willing to make this sacrifice in order to save positions and keep continuity of services. If the County issues RIFS and creates a reduction in public safety positions this puts more demands on public safety staff and place residents at risk. Please consider monthly County employee furlough days as a means to keep public safety positions and avoid RIFs in other departments.

As a resident of this county for the past 28 years and a county employee of 21 years with the library system, I am amaze how we have been treated in the last few months. 1. We are now asked to work, not only our regular Saturday but also a 4 hours shift on Sunday to cover the Regional Libraries which are going to be open only 4 hours. It could be that we will be working both weekends or Saturday and Sunday in one weekend. We were ask; 1. two take Annual Leave for the 4 hours left in that pay period 2. work for a 9 1/2 hours every week day. Full Time employees are working the same hours of the part-time staff at nights, but are paid less for the same hours (shift-differential). The County Employee is the Best Employee.

Many services are provided to Fairfax County consumers with the consumer responsible for a sliding scale fee-based on family income and dependents. REQUIRE consumers to provide documentation. (IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN BUT NOT SUPPORTED) Many consumers do NOT make regular payments on their accounts. Large outstanding balances with little or NO Payment seem to have been the norm for some time. Require the AGENCY to truly expect payment. Consider payment before service. PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED. While this will not resolve the budget issue it could help.

I am concerned with the reduction in security. In the current environment with the economy and job reductions, our employees will be at greater risk in dealing with citizens. Plus there is a great rise in work place violence across the nation. As large a County Government as we are, we have managed to avoid any serious incidents (except for our public safety area, which suffered a serious loss). We need to ensure our employees and citizens that they are safe in our County facilities.

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- All employees eligible for retirement should be asked to retire.
- No Athletic Service Fee Increase from representative of youth soccer. Soccer represents approximately 50% of usage.
- Cuts for Parks are too large, including for Huntley Meadows.
- Save School Resource Officers
- Ensure health insurance still available to Clinic Room Aides if their hours get cut.

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- Real Estate Tax rate increase is outrageous.
- All employees eligible for retirement should be asked to retire. Explore options like furlough, shortening days, reducing pay for employees making more than $45,000 per year.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours, FASTRAN for seniors and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours, FASTRAN for seniors and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut one day of hot lunches for seniors.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours, FASTRAN for seniors and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- What is going to happen to temporary assistance provided to the County through contracts?
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
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- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Public safety issues on Route 1 corridor are considerable - do not make reductions to Police.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Saturday line dances at the Herndon Senior Center
- Please do not reduce senior hot lunches 1 day a week.
- Please do not cut Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut the Wakefield Senior Center.

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- Please do not reduce senior hot lunches 1 day a week.
- Please do not cut Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- If cuts have to occur at Herndon Senior Center please start later and close Saturday and have hot lunches Tuesday through Friday.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut the Wakefield Senior Center.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- If cuts have to occur at Herndon Senior Center please close earlier rather than opening later so am classes are not impacted.
- Please do not cut Saturday line dances at the Herndon Senior Center
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Do not increase taxes or bring back decal fee. Ok with not paying more.
- Protest increase of Athletic Service Fee by almost 2 1/2 times. If need to increase do more proportionate to reductions elsewhere - in 15 to 20 % range.
- Oppose cuts to senior services.
- Originally objected to increase in taxes but recognize need to balance after reading March 12 article on MR services.
- Please do not cut the Wakefield Senior Center.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut the Wakefield Senior Center.
- Oppose cuts to senior services.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Please do not cut Greensprings gardens horticulture programs.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut Greensprings gardens horticulture programs.
- Oppose any tax increases.
- Please do not cut Greensprings gardens horticulture programs.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- What is the benefit of eliminating library pages if the cost to finding additional positions is incurred. What is the cost?
- Costs have increased in spending in recent years, rather than tax increases need to cut central costs.

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- Shortfall results from excessive spending and poor management.
- Therapeutic rec cuts are very troubling.
- Please do not cut the Groveton Senior Center.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 922.
- Please do not change or cut SACC.
- Please do not cut Greensprings gardens horticulture programs.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 952.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 304.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 305.
- Please do not cut the Wakefield Senior Center.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 595.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 952.
- Please do not cut election satellite offices.
- Please do not cut election satellite offices.
- Please do not cut Alcohol and Drug Services or Mental Health or child development programs. Do not like it but would prefer cuts to Parks and Libraries than the other categories.
- Oppose cuts to Parks.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Use just 1 VRE Easy Pass bus at the Burke VRE in each direction rather than 2.
- Oppose cuts to Senior on the Go.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut the Wakefield Senior Center.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 952.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 952.
- Please do not cut election satellite offices.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR routes 402 and 403.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR routes 402 and 403.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR routes 402 and 403.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 304.
- Employee opposes increased costs in health insurance to part time employees.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 304.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR routes 402 and 403.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 595.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 595.
- Employee opposes increased costs in health insurance to part time employees.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 595.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 929.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Employee opposes increased costs in health insurance to part time employees.
- Employee opposes increased costs in health insurance to part time employees.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut the Groveton Senior Center.
- Oppose reductions in public transportation as inconsistent with energy and pollution efforts. Use CONNECATOR route 553.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Oppose Athletic Service Fee increase.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR routes 402 and 403.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut election satellite offices.
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 556. If cut request RIBS route 4 go to Reston before rather than after Herndon.
- Please do not cut FASTRAN for senior shopping trips or Seniors on the Go.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 380.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut Herndon Senior Center hours and one day of hot lunches.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 301.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 304.
- Oppose reductions to Lincolnia Senior Center.
- Please do not reduce senior services for seniors on fixed incomes.
- Oppose reduction to employee health insurance for part time employees.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 402.
- Oppose reductions to CONNECTOR.
- Please do not cut Seniors on the Go.
- Oppose cuts or changes to SACC.
- Please do not cut election satellite offices.
- Please do not cut election satellite offices.
- Please do not cut election satellite offices.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR routes 402 and 403.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR route 595.
- Oppose reduction to employee health insurance for part time employees.

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- Oppose fees for entry to lakefront parks.
- Please do not cut CONNECTOR routes 402 and 403.
- Please do not cut Greensprings gardens horticulture programs.
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 556
- Oppose Athletic Services Fee Increase
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 403
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 932
- Oppose cuts to Greensprings Garden Park
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 929
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 380
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR routes 595/597
- Oppose Athletic Services Fee Increase
- Oppose reductions to election support
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 305
- Keep reductions to Parks to a minimum
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to satellite absentee ballot sites for elections
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR routes 553,557 and 585
- Oppose reduction in employer contribution for part time employee health insurance
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 304
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 595
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 929
- Make Park cuts in central administration not local parks
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 557 and do not think process communicating cuts or how to voice opinions was good
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reduction in employer contribution for part time employee health insurance
- Support SACC as it currently exists
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 304

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 301
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 292
- Oppose cuts to Huntley Meadows
- Oppose cuts to Frying Pan Farm Park
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 304
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 304
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR
- Support fare increases rather than service cuts to CONNECTOR
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
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- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to FASTRAN and Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to Parks, especially Greensrpings
- Oppose reductions to Parks, especially Greensrpings
- Oppose reductions to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose reductions to CONNECTOR route 952
- Oppose reductions to CONNECTOR route 585
- Oppose reductions at Herndon Senior Center, especially square dancing
- Oppose reductions at Herndon Senior Center
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the Go
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours

Summary Of Telephone Messages Received From Both The Community And Employees On The County Executive's Proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (Comments Through April 17, 2009)

- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center Saturday hours
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 303
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR route 304
- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR routes 402/403
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center especially one lunch a week
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
- Oppose cuts to Seniors on the GO
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- Oppose cuts to CONNECTOR 929
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- Should look at services to illegal immigrants for reduction and savings for the budget
- Support Penny for Affordable Housing
- Oppose cuts to Foreign Language Immersion
- Oppose cuts to Herndon Senior Center