



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) Proposes Online Fiscal Transparency Measure for the Citizens of Fairfax County.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fairfax, VA – Today Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) introduced a motion to create an online budget and expenditure database that will give all of Fairfax County’s taxpayers a simple and easy way to examine how and where their tax dollars are being spent.

“We spend \$6 billion dollars annually in Fairfax County and right now our citizens have no simple way to see exactly where their money is going,” Herrity said. “The citizens of Fairfax County deserve a better way to examine the budget so that they can hold us accountable on spending. This is an important step in making our county government more transparent and open.”

The Federal Government led the way on budget databases with the creation of USAspending.gov. This fully accessible database was the result of “The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006”. The FFAT Act of 2006 was a bi-partisan measure sponsored by Senators Barack Obama (D-Illinois) and Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) and co-sponsored by 46 other senators. This piece of legislation unanimously passed both the House and Senate in September of 2006.

Following the lead of Congress, many states have begun to implement budget databases for their citizens. Since the beginning of 2007 at least 15 different states have enacted some sort of budget transparency legislation. (<http://mapyourtaxes.mo.gov> – Missouri)

This month Virginia State Senators Ken T. Cuccinelli (R- Fairfax) and J. Chapman Peterson (D-Fairfax) brought the concept to Virginia by introducing bi-partisan legislation in the General Assembly that would require the director of the Department of Planning and Budget to maintain a searchable budget database website by July 1st, 2009.

“Creating this database would make us among the first counties in the United States to provide such a resource for their constituents and would keep us on the cutting edge of 21st century technology,” Herrity added.

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