



SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
County of Fairfax
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PKWY
SUITE 530
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035-0071
TELEPHONE: 703/324-2321
FAX: 703/324-3955
TTY: 711

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

June 15, 2017

Dear Fairfax County residents and corporate neighbors,

I am pleased to present to you the Fiscal Year 2018 Adopted Budget Plan.

Calendar year 2017 marks almost a decade since the Great Recession first caused property values to plummet. Since then values have increased annually, only modestly, if at all. This year the average sales price of homes increased by only 1%. The Fiscal Year 2018 Budget is built on an increase in total revenue of just 1.9%. It is balanced in part with \$13 million in savings, reductions, and efficiencies.

In Virginia, counties are given very few revenue tools to pay for services, including schools, public safety, human services, transportation, libraries, parks, public works, and environmental protection. About 80% of our revenue comes from property taxes (real estate and personal property). Other revenues are either capped or controlled by the General Assembly. An attempt to expand and diversify County revenue failed last year when voters rejected a meals tax referendum. Had the referendum been successful, our budget adoption this year would have been very different from I am presenting.

Very few changes have been made to the County Executive's Advertised Budget. Thanks to some Third Quarter and Add-On savings and adjustments, we have been able invest a bit more in some of this Board's highest priorities. By maintaining the advertised ratio of Schools as a percentage of the budget at 52.8%:

- We are able to further increase the Operating Transfer to the Schools by \$1.7 million. This is a total County increase to the Schools of 2.49% including Operating, Debt Service, and Capital.
- We are able to add funding for Diversion First, as well and to restore some of the reductions we received testimony about during our three days of public hearings. With these adjustments, County disbursements also are increased 2.49% in this budget.

The Budget Guidance package is a critical template for moving forward on issues such as Collaboration with the School Board, Employee Pay, Retirement Benefits, Public Safety Compensation and Staffing, and the future of Metro Funding.

The FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan is the result of much hard work and advocacy from my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, the School Board, our General Assembly delegation, County staff, and local residents. I believe this budget will maintain Fairfax County's excellent quality of life.

Adopting the budget is the most important thing our Board does throughout the year. When we adopt the budget we are investing in our community's priorities and it has been critical to have the community at the table with us. Thank you to everyone who called, emailed and testified at town hall meetings and budget public hearings to share your views and guidance on the budget.

I believe an informed and engaged community is a well-served community and this budget is a reflection of what our Board heard from the community this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Bulova". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sharon Bulova