# SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND TRANSFERS IN

					Change from t Revised Buc	
Category	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan <sup>1</sup>	FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Change
Real Estate Taxes - Current and Delinquent	\$2,601,545,806	\$2,649,504,731	\$2,650,038,663	\$2,802,541,647	\$152,502,984	5.75%
Personal Property Taxes - Current and Delinquent <sup>2</sup>	612,907,444	611,766,244	613,684,660	623,430,425	9,745,765	1.59%
Other Local Taxes	513,759,923	515,390,893	514,949,763	521,305,877	6,356,114	1.23%
Permits, Fees and Regulatory Licenses	52,201,079	50,891,047	52,950,742	53,009,977	59,235	0.11%
Fines and Forfeitures	12,725,041	11,684,270	12,089,035	12,178,536	89,501	0.74%
Revenue from Use of Money/Property	29,542,600	32,280,345	41,761,989	49,159,119	7,397,130	17.71%
Charges for Services Revenue from the Commonwealth and Federal Government <sup>2</sup>	81,485,018 137,879,883	81,370,947 131,371,520	81,097,289	81,868,225 132,933,796	770,936 457,509	0.95% 0.35%
Recovered Costs / Other Revenue	16,923,470	16,480,180	16,317,223	16,636,952	319,729	1.96%
Total Revenue	\$4,058,970,264	\$4,100,740,177	\$4,115,365,651	\$4,293,064,554	\$177,698,903	4.32%
Transfers In	10,165,872	10,068,651	10,068,651	10,173,319	104,668	1.04%
Total Receipts	\$4,069,136,136	\$4,110,808,828	\$4,125,434,302	\$4,303,237,873	\$177,803,571	4.31%

<sup>1</sup> FY 2018 revenue estimates were increased a net \$14.6 million as part of the FY 2017 Carryover Review and the fall 2017 review of revenues. Explanations of these changes can be found in the following narrative. The FY 2018 Third Quarter Review may contain further adjustments as necessary.

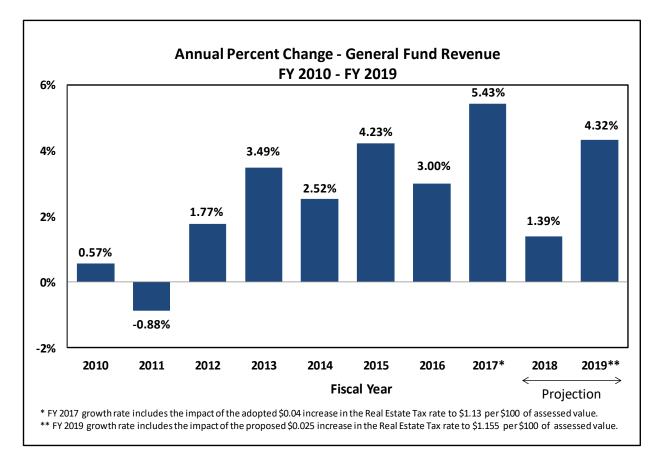
<sup>2</sup> The portion of the Personal Property Tax reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 is included in the Personal Property Tax category for the purpose of discussion in this section.

As reflected in the preceding table, FY 2019 General Fund revenues are projected to be \$4,293,064,554, an increase of \$192,324,377 or 4.7 percent over the <u>FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan</u>. FY 2018 revenue estimates were increased a net \$14.6 million in a number of revenue categories as part of the *FY 2017 Carryover Review* and the fall 2017 review of revenues. As a result, the FY 2019 General Fund revenue reflects an increase of \$177,698,903 or 4.3 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan*. The increase is primarily the result of a \$152.5 million increase in Real Estate Taxes based on rising assessments and an increase in the proposed Real Estate tax rate from \$1.13 to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value. In addition, Personal Property Taxes are projected to increase \$9.7 million due to an increase in vehicle and business levy, Revenue from Use of Money and Property is projected to increase \$6.4 million on projected growth in Local Sales Tax, Transient Occupancy Tax, and Business, Professional, and Occupational License Tax.

Incorporating Transfers In, FY 2019 General Fund receipts are anticipated to be \$4,303,237,873. The Transfers In to the General Fund total \$10.2 million and reflect \$3.9 million from Fund 40030, Cable Communications, \$2.9 million from Fund 69010, Sewer Operation and Maintenance, \$1.1 million from Fund

40100, Stormwater Services, and \$2.3 million from various other funds for indirect support provided by the County's General Fund agencies.

The following chart shows General Fund revenue growth since FY 2010. Revenues have risen at a modest rate, averaging annual increases of 2.3 percent in the period from FY 2010 to FY 2016. General Fund revenue in FY 2017 increased 5.43 percent primarily as a result of a 2.98 percent rise in real estate assessments and a 4-cent increase in the Real Estate tax rate. FY 2018 revenue is expected to increase 1.39 percent as a result of a 1.89 percent rise in real estate assessments, as well as modest growth in other revenue categories. General Fund revenue growth of 4.32 percent is projected in FY 2019 primarily due to a 3.59 percent increase in real estate assessments and a 2.5 cent increase in the proposed Real Estate tax rate from \$1.13 to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value, as well as projected growth in other revenue categories.



## **Economic Indicators**

In 2017, the U.S. economy experienced faster growth than it had in 2016. For all of 2017, real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at a preliminary rate of 2.3 percent, up from 1.5 percent in 2016. Consumer spending, which makes up more than two-thirds of economic activity, grew 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter, compared to 2.2 percent in the third quarter. Overall government expenditures increased 3.0 percent.

At the end of 2017, the unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, matching the lowest level in 17 years. In December, 148,000 jobs were added, which was the 87<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of gains. The U.S. economy added 2.1 million jobs in 2017, another solid year of job gains after 2.2 million jobs were added in 2016. Economists believe that this performance will be hard to repeat in 2018 as the economy has steadily improved, adding jobs at a brisk pace for one of the longest consecutive streaks on record and as the availability of qualified workers is reduced. Signs of a tightening labor market appeared when the Labor

Department announced in its latest report that average hourly earnings grew 2.9 percent in January compared to a year ago, the best gain since June 2009. While it remains to be seen if accelerating wage growth is here to stay, the report caused some to be concerned about the prospect of higher inflation and faster Fed tightening to prevent the overheating of the economy.

After increasing the target range for the federal funds rate for the first time in almost a decade back in December 2015, the Federal Reserve raised the rate again in December 2016 and continued raising it at a gradual pace throughout 2017. Most economists expect three rate hikes in 2018; however, the pace of tightening may accelerate if inflation rises abruptly.

Home prices nationwide continued their rise in 2017. According to the S&P/Case-Shiller home price index, home prices were up 6.4 percent for the 12 months ending November 2017. Demand is not the primary factor in rising home prices. Since 2010, construction of single family homes has been substantially below the long-term average of about one million new homes annually. According to the National Association of Realtors, the available inventory of homes for sale is at its lowest level since 2005 at approximately 4-months' supply compared to a "normal" market of 6-months' supply. Without more supply, and supported by low mortgage interest rates, home prices are likely to continue to rise. Home prices in the Washington Metropolitan area posted a more modest 3.3 percent gain during the same period.

The Washington region's economy has been expanding since the contraction experienced in 2013 and 2014 as a result of the sequester. In 2017, the level of growth was almost on par with that of the national economy in spite of the absence of significant federal spending increases and the diminishing share of the federal sector in the regional economy. According to Dr. Stephen Fuller, a George Mason University professor, federal government spending in the region, which accounted for almost 40 percent of the Gross Regional Product back in 2010, declined to an estimated 30 percent by 2017. Dr. Fuller expects a positive economic trajectory for the Washington region in 2018.

The labor market in Fairfax County has shown continued improvement and has recovered from the job losses in 2013 and 2014, when employment fell 0.6 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively. In June 2017, there were almost 7,000 more jobs in the County compared to June 2016, an increase of 1.2 percent. Employment in the Professional and Business Services sector, which includes most federal contractors, lost almost 12,600 jobs in 2013 and 2014 and remained flat in 2015. In 2016, employment in this sector increased by more than 2,300 jobs and growth has extended through the first half of 2017. However, as of June 2017, the number of jobs in the sector is still 3.3 percent below the 2012 level. Other industry sectors that created new jobs through mid-year 2017 include Education and Health Services, Financial Activities, and Leisure and Hospitality. The County's unemployment rate is 2.6 percent as of December 2017, down from 3.0 percent in December 2016, the lowest level since 2008.

According to estimates from IHS, the County's Gross County Product (GCP), adjusted for inflation, increased at a preliminary rate of 1.7 percent in 2017, after growing a modest 0.4 percent in 2016. Growth is projected to accelerate to 2.6 percent in 2018. The positive 2018 outlook is supported by strong job growth, personal earnings growth, and high consumer confidence. While its impact will not be immediate, the added stimulus by the recently approved federal tax reform is expected to also reinforce the economy. However, uncertainty associated with the direction of the federal budget could impact the County's ability to grow its economy in the coming years. A budget deal which would eliminate the threat of sequestration and increase funding for defense and domestic programs would go a long way toward providing stability for the regional economy. On the national level, potential risks for the future performance of the economy include the extended business cycle, which is almost in its ninth year of expansion, structural imbalances, volatility in the stock market and rising interest rates. Still, most economists expect an above average year for the U.S. economy.

## FY 2019 Fairfax County Advertised Budget Plan (Overview) - 92

## Local Housing Market

Based on information from the Metropolitan Regional Information System (MRIS), the average sales price of homes sold in Fairfax County rose 4.3 percent from \$544,416 in 2016 to \$567,829 in 2017. Home prices continue to increase primarily as a result of tight inventory of homes for sale and low mortgage interest rates. Since 2009, the average home sales price has risen 36.1 percent, or an average annual growth of 3.9 percent.

MRIS also reported that 16,109 homes sold in the County in 2017, up 2.3 percent over 2016. Homes that sold during 2017 were on the market for an average of 45 days, down from 52 days in 2016.

## Local Nonresidential Market

According to the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, the direct office vacancy rate was 15.4 percent at mid-year 2017, down from 15.8 percent at year-end 2016. The overall office vacancy rate, which includes empty sublet space, was 16.2 percent at mid-year 2017, down from 16.8 percent recorded at year-end 2016. The amount of empty office space dropped to 18.9 million square feet. Industry experts anticipate vacancy rates to remain relatively stable through 2018 as tenants monitor economic conditions and the direction of the federal budget.

Fairfax County ranks as the 17<sup>th</sup> most active office construction market nationally. During 2017, office development continued around Metro stations in the Silver Line corridor and in other areas of the County as well. Nine office buildings totaling more than 3.1 million square feet were underway in six submarkets in June 2017. More than 70 percent of the office space being built is leased or will be owner-occupied.

Office leasing activity topped 5.6 million square feet in the first half of 2017, and is on pace to exceed 11 million by year-end. As has been the case for the past several years, the overwhelming majority of leasing activity during the first half of 2017 involved renewals and consolidations. Lease rates for new space are adjusting to market conditions as many tenants are taking advantage of favorable rates, and others are looking to capitalize on market conditions by consolidating operations in newer space near Metro stations. This "flight to quality," however, results in vacancies in office space that is older and often farther from transit and amenities.

## Revenue

In FY 2019, current and delinquent Real Estate Tax revenue comprises 65.3 percent of total County General Fund revenues. FY 2019 Real Estate property values were established as of January 1, 2018, and reflect market activity through calendar year 2017. The Real Estate Tax base is projected to increase 3.59 percent in FY 2019, and is made up of a 2.58 percent increase in total equalization (reassessment of existing residential and nonresidential properties), and an increase of 1.01 percent for new construction.

The FY 2018 and FY 2019 General Fund revenue estimates discussed in this section are based on a review of Fairfax County economic indicators, actual FY 2017 receipts, and FY 2018 year-to-date collection trends. Forecasts of economic activity in the County are provided by IHS and a variety of national economic forecasts are considered. Based on analysis of projected trends, revenue categories are expected to experience moderate growth through FY 2019.

## **MAJOR REVENUE SOURCES**

The following major revenue categories discussed in this section comprise 98.6 percent of total FY 2019 General Fund revenue. Unless otherwise indicated, comparative data are presented relative to the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan*. The revenue estimates for all General Fund Revenue categories are shown in the Summary Schedule of General Fund Revenues in the section of this volume titled "Financial, Statistical and Summary Tables."

					Change fro FY 2018 Re Budget F	evised
Category	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan <sup>1</sup>	FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan	Increase / (Decrease)	Percent Change
Real Estate Tax - Current	\$2,591,563,405	\$2,640,543,716	\$2,641,077,648	\$2,793,580,632	\$152,502,984	5.77%
Personal Property Tax Current <sup>2</sup>	597,493,770	598,013,157	598,944,181	608,689,946	9,745,765	1.63%
Paid Locally	386,179,826	386,699,213	387,630,237	397,376,002	9,745,765	2.51%
Reimbursed by Commonwealth	211,313,944	211,313,944	211,313,944	211,313,944	0	0.00%
Business, Professional and Occupational License Tax-Current	155,389,830	157,402,272	157,720,677	160,086,487	2,365,810	1.50%
Local Sales Tax	176,640,592	183,310,657	181,157,888	185,686,835	4,528,947	2.50%
Recordation/Deed of Conveyance Taxes	32,190,772	30,466,027	30,885,051	31,193,902	308,851	1.00%
Gas & Electric Utility Taxes	45,204,598	44,926,992	45,307,162	45,533,698	226,536	0.50%
Communications Sales Tax	14,265,995	14,825,739	12,966,249	10,528,299	(2,437,950)	(18.80%)
Vehicle License Fee	26,988,613	27,278,010	27,327,470	27,464,107	136,637	0.50%
Transient Occupancy Tax	22,578,980	21,581,091	21,581,091	22,120,618	539,527	2.50%
Cigarette Tax	6,838,274	6,968,664	6,594,603	6,561,630	(32,973)	(0.50%)
Permits, Fees and Regulatory Licenses	52,201,079	50,891,047	52,950,742	53,009,977	59,235	0.11%
Investment Interest	27,536,705	30,233,911	39,637,147	46,992,592	7,355,445	18.56%
Charges for Services	81,485,018	81,370,947	81,097,289	81,868,225	770,936	0.95%
Fines and Forfeitures	12,725,041	11,684,270	12,089,035	12,178,536	89,501	0.74%
Recovered Costs / Other Revenue	16,923,470	16,480,180	16,317,223	16,636,952	319,729	1.96%
Revenue from the Commonwealth and Federal						
Government <sup>2</sup>	137,879,883	131,371,520	132,476,287	132,933,796	457,509	0.35%
Total Major Revenue Sources	\$3,997,906,025	\$4,047,348,200	\$4,058,129,743	\$4,235,066,232	\$176,936,489	4.36%

<sup>1</sup> FY 2018 revenue estimates were increased a net \$14.6 million as part of the FY 2017 Carryover Review and the fall 2017 review of revenues. Explanations of these changes can be found in the following narrative. The FY 2018 Third Quarter Review may contain further adjustments as necessary.

<sup>2</sup> The portion of the Personal Property Tax reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 is included in the Personal Property Tax category for the purpose of discussion in this section.

# **General Fund Revenue Overview**

FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Adopted	FY 2018 Revised	FY 2019 Advertised	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Change	
\$2,591,563,405	\$2,640,543,716	\$2,641,077,648	\$2,793,580,632	\$152,502,984	5.8%	

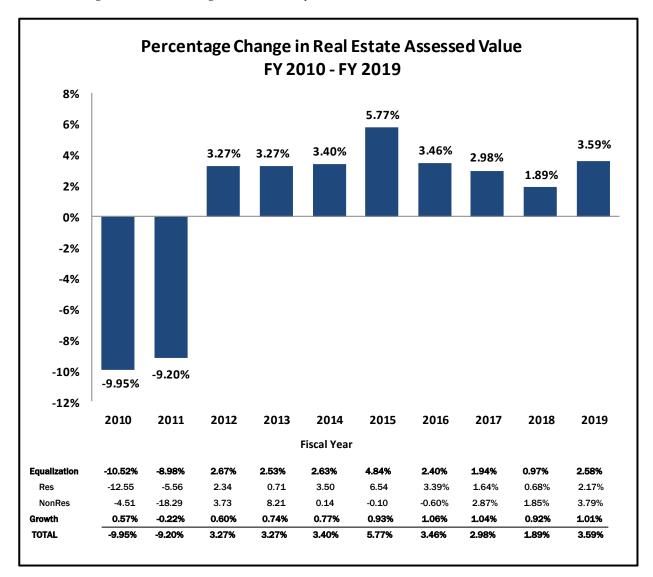
**REAL ESTATE TAX-CURRENT** 

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Current Real Estate Taxes is \$2,793,580,632 and represents an increase of \$152,502,984 or 5.8 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. The increase is the result of the rise of the Real Estate tax base of 3.59 percent and an increase in the proposed Real Estate Tax rate from \$1.13 to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value. The increase in Real Estate revenue associated with the proposed \$0.025 increase in the Real Estate Tax rate is \$60,850,370. In addition, the Real Estate Tax rate impacts two classes of personal property: mobile homes and non-vehicle Public Service Corporation property. The total General Fund impact of the \$0.025 increase is \$61,602,328.

The FY 2019 value of assessed real property represents an increase of 3.59 percent, as compared to the FY 2018 Real Estate Land Book, and is comprised of an increase in equalization of 2.58 percent and an increase of 1.01 percent associated with new construction. The FY 2019 figures reflected in this document are based on final assessments for Tax Year 2018 (FY 2019), which were established as of January 1, 2018. In addition to the revenue shown in the table above, the projected value of one-half penny on the Real Estate Tax rate (\$12.3 million) is allocated to The Penny for Affordable Housing Fund and \$5.4 million is allocated to Fund 70040, Mosaic District Community Development Authority. Throughout FY 2019, Real Estate Tax revenues will be adjusted as necessary to reflect changes in exonerations, tax abatements, and supplemental assessments, as well as any differences in the projected collection rate of 99.70 percent.

The FY 2019 **Main Assessment Book Value** is \$246,334,332,150 and represents an increase of \$8,543,169,950, or 3.59 percent, over the FY 2018 main assessment book value of \$237,791,162,200.

From FY 2005 through FY 2007, the assessment base experienced double digit advances. Deceleration began in FY 2008, when the assessment base rose just 4.15 percent, and continued in FY 2009 with a modest increase of 0.51 percent. Following the financial crisis and a general decline in economic conditions, the FY 2010 assessment base declined 9.95 percent, which was the largest drop on record. The assessment base decreased for a second consecutive year in FY 2011, declining 9.20 percent. Since then, the assessment base increased 3.27 percent in both FY 2012 and FY 2013, 3.40 percent in FY 2014, 5.77 percent in FY 2015, 3.46 percent in FY 2016, 2.98 percent in FY 2017, and 1.89 percent in FY 2018.



The following chart shows changes in the County's assessed value base from FY 2010 to FY 2019.

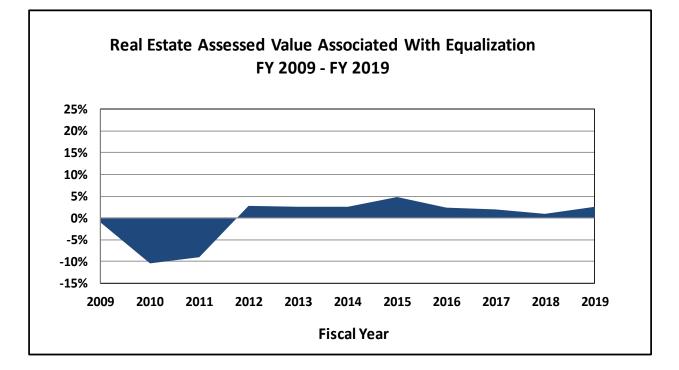
The overall change in the assessment base is comprised of **equalization** and **normal growth.** For reporting purposes, individual properties are identified as being in either the equalization category or the growth category, but not both. Equalization properties are those whose values change due to market fluctuations. Growth is a category of properties whose value changes are also influenced by new construction, remodeling or rezonings. Once growth factors are identified, *the entire property value* is shown in the growth category, even though the property is also influenced by equalization. The FY 2019 assessment base reflects a total equalization increase of 2.58 percent and an increase of 1.01 percent associated with the growth component. As a result of changes in equalization and growth, the residential portion of the total assessment base decreased from 74.43 percent in FY 2018 to 73.81 percent in FY 2019. The following table reflects changes in the Real Estate Tax assessment base from FY 2013 through FY 2019.

Assessed Base Change Due To:	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Equalization	\$4,904.1	\$5,259.4	\$10,026.1	\$5,269.7	\$4,401.5	\$2,269.9	\$6,140.1
% Change	2.53%	2.63%	4.84%	2.40%	1.94%	0.97%	2.58%
Residential Nonresidential	0.71% 8.21%	3.50% 0.14%	6.54% (0.10%)	3.39% (0.60%)	1.64% 2.87%	0.68% 1.85%	2.17% 3.79%
Normal Growth	\$1,440.4	\$1,550.4	\$1,922.0	\$2,318.0	\$2,362.6	\$2,148.1	\$2,403.1
% Change	0.74%	0.77%	0.93%	1.06%	1.04%	0.92%	1.01%
Residential Nonresidential	0.26% 2.26%	0.42% 1.79%	0.51% 2.13%	0.51% 2.74%	0.56% 2.54%	0.36% 2.61%	0.57% 2.29%
Total Change	\$6,344.5	\$6,809.8	\$11,948.1	\$7,587.7	\$6,764.2	\$4,418.0	\$8,543.2
% Change	3.27%	3.40%	5.77%	3.46%	2.98%	1.89%	3.59%
Total Book	\$200,263.3	\$207,073.1	\$219,021.3	\$226,609.0	\$233,373.1	\$237,791.1	\$246,334.3

## Main Real Estate Assessment Book Value and Changes

(in millions)

**Equalization**, or reassessment of existing residential and nonresidential property, represents an increase in value of \$6,140,093,010, or 2.58 percent, in FY 2019. Both residential and non-residential property values rose in FY 2019. Growth in non-residential equalization has been higher than that of residential equalization in the last three years. Overall, residential equalization reflects a 2.17 percent increase in FY 2019, compared to a 0.68 percent increase in FY 2018. Nonresidential equalization rose 3.79 percent. Changes in the assessment base as a result of equalization are shown in the following graph.



**Residential equalization** rose at double digit rates from FY 2002 through FY 2007 due to high demand but a limited supply of housing. Strong job growth, the easy availability of credit and profit-led speculation contributed to price appreciation in the local housing market. In FY 2008, FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011, overall residential equalization declined 0.33 percent, 3.38 percent, 12.55 percent, and 5.56 percent, respectively, as the inventory of homes for sale grew and home prices fell in the County, as they did throughout the Northern Virginia area. After falling four consecutive years, the value of residential properties in the County increased in the last eight years: 2.34 percent in FY 2012, a slight 0.71 percent in FY 2013, 3.50 percent in FY 2014, 6.54 percent in FY 2015, 3.39 percent in FY 2016, 1.64 percent in FY 2017, 0.68 percent in FY 2018, and 2.17 percent in FY 2019. The total value of residential properties including new construction in FY 2019 is \$181.9 billion.

The County's median assessment to sales ratio is in the mid-90 percent range, well within professional standards that assessments should be between 90 percent to 110 percent of the sales prices experienced in a neighborhood.

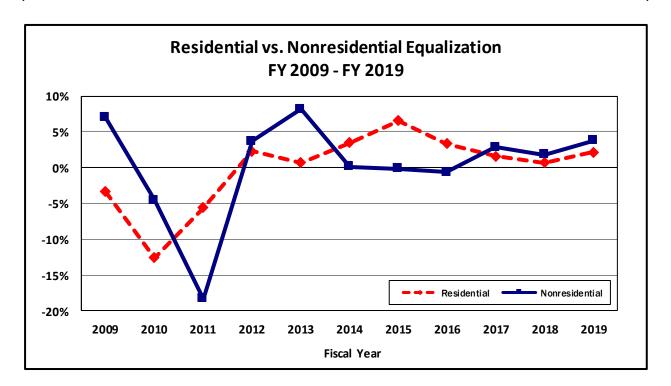
Overall, single family property values increased 2.11 percent in FY 2019. The value of single family homes has the most impact on the total residential base because they represent nearly 72 percent of the total. The value of townhouse properties increased 2.86 percent in FY 2019, while that of condominium properties increased 1.68 percent. Changes in residential equalization by housing type since FY 2014 are shown in the following table. Changes represented in this chart are for the category as a whole. Individual neighborhoods and properties may have increased or decreased by different percentages based on neighborhood selling prices.

Housing Type/ (Percent of Base)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Single Family (71.7%)	3.13%	5.82%	3.27%	1.69%	0.62%	2.11%
Townhouse/Duplex (19.8%)	4.50%	8.39%	3.81%	2.05%	1.37%	2.86%
Condominiums (8.0%)	5.42%	10.51%	4.48%	0.73%	(0.32%)	1.68%
Vacant Land (0.4%)	2.89%	3.38%	3.03%	0.92%	0.03%	2.01%
Other (0.1%) <sup>1</sup>	4.74%	3.42%	2.56%	6.42%	9.52%	9.70%
Total Residential Equalization (100%)	3.50%	6.54%	3.39%	1.64%	0.68%	2.17%

## **Residential Equalization Changes**

<sup>1</sup> Includes, for example, affordable dwelling units, recreational use properties, and agricultural and forestal land use properties.

As a result of the increase in residential equalization, the mean assessed value of all residential property in the County is \$547,219. This is an increase of \$11,622 over the FY 2018 value of \$535,597. At the proposed Real Estate tax rate of \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value, the typical residential annual tax bill will rise, on average, \$268.13 in FY 2019 to \$6,320.38.



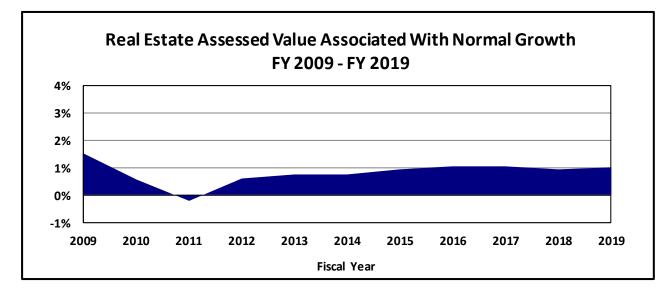
After experiencing a record decline of 18.29 percent in FY 2011, **nonresidential equalization** rebounded 3.73 percent in FY 2012, and a strong 8.21 percent in FY 2013. In FY 2014, nonresidential values stayed essentially level with FY 2013, increasing only 0.14 percent. In FY 2015 and FY 2016, nonresidential values decreased a slight 0.10 percent and another 0.60 percent, respectively, before increasing 2.87 percent in FY 2017 and 1.85 percent in FY 2018. In FY 2019, nonresidential values increased 3.79 percent due to equalization. The total value of nonresidential properties including new construction in FY 2019 is \$64.5 billion.

The main cause for the higher FY 2019 increase in nonresidential values compared to the growth experienced in FY 2018 is the increase in the values of Office Elevator properties. Office Elevator properties (mid- and high-rises), the largest component of the nonresidential tax base at 32.0 percent, experienced an increase of 2.82 percent in FY 2019 after declining 1.39 percent in FY 2018. Apartment values, which represent 24.3 percent of the total nonresidential base, rose 2.40 percent in FY 2019. Retail properties increased a strong 7.00 percent in FY 2019. Nonresidential equalization changes by category since FY 2014 are presented in the following table.

Category (Percent of Base)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Apartments (24.3%)	4.90%	3.59%	1.20%	2.92%	3.37%	2.40%
Office Condominiums (3.7%)	(0.66%)	(0.07%)	0.58%	1.86%	0.49%	1.19%
Industrial (6.7%)	0.69%	1.77%	5.83%	7.43%	(0.26%)	9.61%
Retail (17.6%)	1.18%	1.52%	2.46%	1.60%	7.39%	7.00%
Office Elevator (32.0%)	(2.41%)	(2.93%)	(4.67%)	3.42%	(1.39%)	2.82%
Office - Low Rise (2.8%)	(1.72%)	(2.41%)	(5.00%)	1.73%	1.39%	1.11%
Vacant Land (3.4%)	(0.74%)	(1.19%)	(4.62%)	1.50%	(1.17%)	(0.35%)
Hotels (3.3%)	(3.94%)	(4.82%)	0.26%	3.61%	(0.12%)	8.13%
Other (6.2%)	1.17%	2.37%	5.26%	3.70%	6.73%	6.13%
Nonresidential Equalization (100%)	0.14%	(0.10%)	(0.60%)	2.87%	1.85%	3.79%

**Nonresidential Equalization Changes** 

The **Growth** component increased the FY 2019 assessment base by \$2,403,076,940, or 1.01 percent, over the FY 2018 assessment book value. New construction increased the residential property base by 0.57 percent and nonresidential properties by 2.29 percent.



In addition to the final equalization and normal growth adjustments in the Main Assessment Book, the following projected adjustments were made to the FY 2019 Real Estate Tax revenue estimate:

**Exonerations, Certificates and Tax Abatements** are anticipated to reduce the Real Estate assessment base by \$1,047.1 million in FY 2019, resulting in a reduction in levy of \$12.1 million.

Additional Assessments expected to be included in the new Real Estate base total \$500.0 million, or a levy increase of \$5.8 million, and include both prorated assessments and additional supplemental assessments. Prorated assessments are supplemental assessments that include assessments which are made during the year for new construction that is completed subsequent to finalizing the original assessment book.

**The Real Estate Tax Relief Program** is projected to reduce the Real Estate assessment base in FY 2019 by \$2,655.0 million. The reduction in tax levy due to the Tax Relief program is approximately \$30.7 million at the proposed Real Estate tax rate of \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value. In FY 2019, the income limits of the Tax Relief program provide 100 percent exemption for elderly and disabled taxpayers with incomes up to \$52,000; 50 percent exemption for eligible applicants with income between \$52,001 and \$62,000; and 25 percent exemption if income is between \$62,001 and \$72,000. The allowable asset limit in FY 2019 is \$340,000 for all ranges of tax relief. Veterans, who have a 100 percent permanent and total disability related to military service, or their surviving spouse, are eligible for full Real Estate Tax relief regardless of income or assets. In addition, the surviving spouse of a veteran who has been killed in action may be eligible for a full or partial exemption of real estate taxes for their principal residence and up to one acre of land. The table below shows FY 2019 income and asset thresholds for the Real Estate Tax Relief Program.

FY 2019 Real Estate Tax Relief Program					
	Income Limit	Asset Limit	Percent Relief		
Elderly and Disabled	Up to \$52,000 Over \$52,000 to \$62,000 Over \$62,000 to \$72,000	\$340,000	100% 50% 25%		
100% Disabled Veterans or Surviving Spouse	No Limit	No Limit	100%		
Surviving Spouse of Veteran Killed in Action	No Limit	No Limit	full or partial based on mean assessed value		

The FY 2019 local assessment base of \$243,132,225,990 is derived from the main assessment book and subsequent adjustments discussed above. From this local assessment base, a local tax levy of \$2,808,177,210 is calculated using the proposed Real Estate Tax rate of \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value. Based on an expected local collection rate of 99.70 percent, revenue from local assessments is estimated to be \$2,799,752,678. In FY 2019, every 0.01 percentage point change in the collection rate on the locally assessed Real Estate Tax levy yields a revenue change of \$0.3 million, while every penny on the tax rate yields \$24.6 million in revenue.

Added to the local assessment base is an estimated \$998,645,367 in assessed value for Public Service Corporations (PSC) property. Using the proposed Real Estate tax rate of \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value, the tax levy on PSC property is \$11,534,354. The collection rate on PSC property is expected to be 100.0 percent.

The total assessment base, including Public Service Corporations, is \$244,130,871,357, with a total tax levy of \$2,819,711,564 at the proposed Real Estate Tax rate of \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value. Estimated FY 2019 revenue from the Real Estate Tax, including receipts from Public Service Corporations totals \$2,811,287,032. Of this amount, the approximate value of one-half cent on the Real Estate Tax rate, \$12,300,000, has been directed to Fund 30300, The Penny for Affordable Housing Fund.

**Mosaic District Community Development Authority (CDA)** was created to assist commercial investment in the Merrifield area of the County. The Mosaic CDA issued bonds, the proceeds from which are to be used to finance certain public infrastructure improvements within the Mosaic District to support mixeduse development within the District. The CDA bonds are payable primarily from certain incremental real estate tax revenues collected by the County in the District. The Mosaic District Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assessed value is based on the difference between the 2007 Base Assessed Value and the Current Assessed Value, which in FY 2019 is \$576,556,110, with a tax levy of \$6,659,223 at the proposed Real Estate Tax rate of \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value. Based on an expected collection rate of 99.70 percent, revenue from the Mosaic TIF tax assessment is estimated to be \$6,639,245. Per the bond documents, the County is to transfer to the CDA only those tax increment revenues required for debt service payments, which equates to \$5,406,400 in FY 2019. Accordingly, the difference of \$1,232,845 will be retained in the General Fund. For more information, see Fund 70040, Mosaic District Community Development Authority, in Volume 2 of the budget.

	Assessed Value	FY 2019 Tax Levy at \$1.155/\$100 of Assessed Value
FY 2018 Real Estate Book	\$237,791,162,200	\$2,746,487,923
FY 2019 Equalization	6,140,093,010	70,918,074
FY 2019 Growth	2,403,076,940	27,755,539
TOTAL FY 2019 REAL ESTATE BOOK	\$246,334,332,150	\$2,845,161,536
Exonerations	(\$990,000,000)	(\$11,434,500)
Certificates	(4,000,000)	(46,200)
Tax Abatements	(53,106,160)	(613,376)
Subtotal Exonerations	(\$1,047,106,160)	(\$12,094,076)
Supplemental Assessments	\$500,000,000	\$5,775,000
Tax Relief	(2,655,000,000)	(30,665,250)
Local Assessments	\$243,132,225,990	\$2,808,177,210
Public Service Corporation	\$998,645,367	\$11,534,354
TOTAL <sup>1</sup>	\$244,130,871,357	\$2,819,711,564

## FY 2019 Estimated Real Estate Assessments and Tax Levy

<sup>1</sup> Includes the Mosaic District Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assessed value based on the difference between the 2007 Base Assessed Value and the Current Assessed Value, which in FY 2019 is \$576,556,110, with a tax levy of \$6,659,223.

Total General Fund revenue from the Real Estate Tax is \$2,793,580,632. The total local collection rates experienced in this category since FY 2004 are shown in the following table:

#### **Real Estate Tax Local Collection Rates**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Collection Rate</b>	Fiscal Year	Collection Rate
2004	99.61%	2012	99.69%
2005	99.62%	2013	99.71%
2006	99.62%	2014	99.74%
2007	99.64%	2015	99.77%
2008	99.66%	2016	99.75%
2009	99.66%	2017	99.79%
2010	99.71%	2018 (estimated) <sup>1</sup>	99.70%
2011	99.67%	2019 (estimated) <sup>1</sup>	99.70%

<sup>1</sup> In FY 2019, every 0.1 percentage point change in the collection rate yields a revenue change of \$2.8 million.

The Commercial/Industrial percentage of the County's FY 2019 Real Estate Tax base is 19.43 percent, an increase of 0.31 percentage point over the FY 2018 level of 19.43 percent. Commercial/Industrial property values as a percentage of the Real Estate Tax base increased in FY 2019 as a result of new office construction

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and a slower increase experienced in the residential portion of the Real Estate Tax base. The Commercial/Industrial percentage is based on Virginia land use codes and includes all nonresidential property except multi-family rental apartments, which make up 6.76 percent of the County's Real Estate Tax base in FY 2019. Fairfax County's historical Commercial/Industrial percentages are detailed in the following table:

Fiscal Year	Percentage	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	Percentage
2004	19.14%	2012	19.64%
2005	18.20%	2013	20.77%
2006	17.36%	2014	19.96%
2007	17.22%	2015	19.01%
2008	19.23%	2016	18.67%
2009	21.06%	2017	18.89%
2010	22.67%	2018	19.12%
2011	19.70%	2019	19.43%

## **Commercial/Industrial Percentages**

## FY 2018 Real Estate Tax Revenue

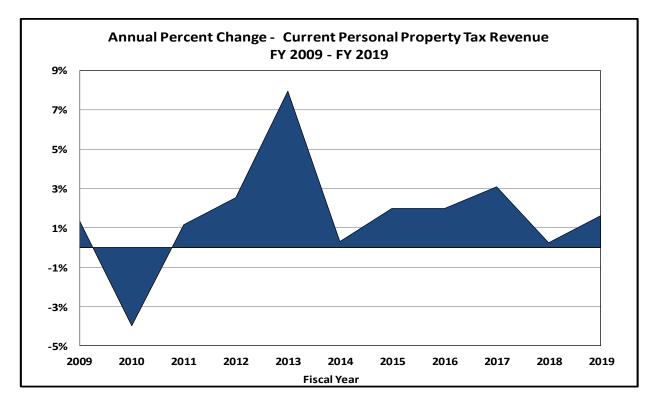
The FY 2018 Real Estate Tax estimate was increased \$0.5 million during the fall 2017 revenue review based on final Public Service Corporation assessments by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

	PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX-CURRENT					
	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Adopted	FY 2018 Revised	FY 2019 Advertised	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Change
Paid Locally	\$386,179,826	\$386,699,213	\$387,630,237	\$397,376,002	\$9,745,765	2.5%
<b>Reimbursed by State</b>	211,313,944	211,313,944	211,313,944	211,313,944	0	0.0%
Total	\$597,493,770	\$598,013,157	\$598,944,181	\$608,689,946	\$9,745,765	1.6%

## 

The FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan estimate for Personal Property Tax revenue of \$608,689,946 represents an increase of \$9,745,765 or 1.6 percent over the FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan estimate. The increase is primarily due to an increase in the vehicle levy based on a preliminary analysis of vehicles currently in the County valued with information from the National Automobile Dealers Association, as well as an increase in the Business Personal Property levy. In addition, the proposed \$0.025 increase in the Real Estate Tax rate to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value impacts two classes of personal property: mobile homes and nonvehicle Public Service Corporation property resulting in a revenue increase of \$0.8 million.

The Personal Property Tax on vehicles represents 76.6 percent of the total assessment base in FY 2019. The vehicle component is comprised of two parts, that which is paid locally and that which is reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Virginia to the County as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) of 1998. The PPTRA reduces the Personal Property Tax paid on the first \$20,000 of the value for vehicles owned by individuals. In FY 1999, the first year of implementation, taxpayers were billed for the entire amount of tax levy and received a refund of 12.5 percent of the tax on the first \$20,000 of the value of their personal vehicle from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Vehicles valued less than \$1,000 were refunded 100 percent. From FY 2000 to FY 2002, the PPTRA reduced the Personal Property Taxes paid by citizens by 27.5 percent, 47.5 percent, and 70 percent, respectively, with an offsetting reimbursement paid to the County by the Commonwealth. Under the original approved plan, taxes paid by individuals were to be reduced by 100 percent in FY 2003. However, due to the Commonwealth's lower than anticipated General Fund revenue growth, the reimbursement rate remained at 70 percent in FY 2003 through FY 2006. The 2004 General Assembly approved legislation that capped statewide Personal Property Tax reimbursements at \$950 million in FY 2007 and beyond. Fairfax County's allocation has been set at \$211.3 million based on the County's share of statewide tax year 2004 collections. Each year County staff must determine the reimbursement percentage based on the County's fixed reimbursement from the state and an estimate of the number and value of vehicles that will be eligible for tax relief. As the number and value of vehicles in the County vary, the percentage attributed to the state will vary. Based on a County staff analysis, the effective state reimbursement percentage was 66.67 percent, 67.0 percent, and 68.5 percent in FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009, respectively. The reimbursement percentage was set at 70.0 percent in both FY 2010 and FY 2011, and at 68.0 percent in FY 2012. Due to a continued increase in vehicle volume and average levy, the reimbursement percentage was lowered to 63.0 percent in FY 2013 where it remained in FY 2014. In FY 2015, FY 2016, and FY 2017, the reimbursement percentage was lowered again to 62.0 percent and to 60.5 percent in FY 2018. Based on an estimate of the number and value of vehicles that will be eligible for tax relief in FY 2019, the reimbursement percentage is anticipated to be set at 60.0 percent.



Annual percentage changes in total Personal Property Tax revenues are shown in the following graph.

As the economy began to slow, Personal Property Tax receipts rose modestly in FY 2009 at a rate of 1.3 percent. In FY 2010, receipts decreased 4.0 percent mainly as a result of a significant decline of 10.8 percent in average vehicle levy reflecting the downturn in the economy in calendar year 2009. FY 2011 Personal Property Tax receipts increased 1.1 percent due to an increase in the average vehicle levy, partially offset with a decrease in business volume and average business levy. FY 2012 Personal Property Tax receipts increased 2.6 percent due to an increase in both the average vehicle and business levies. FY 2013 receipts increased a solid 7.9 percent mainly as a result of a rise of 7.1 percent in total vehicle levy. A reduction in the supply of new vehicles increased prices of both new and used automobiles. The decrease in supply

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was a result of a decline in U.S. auto production due to the slowdown in the economy and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, which not only impacted Japanese automakers but also U.S. automakers that rely on parts from Japan. This situation caused the value of many used vehicles to depreciate less than what traditionally has been experienced and resulted in some vehicles actually appreciating over the year. This was not unique to Fairfax County, but was experienced nationwide. Total FY 2014 Personal Property Tax revenue increased a slight 0.3 percent as the depreciation of vehicles returned to more normal levels, followed by an increase of 2.0 percent in both FY 2015 and FY 2016 and 3.1 percent in FY 2017. Personal Property Tax receipts are expected to increase a modest 0.2 percent in FY 2018, and growth of 1.6 percent is projected in FY 2019. The vehicle component, which comprises almost 77 percent of total Personal Property levy, is expected to increase 1.6 percent based on preliminary analysis of vehicles in the County valued with information from the National Automobile Dealers Associations (NADA). Total vehicle volume is forecast to increase 0.6 percent in FY 2019.

Changes in vehicle volume and average vehicle levy since FY 2009 are shown in the following table.

Fiscal Year	% Change in Vehicle Volume	Average Vehicle Levy	% Change in Average Levy
FY 2009	0.8%	\$434	2.4%
FY 2010	0.1%	\$387	(10.8%)
FY 2011	0.9%	\$397	2.6%
FY 2012	0.7%	\$411	3.5%
FY 2013	0.7%	\$437	6.3%
FY 2014	0.9%	\$445	1.8%
FY 2015	0.0%	\$451	1.3%
FY 2016	0.0%	\$457	1.3%
FY 2017	0.7%	\$468	2.4%
FY 2018 (est.)	0.4%	\$469	0.2%
FY 2019 (est.)	0.6%	\$474	1.1%

Fairfax County Personal Property Vehicles

Business Personal Property is primarily composed of assessments on furniture, fixtures and computer equipment. Business levy is impacted by the number of new businesses and whether existing businesses are expanding or contracting. As government contractors cut back employment due to lower federal procurement spending, they delayed business expansions. Business levy rose a modest 0.8 percent in FY 2014 and 1.0 percent in FY 2015. Growth accelerated in FY 2016 to 1.2 percent and a strong 4.4 percent in FY 2017. Based on business filings through December 2017, business levy is projected to decrease a slight 0.6 percent in FY 2018, likely due to depreciating value of newly acquired business personal property one year after acquisition, particularly given the strong growth experienced in 2017. Business levy is anticipated to resume growing at 1.0 percent in FY 2019 based on the expectation that economic conditions will be stable.

In accordance with assessment principles and the <u>Code of Virginia</u>, which require that property is taxed at fair market value, the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) reviews the depreciation rate schedule for computer hardware due to the speed with which computer values change. The current schedule depreciates computer equipment 50 percent, one year after acquisition. In subsequent years, the percent of the original purchase price taxed is 35 percent, 20 percent, and 10 percent, in year two, three and four, respectively. After five or more years, computer equipment is valued at 2 percent of its original acquisition price.

Personal Property Tax revenue estimates are based on a tax rate of \$4.57 per \$100 of valuation for vehicles and business property, and a tax rate of \$1.155 per \$100 of valuation for mobile homes and non-vehicle Public Service Corporations properties. The following table details the estimated assessed value and associated levy for components of the Personal Property Tax.

	FY 2019	Tax Rate	FY 2019	Percent of
Category	Assessed Value	(per \$100)	Tax Levy	Total Levy
Vehicles				
Privately Owned	\$9,983,730,409	\$4.57	\$398,754,963	64.7%
Business Owned	575,292,034	4.57	22,953,183	3.7%
Leased	1,302,244,335	4.57	50,729,151	8.2%
Subtotal	\$11,861,266,778		\$472,437,297	76.6%
Business Personal Property				
Furniture and Fixtures	\$1,928,882,727	\$4.57	\$88,729,005	14.4%
Computer Equipment	842,290,714	4.57	38,624,676	6.3%
Machinery and Tools	31,827,930	4.57	1,457,505	0.2%
Research and Development	825,427	4.57	37,722	0.0%
Subtotal	\$2,803,826,798		\$128,848,908	20.9%
Other Personal Property				
Boats, Trailers, Miscellaneous	\$17,038,758	\$4.57	\$804,537	0.1%
Mobile Homes	14,952,397	1.155	179,902	0.1%
Subtotal	\$31,991,155		\$984,439	0.2%
Exonerations	(\$84,935,763)	\$4.57	(\$27,102,011)	-4.4%
Omitted Assessments	270,833,585	4.57	6,022,669	1.0%
Total Local Assessed Value and Levy	\$14,882,982,553		\$581,191,302	94.3%
Public Service Corporations				
Equalized	\$2,992,459,004	\$1.155	\$34,562,902	5.6%
Vehicles	7,292,981	4.57	333,289	0.1%
Subtotal	\$2,999,751,985		\$34,896,191	5.7%
TOTAL	\$17,882,734,538		\$616,087,493	100.0%

## FY 2019 Estimated Personal Property Assessments and Tax Levy

FY 2019 Personal Property Tax assessments including Public Service Corporations are \$17,882,734,538, with a total tax levy of \$616,087,493. Personal Property Tax revenue collections are projected to be \$608,689,946, of which \$211.3 million will be reimbursed from the state. The collection rate associated with the taxpayer's share is estimated to be 98.0 percent. Total collection rates experienced in this category since FY 2004 are shown in the following table:

Fiscal Year	<b>Collection Rate</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Collection Rate</b>
2004	96.9%	2012	98.2%
2005	97.9%	2013	98.4%
2006	98.1%	2014	97.4%
2007	98.3%	2015	98.4%
2008	98.0%	2016	98.5%
2009	97.9%	2017	98.4%
2010	97.8%	2018 (estimated) <sup>1</sup>	98.0%
2011	97.9%	2019 (estimated) <sup>1</sup>	98.0%

#### **Personal Property Tax Collection Rates**

<sup>1</sup> Each 0.1 percentage point change in the collection rate on the local tax levy will impact revenues by approximately \$0.4 million, and each penny on the tax rate yields a revenue change of \$1.3 million.

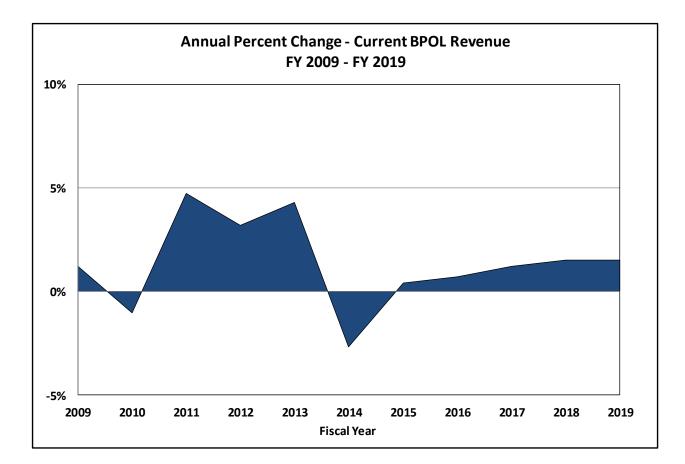
## FY 2018 Personal Property Tax Revenue

The FY 2018 Personal Property Tax estimate was increased a net \$0.9 million during the fall 2017 revenue review primarily as a result of final Public Service Corporation assessments by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

	BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAX-CURRENT							
FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Adopted	FY 2018 Revised	FY 2019 Advertised	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Change			
\$155,389,830	\$157,402,272	\$157,720,677	\$160,086,487	\$2,365,810	1.5%			

#### **BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAX-CURRENT**

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Business, Professional, and Occupational License Taxes (BPOL) of \$160,086,487 reflects an increase of \$2,365,810 or 1.5 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. As shown in the following chart, FY 2009 BPOL receipts were up just 1.2 percent over FY 2008. This modest rate of growth reflected the downturn in the local economy late in 2008. In FY 2010, BPOL receipts, which were based on the gross receipts of businesses in calendar year 2009, fell 1.0 percent. Growth of 4.7 percent in FY 2011 BPOL receipts reflected the improvement in local economic conditions. Receipts increased a moderate 3.2 percent in FY 2012, and 4.3 percent in FY 2013, but decreased 2.7 percent in FY 2014 likely due to lower federal government procurement spending. Due to anemic job growth, BPOL receipts were essentially flat in FY 2015, increasing only 0.4 percent over FY 2014. BPOL receipts increased 0.7 percent in FY 2016 and 1.2 percent in FY 2017 as job growth resumed. The combined Consultant and Business Service Occupations categories, which represent almost 42 percent of total BPOL receipts, increased 0.5 percent over the FY 2016 level. The remaining categories rose a combined 1.7 percent. The Retail category, which represents 20 percent of total BPOL receipts, rose 0.4 percent in FY 2017.

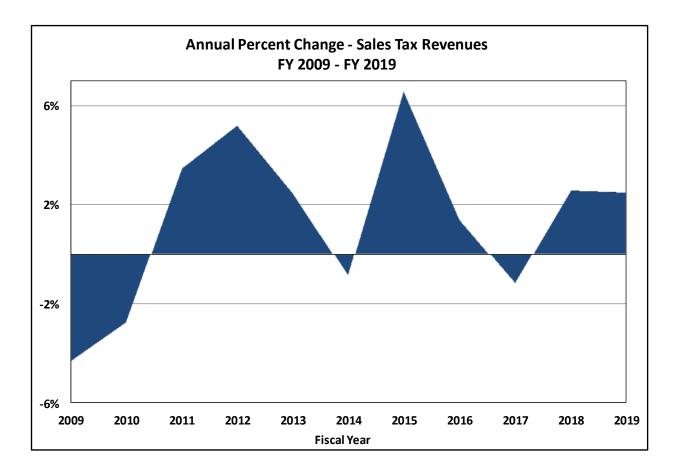


Since County businesses file and pay their BPOL taxes simultaneously on March 1 each year based on their gross receipts during the previous calendar year, there is limited actual data available at this time. Based on actual FY 2017 receipts and an econometric model using calendar year Sales Tax receipts and employment as predictors, the FY 2018 BPOL estimate was increased \$0.3 million during the fall 2017 revenue review, representing an increase of 1.5 percent over FY 2017. A 1.5 percent growth in BPOL receipts is projected in FY 2019.

In January 2015, the Virginia Supreme Court affirmed a Virginia Commissioner of the Revenue formula to deduct gross receipts from out-of-state operations for the purposes of determining the BPOL tax basis. Fairfax County had eight appeals based on the new formula. These appeals are for multiple years and total approximately \$37.5 million including interest. The Board of Supervisors established a litigation reserve in FY 2014 for the refunds. So far, a portion of the refunds in the amount of \$17.6 million has been processed. Several of the cases currently remain under review with the Department of Tax Administration.

LOCAL SALES TAX						
FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent	
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change	
\$176,640,592	\$183,310,657	\$181,157,888	\$185,686,835	\$4,528,947	2.5%	

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Sales Tax receipts of \$185,686,835 reflects an increase of \$4,528,947 or 2.5 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. The following chart illustrates that the level of Sales Tax receipts has varied with economic conditions.



FY 2009 Sales Tax revenue declined 4.4 percent due to the national recession which began in December 2007. This was the first decline since FY 2002 and only the third decrease in over 30 years. Although the national recession was reported to have reached its trough in December 2009, job losses continued and Sales Tax collections fell 2.8 percent in FY 2010. Sales Tax receipts rose 3.5 percent in FY 2011, the first increase since FY 2008. Growth continued in FY 2012 with Sales taxes rising 5.2 percent, the strongest rate of growth since FY 2005. In FY 2013, Sales Tax receipts continued to grow but at a more modest rate of 2.5 percent. Total FY 2014 Sales Tax receipts were down 0.9 percent, the first decline in four years. The decline was primarily due to the severe winter weather, as well as federal sequestration and refunds for prior year's receipts totaling \$2.0 million. After increasing a strong 6.6 percent in FY 2015, Sales Tax receipts in FY 2016 grew a modest 1.4 percent. Growth would have been weaker absent a transfer of \$2.2 million that the County received in FY 2016 as the result of a state audit. FY 2017 receipts ended the fiscal year 1.2 percent down from FY 2016. The decline was primarily due to a \$2.5 million refund during the year and the \$2.2 million audit increase received in FY 2016, which made the annual comparison less favorable. Adjusted for misallocations and refunds, FY 2017 collections would have increased 1.5 percent. During the fall 2017 revenue review, the FY 2018 estimate was decreased \$2.2 million based on year-to-date collections, representing growth of 2.6 percent over the FY 2017 actual receipts. Sales Tax receipts in FY 2019 are projected to rise a similar 2.5 percent over the FY 2018 estimate based on the anticipation that consumer spending will increase moderately throughout FY 2019.

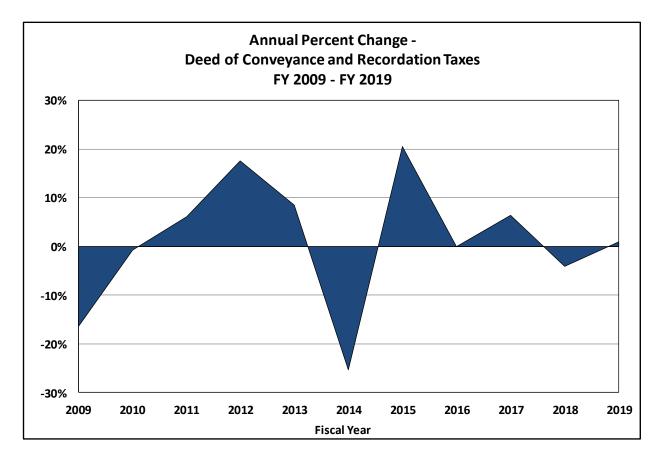
FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$32,190,772	\$30,466,027	\$30,885,051	\$31,193,902	\$308,851	1.0%

#### **RECORDATION/DEED OF CONVEYANCE TAXES**

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Recordation and Deed of Conveyance Taxes of \$31,193,902 represents an increase of \$308,851 or 1.0 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. The FY 2019 estimate is comprised of \$24,196,659 in Recordation Tax revenues and \$6,997,243 in Deed of Conveyance Tax revenues. Recordation and Deed of Conveyance Taxes are levied in association with the sale or transfer of real property located in the County. Recordation Taxes are also levied when mortgages on property located in the County are refinanced, making Recordation Tax revenues more sensitive to interest rate fluctuations than Deed of Conveyance Taxes. Home values and interest rate projections are used in an econometric model that assists in developing estimates for these categories.

Fairfax County's Deed of Conveyance Tax is assessed at a rate of \$0.05 per \$100. Local Recordation Taxes are set at one-third the State's Tax rate. From September 2004 through FY 2012, the State Recordation Tax was \$0.25 per \$100 of value. The rate was lowered on mortgage refinancing transactions to \$0.18 per \$100 of value effective July 1, 2012; however, all refinancing transactions are now taxable, whereas previously refinancing with the same lender was exempt from the tax. The State Recordation Tax rate on home purchases was not reduced and remained at \$0.25 per \$100. Therefore, as of FY 2013, the County's Recordation Tax rate on home purchases is \$0.0833 per \$100 of value, while the tax rate on mortgage refinancing is \$0.06 per \$100 of value.

During the housing slump, revenue from these categories decreased a combined 16.4 percent in FY 2009 and a slight 0.7 percent in FY 2010. Primarily due to increased mortgage refinancing activity as a result of historically low mortgage interest rates, revenues increased 6.1 percent in FY 2011, 17.6 percent in FY 2012, and 8.5 percent in FY 2013. FY 2014 receipts declined a combined 25.4 percent due to a decline in mortgage refinancing as a result of higher interest rates, as well as a decline in the number of home sales. After increasing a strong 20.5 percent in FY 2015, receipts in FY 2016 remained level. FY 2017 collections grew 6.4 percent over the FY 2016 level. Based on year-to-date collection trends during FY 2018, the Recordation Tax estimate remains unchanged and reflects a decrease of 5.7 percent as a result of decreasing volume of mortgage refinancing activity. The Deed of Conveyance Tax estimate was increased \$0.4 million during the fall 2017 revenue review, reflecting an increase of 2.0 percent over the FY 2019 estimate for Recordation and Deed of Conveyance Taxes assumes a growth rate of 1.0 percent. Home values are anticipated to increase in FY 2019 and the number of home sales is expected to be stable.



#### **CONSUMER UTILITY TAXES - GAS AND ELECTRIC**

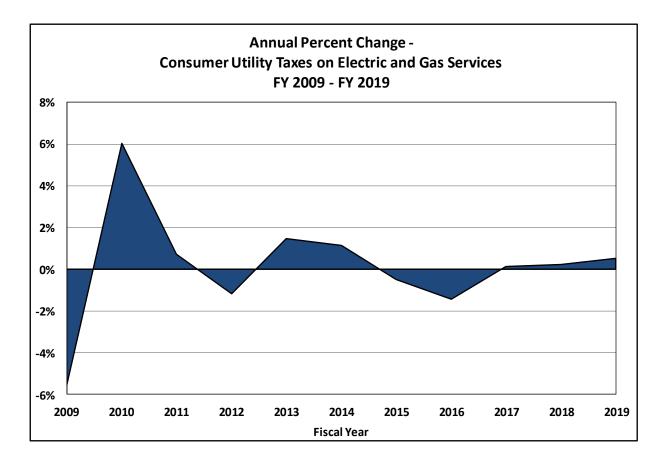
FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$45,204,598	\$44,926,992	\$45,307,162	\$45,533,698	\$226,536	0.5%

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Consumer Utility Taxes on gas and electric services of \$45,533,698 represents an increase of \$226,536 over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. The FY 2019 estimate is comprised of \$36,349,049 in taxes on electric service and \$9,184,649 in taxes on gas service. County residents and businesses are subject to Consumer Utility Taxes based on their consumption of electricity and gas services. Tax rates by customer class are shown in the following table.

Revenue from Consumer Utility Taxes on gas and electric services from FY 2008 to FY 2014 grew at an average annual rate of just 0.4 percent. Receipts in FY 2015 fell 0.5 percent and another 1.5 percent in FY 2016, but increased a modest 0.1 percent in FY 2017. Based on actual FY 2017 collections and year-to-date trends, the FY 2018 revenue estimate was increased \$0.4 million during the fall 2017 revenue review and reflects an increase of 0.2 percent over FY 2017. Receipts in FY 2019 are expected to increase 0.5 percent over the FY 2018 estimate.

	ELECTRICITY	N	ATURAL GAS
Electric Power Customer Class	Monthly Tax FY 2001 - FY 2019	Natural Gas Customer Class	Monthly Tax FY 2001 - FY 2019
Residential	\$0.00605 per kWh	Residential	\$0.05259 per CCF
Minimum	+\$0.56 per bill	Minimum	+\$0.56 per bill
Maximum	\$4.00 per bill	Maximum	\$4.00 per bill
Master Metered		Master Metered	
Apartments	\$0.00323 per kWh	Apartments	\$0.01192 per CCF
Minimum	+\$0.56 / dwelling unit	Minimum	+\$0.56 / dwelling unit
Maximum	\$4.00 / dwelling unit	Maximum	\$4.00 / dwelling unit
Commercial	\$0.00594 per kWh	Nonresidential	\$0.04794 per CCF
Minimum	+ \$1.15 per bill	Minimum	+ \$0.845 per bill
Maximum	\$1,000 per bill	Maximum	\$300 per bill
		Nonresidential	
Industrial	\$0.00707 per kWh	Interruptible	\$0.00563 per CCF
Minimum	+\$1.15 per bill	Minimum	+\$4.50 per meter
Maximum	\$1,000 per bill	Maximum	\$300 per meter

## CONSUMER UTILITY TAXES ON ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS



FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$14,265,995	\$14,825,739	\$12,966,249	\$10,528,299	(\$2,437,950)	(18.8%)

#### COMMUNICATIONS SALES TAX

The FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan estimate for the General Fund portion of the Communications Sales Tax of \$10,528,299 reflects a decrease of \$2,437,950 or 18.8 percent from the FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan estimate. The Communications Tax is a statewide tax that was first implemented in January 2007, after the 2006 Virginia General Assembly session approved legislation that changed the way in which taxes are levied on communications services. Based on this legislation, local taxes on land line and wireless telephone services were replaced with a 5 percent statewide Communication Sales Tax. In addition to the communications services previously taxed, the 5 percent Communication Sales Tax applies to satellite television and radio services, internet calling and long-distance telephone charges. As part of this legislation, local E-911 fees were repealed and replaced with a statewide \$0.75 per line fee. These rates were meant to provide revenue neutrality with FY 2006 receipts, which were \$85.5 million for Fairfax County. All communications taxes are remitted to the state for distribution to localities based on the locality's share of total statewide FY 2006 collections of these taxes. Fairfax County's share is determined by the state and is set at 18.89 percent. Of the total tax, the Cable Franchise portion is directed to Fund 40030, Cable Communications. Prior to FY 2015, the percentage of the remaining revenue was directed to Fund 40090, E-911 and the General Fund based on their relative share of the tax in FY 2006. However, to cover all the expenses in the E-911 Fund, a transfer from the General Fund was still required. To eliminate the need for a General Fund transfer, beginning in FY 2015, more Communications Sales Tax revenue is directed to Fund 40090, E-911. The FY 2018 General Fund estimate was reduced \$1.9 million as part of the fall 2017 revenue review based on actual receipts during FY 2017 and collection trends during FY 2018. In FY 2019, total Communications Sales Taxes are projected to be \$73.7 million. Of the total tax, Cable Franchise Fees of \$18.7 million will be directed to Fund 40030, Cable Communications. Of the remaining tax, \$44.5 million will be posted in Fund 40090, E-911 and \$10.5 million to the General Fund in FY 2019.

The distribution of the tax since FY 2017 is shown below. The table illustrates that this tax has eroded significantly over the years compared to the \$85.5 million collected by the County in FY 2006.

		FY 2018	FY 2019
Fund	FY 2017	Projected	Projected
Fund 40030, Cable Communications	\$18,967,760	\$18,350,000	\$18,718,835
Fund 40090, E-911	42,012,354	42,012,354	44,450,304
General Fund	14,265,995	12,966,249	10,528,299
Total	\$75,246,109	\$73,328,603	\$73,697,438

#### **Communications Sales Tax Revenue**

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$26,988,613	\$27,278,010	\$27,327,470	\$27,464,107	\$136,637	0.5%

#### **VEHICLE REGISTRATION LICENSE FEE**

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Vehicle Registration Fee revenue of \$27,464,107 reflects an increase of \$136,637 or 0.5 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate based on projected increase in vehicle volume. Fairfax County levies the fee at \$33 for passenger vehicles that weigh 4,000 pounds or less and \$38 on passenger vehicles that weigh more than 4,000 pounds. In addition, fees are \$18 for motorcycles and \$25 for buses used for transportation to and from church. The County does not require the display of a decal on the vehicle. The FY 2018 estimate was increased \$49,460 during the fall 2017 revenue review based on actual collections year-to-date and reflects an increase of 1.3 percent over the FY 2017 level. Payment of Vehicle Registration License Fees is linked to the payment of Personal Property Taxes on October 5 each year. Vehicles owned by disabled veterans, members of volunteer fire departments and auxiliary police officers are exempt from the fee.

## TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$22,578,980	\$21,581,091	\$21,581,091	\$22,120,618	\$539,527	2.5%

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Transient Occupancy Tax of \$22,120,618 represents an increase of \$539,527 or 2.5 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. Transient Occupancy Taxes are charged as part of a hotel bill and remitted by the hotel to the County. The Transient Occupancy Tax has been levied at 4 percent since the Virginia General Assembly permitted the Board of Supervisors to levy an additional 2.0 percent Transient Occupancy Tax in FY 2005. A portion, 25 percent, of the additional 2.0 percent must be appropriated to a nonprofit convention and visitors' bureau located in the County. The remaining 75 percent must be used by the County to promote tourism.

During FY 2013 and FY 2014, business travel was reported to have been down in the region due to federal spending reductions and Transient Occupancy Tax revenue declined for two consecutive years. After rising a robust 9.3 percent in FY 2015, Transient Occupancy receipts increased 2.3 percent in FY 2016. FY 2017 collections increased a strong 6.6 percent, partially due to the Presidential Inauguration in January 2017. Based on year-to-date collection trends, as well as data on room and occupancy rates, the FY 2018 estimate is unchanged and reflects a decrease of 4.4 percent from the FY 2017 level. FY 2019 estimate reflects a growth of 2.5 percent based on the assumption that tourism and business travel will improve.

CIGARETTE TAX						
FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent	
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change	
\$6,838,274	\$6,968,664	\$6,594,603	\$6,561,630	(\$32,973)	(0.5%)	

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Cigarette Tax of \$6,561,630 represents a decrease of \$32,973 or 0.5 percent from the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. Fairfax County and Arlington County are the only counties in Virginia authorized to levy a tax on cigarettes. The maximum rate authorized is the greater of 5.0 cents per pack or the rate levied by the Commonwealth. The County's rate is 30 cents per pack, the same as the state rate.

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Cigarette Tax receipts fell for a fifth consecutive year, decreasing 4.6 percent in FY 2017. During the fall 2017 revenue review, the FY 2018 estimate was decreased \$0.4 million, reflecting a decline of 3.6 percent, based on actual receipts during FY 2017 and current collections trends. FY 2019 Cigarette Tax receipts are anticipated to decline 0.5 percent.

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$52,201,079	\$50,891,047	\$52,950,742	\$53,009,977	\$59,235	0.1%

#### PERMITS, FEES AND REGULATORY LICENSES

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Permits, Fees, and Regulatory Licenses of \$53,009,977 represents a net increase of \$59,235 or 0.1 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. This increase is primarily due to an increase in Zoning fees revenue, which is projected to grow 1.6 percent.

Land Development Service (LDS) fees for building permits, site plans, and inspection services make up over three-quarters of the Permits, Fees, and Regulatory Licenses category. Changes in LDS fee revenue typically track closely to the current condition of the real estate market, as well as the size and complexity of projects submitted to LDS for review. As part of the *FY 2017 Carryover Review*, LDS fee revenue was increased \$1.7 million to \$40.3 million based on projected development activity. The revenue increase is offset by an expenditure increase for no net cost to the County to support investments in ongoing efforts to improve the speed, transparency, and consistency of the land development process. FY 2019 receipts are expected to be flat with the FY 2018 projected level.

During the fall 2017 revenue review, various other permits and fees were reviewed and, based on actual FY 2017 receipts and year-to-date collections, FY 2018 estimates were increased a net \$0.3 million.

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$27,536,705	\$30,233,911	\$39,637,147	\$46,992,592	\$7,355,445	18.6%

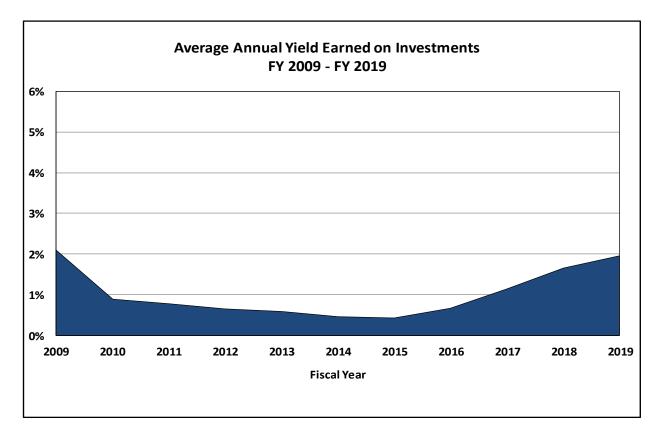
#### INVESTMENT INTEREST

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Investment Interest of \$46,992,592 represents an increase of \$7,355,445 or 18.6 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. Revenue from this category is a function of the amount invested, the prevailing interest rates earned on investments, and the percentage of the total pooled investment portfolio attributable to the General Fund. The County's investment managers keep a little over a third of investment holdings in short-term investments for liquidity needs such as meeting County and school payrolls. The remainder is invested with a maximum maturity of two years. These longer-term investments generally earn a higher yield.

Revenue from Interest on Investments is highly dependent on Federal Reserve actions. From 2004 to 2006, the Federal Reserve increased interest rates from 1.0 percent to 5.25 percent in an effort to stem inflation. As a result of higher rates, the annual average yield on County investments was 5.1 percent in FY 2007, and revenue from Interest on Investments was a record high of \$92.1 million. In FY 2008, the County's portfolio generated \$78.2 million for the General Fund, with an average annual yield of 4.46 percent. The federal funds rate remained unchanged from the end of 2008 to December 2015. During this period, it was set at 0.0 to 0.25 percent, its lowest in history, "to promote the resumption of sustainable economic growth" in

the wake of the Great Recession. As a result, the Investment Interest revenue trended down for several years and dropped to as little as \$10.7 million in FY 2015, with an average annual yield of 0.43 percent.

In December 2015, the Federal Reserve raised the target range for the federal funds rate by a quarterpercentage point for the first time in almost a decade as policy makers cited the improved labor market conditions and the solid pace of economic activity. As a result, FY 2016 Interest on Investments increased \$5.5 million to \$16.2 million at an annual yield of 0.66 percent. The Fed raised the interest rate again in December 2016 and continued raising it at a gradual pace throughout 2017. FY 2017 revenue was \$27.5 million at an average annual yield of 1.14 percent. The <u>FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan</u> estimate had assumed an average annual yield of 1.25 percent. Based on the actual FY 2017 level and the assumption that the Fed will continue raising the federal funds rate, the FY 2018 estimate of Interest on Investments was increased \$9.4 million during the fall 2017 revenue review to \$39.6 million. The projected annual yield for FY 2018 is 1.65 percent. The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Investment Interest of \$47.0 million is based on a projected average yield of 1.95 percent, a portfolio size of \$3.2 billion and a General Fund percentage net of administrative fees of 77.19 percent. All available resources are pooled for investment purposes and the net interest earned is distributed among the various County funds, based on the average dollars invested from each fund as a percentage of the total pooled investment. The following table shows the yield earned on investments since FY 2009.



# **General Fund Revenue Overview**

CHARGES FOR SERVICES							
FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent		
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change		
\$81,485,018	\$81,370,947	\$81,097,289	\$81,868,225	\$770,936	1.0%		

The FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan estimate for Charges for Services revenue of \$81,868,225 represents a net increase of \$770,936 or 1.0 percent over the FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan estimate. This increase is primarily the result of revenue from School Age Child Care (SACC) fees, Health Department fees, and County Clerk fees.

SACC fees of \$42.6 million comprise 52 percent of the total Charges for Services category. The projected FY 2019 increase in SACC revenue is \$0.6 million or 1.4 percent and is primarily the result of the opening of two new SACC rooms at White Oaks Elementary School. In addition, revenue from the Health Department Pharmacy fees is projected to increase \$115,000 as a result of Medicaid reimbursement for antiparasitic medication. Clerk fees are projected to increase \$48,538 or 1.0 percent in FY 2019.

Since the adoption of the FY 2018 budget, estimated Charges for Services revenue has been decreased a net \$0.3 million based on a review of actual FY 2017 receipts and year-to-date collections.

		FINES AND FORFEITURES				
FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Adopted	FY 2018 Revised	FY 2019 Advertised	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Change	
\$12,725,041	\$11,684,270	\$12,089,035	\$12,178,536	\$89,501	0.7%	

## FINES AND FORFEITURES

The FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan estimate for Fines and Forfeitures of \$12,178,536 represents a net increase of \$89,501 or 0.7 percent over the FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan estimate. The increase is primarily the result of higher General District Court Fines and Parking Violations, both of which are projected to increase 1.0 percent in FY 2019.

The FY 2018 estimate for Fines and Forfeitures was increased a net \$0.4 million during the fall 2017 revenue review. The increase is primarily the result of adjusting the estimate for Parking Violations revenue based on actual FY 2017 receipts and year-to-date collection trends in FY 2018.

## **RECOVERED COSTS / OTHER REVENUE**

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$16,923,470	\$16,480,180	\$16,317,223	\$16,636,952	\$319,729	2.0%

The FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan estimate for Recovered Costs/Other Revenue of \$16,636,952 represents a net increase of \$319,729 or 2.0 percent over the FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan estimate. This increase is primarily the result of projected increases in the reimbursement for governmental services from the City of Fairfax.

During the fall 2017 revenue review, the FY 2018 estimate for Recovered Costs/Other Revenue was decreased a net \$0.2 million. The decrease is primarily due to adjusting the estimate for the City of Fairfax Shared Governmental Expenses reimbursement, which was reduced \$0.5 million as a result of the reconciliation of the City's share based on actual utilization and expenses during FY 2017.

The FY 2019 estimate for the City of Fairfax reimbursement for governmental services is expected to increase 2.0 percent absent the adjustment described above, resulting in an increase of \$0.4 million.

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	Increase/	Percent
Actual	Adopted	Revised	Advertised	(Decrease)	Change
\$137,879,883	\$131,371,520	\$132,476,287	\$132,933,796	\$457,509	0.3%

## **REVENUE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH/FEDERAL GOVERNMENT<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Personal Property Taxes that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998. See the "Personal Property Tax - Current" heading in this section.

The <u>FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimate for Revenue from the Commonwealth and Federal Government of \$132,933,796 reflects an increase of \$457,509 or 0.3 percent over the *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate. The revenue increase is associated with contract rate increases for the providers of mandated and non-mandated services and is offset by an increase in expenditures. It should be noted that the <u>FY 2019</u> <u>Advertised Budget Plan</u> estimates include a realignment between the Revenue from the Commonwealth and the Revenue from the Federal Government categories based on the actual source of receipts in previous years.

The *FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan* estimate for Revenue from the Commonwealth and Federal Government represents an increase of \$1.1 million over the <u>FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan</u> estimate as a result of adjustments made during the *FY 2017 Carryover Review*. The revenue increase is associated with additional positions in the Public Assistance program. The positions will continue to address the increase in caseloads in the Self-Sufficiency Division within the Department of Family Services. The revenue increase is fully offset by an expenditure increase for no net impact to the General Fund.