

February 25, 2020



This week's Board of Supervisor's (BOS) meeting included one of our most important activities of the BOS. **County Executive Bryan Hill** presented his **Proposed FY 2021 and FY 2022 Multi-Year Budget Plan**, in conjunction with the **Proposed Countywide Strategic Plan**. This is the first year the County **budget is connected with the Strategic Plan** which reflects the priorities the Fairfax community identified through the Plan's **community engagement process**.

**Tonight I will be hosting the Mount Vernon District Budget Forum, along with the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. I encourage you all to join me tonight, February 26, 2020, for our Budget Forum at 7 p.m. at the Gerry Hyland Government Center.**

I commend County staff for all the effort to develop such a **comprehensive budget plan to fund the County and the Board's priorities**. In the coming weeks, I will be **listening to all of you** and sharing my thoughts on the Proposed Budget Plan. I understand the proposed **3-cent real estate tax increase**, combined with an average **increase of 2.65% in residential property values**, will have a real impact on our residents. The County Executive's **proposed budget supports our schools, affordable and workforce housing, environmental initiatives and other community priorities**. The County Executive is also proposing a **first time ever 4% Admissions Tax** on the sale of movie, theater and concert tickets to be implemented in October 2020.

**Hope to see you tonight at the Gerry Hyland (formerly South County) Government Center at 7 p.m.!**

Respectfully yours in public service,

Handwritten signature of Dan Storck in black ink.

Dan Storck  
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

*Please be sure to scroll to the end of this Brief to **see upcoming events and important information** in the District!*

---

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors February 25, 2020 meeting**, including items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the [County's Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule](#). You may listen to highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes. Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.

**The Board recognized and designated:**



## Recognized First Responders to the Groveton Fire

To view the February 25, 2020 Board Package [click here](#).

## Proposed FY 2021 and FY 2022 Multi-Year Budget Plan and the Proposed Countywide Strategic Plan

Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill presented the **FY 2021 Advertised (proposed) Budget Plan** to the Board of Supervisors. The budget focuses on board priorities including **school readiness, affordable housing, environmental stewardship and education**, and aligns with the priority outcome areas identified during the development of the **Countywide Strategic Plan**. The Advertised Budget Plan includes a **three-cent increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate and a new 4% Admissions Tax**.

The proposed General Fund budget is **\$4.63 billion, a \$175.87 million (or 3.95%) increase over the FY 2020 Adopted Budget**. Including other appropriated funds such as federal and state grants, the **total proposed budget is \$8.83 billion**.

From **County Executive Bryan Hill**, *"The investments required to **make progress on our collective goals** — including employee compensation, the development of **affordable housing**, the expansion of **school readiness opportunities**, **environmental stewardship** and support for Fairfax County Public Schools — are substantial. **Unfortunately, we cannot provide appropriate levels of funding in these areas with no adjustments to our tax rates.**"*

**View the County Executive's full presentation:**



### Tax Rate Increase

The proposed tax rate increase would bring the rate to **\$1.18 per \$100 of assessed value** and result in an **average annual tax bill increase of approximately \$346**. Of the proposed three-cent increase, two cents would be used to **balance the General Fund and fund board priorities**. The third cent would be **earmarked for affordable housing, tripling the amount of dedicated funding** for this initiative. One penny on the Real Estate Tax Rate **generates approximately \$26.5 million**.

### Admissions Tax Proposed

Fairfax is one of 13 counties in Virginia **permitted to charge an admissions tax** of up to 10% on items like tickets for **movie, theater, concerts and sporting events, and entrance fees to museums, gardens and zoos**. The proposed **4% tax, limited in scope to apply only to the sale of movie, theater and concert tickets**, would take effect in October and would **generate approximately \$2.31 million in revenue** in the first year. Revenue would be deposited into the Contributory Fund and **used for arts and**

tourism. Mr. Hill noted the tax also supports efforts to **diversify county revenue sources** and take pressure off the General Fund, allowing for the **expansion of library hours and parks scholarships**.

## Schools Transfers

The County Executive's budget plan includes an **increase of \$85.72 million or 3.65% over FY 2020 for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)** Operating, Debt Service and Construction. The recommendation is consistent with the Board's budget guidance, which encouraged **equal growth of county disbursements and school transfers**.

The transfer for Schools Operating increases \$85.52 but is **\$4.18 million short of the \$89.70 million increase requested**. It is anticipated that **FCPS will be able to make up the difference** between the increase and the amount requested **through increased funding from the state**. Transfers to the Schools Operating, Debt Service and Construction Funds make up **52.6% of General Fund disbursements in this proposal**. [Read FCPS FY 2021 Proposed Budget...](#)

## Strategic Plan

The presentation also included a review of the **development of the Countywide Strategic Plan**. Mr. Hill discussed the need for such a plan and the guiding principles: **multiple avenues for engagement**; defined **community-focused outcomes**; using data-driven insights and **evidence-based strategies**; and applying a **racial and social equity lens** to engagement and strategy development. The FY 2021 Budget maps major spending initiatives to the **nine strategic plan priority outcome areas**. He highlighted the development process including **extensive engagement with the community, staff and other stakeholders**. Next steps for the plan include **additional engagement opportunities**, with plan adoption concurrent with the FY 2021 Budget.

### Among them is:

- Funding to **expand school readiness programs** like the new Early Childhood Birth to 5 Fund and a recommended \$25 million bond referendum for early childhood facilities in 2020 in the Lifelong Education and Learning priority area.
- Dedicating **one cent of the proposed tax increase to affordable housing** under Housing and Neighborhood Livability.
- **Body-worn cameras and staff** for the new Scotts Run Fire and **South County Police stations** under Safety and Security.
- Funding to expand **environmental initiatives, Diversion First and the Opioid Task Force** under the Health and Environment priority area.
- Funding for **expanded library hours** (11 of 22 locations will move to standardized hours), scholarship assistance for parks programs and use of **admissions tax revenue** to increase funding for the arts under the Cultural and Recreational Opportunities priority area.

## Employee Compensation

The plan fully funds the **County's compensation program**, including a **2.06% market rate adjustment** for all employees, **performance and longevity increases averaging 2%** for merit non-uniformed employees and merit and longevity increases averaging 2.25% for merit uniformed public safety employees. On average, **non-uniformed and uniformed employees will see pay increases of 4.06% and 4.31%**, respectively. Funding for the increase is due in part to **savings in the area of fringe benefits**, resulting from employees selecting **lower cost health care plans**. These changes have produced significant savings in the County's share of plan premiums. Combined, **savings in health insurance and retiree health benefits total more than \$11 million**. The advertised plan also includes **177 new county positions**.

## Next Steps

Budget committee meetings take place in March and April, and **public hearings are scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, April 14-16**. Markup (when the Board makes changes to the advertised budget) takes place on **Tuesday, April 28**, and the **Board adopts the FY 2021 Budget on Tuesday, May 5**.

[More Budget Information...](#)

---

## Administrative Items

**Item 2:** Authorized the advertisement of a **March 24 public hearing** to move the polling

places for the Lorton and Nottoway precincts. The **Lorton Library polling location** is proposed to be **moved to Lorton Station Elementary School** while the Library is closed for renovation. *The full item can be read on pages 54 - 77 of the Board Package.*

**Item 4:** Endorsed the [Richmond Highway Widening Project](#), so that the Department of Transportation can **apply for \$80 million in federal grant funding**. *The full item can be read on pages 80 - 83 of the Board Package.*

---

## Action Items

**Item 3:** Approved the [Tree Action Plan 2019](#) that improves on the earlier plan by providing for **more effective implementation** through **greater involvement** of key government agencies, private organizations and County residents to **preserve our natural environment**. *The full item can be read on pages 100 - 150 of the Board Package.*

---

## Board Appointments

**Mount Vernon residents were appointed or reappointed to the following:**

1. Gina Lynch (Animal Services Advisory Commission)
  2. Matt Briney (Fairfax County Convention & Visitors Board)
- 

## Upcoming Land Use Cases

### Planning Commission Public Hearings

**Mar. 3, 7:30 p.m.:** **McDonald's USA**, LLC PCA 87-V -064-03 & SEA 94-V -030. Amend proffers and conditions associated with RZ 87-V-064, request to **renovate and modernize an existing restaurant** with a drive through on **Richmond Highway in Lorton**.

**Mar.11, 7:30 p.m.:** **Shazia Younis**, SP 2019-MV-117 Appl. under Sects. 3-103, 8-305 and 8-923 of the Zoning Ordinance to **permit a home child care facility** and to **allow an existing fence greater than 4 ft.** in height in a front yard to remain. Located at **9025 Kiger St., Lorton, 22079** on approx. 34,754 sq. ft. of land zoned R-1. Mount Vernon District. Tax Map 97-4 ((3)) 62.

---

## District Information & Upcoming Events

### Mount Vernon District Budget Forum

**Mount Vernon District Budget Forum**  
**TONIGHT! Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 7 p.m.**  
**Gerry Hyland Government Center**

Join Supervisor Storck and the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations for a **budget presentation by Joe Mondoro, Chief Financial Officer**, Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget.

**Art of Volunteering in Retirement**  
**Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 1 p.m.**  
**Gerry Hyland Government Center**

**RSVP is hosting a free seminar** on the **Art of Volunteering in Retirement**. Leap into the New Year by **giving back to your community** with your time and talents. To register for this free event call 703-403-5360 or [visit...](#)

### Events:

- Feb 26: [Mount Vernon District Budget Forum](#) - 7 p.m.
- Feb 26: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting](#) -7 p.m.
- Feb 27: [Shepherd's Center & RSVP Volunteer Information Session](#) - 1:30 p.m.
- Mar 3: [Lunch with AARP Fun Bunch](#) - 11:30 a.m.
- Mar 3: [FREE Tax Relief Workshops for Older Adults & People with Disabilities](#) - 10 a.m.

- Mar 6: [Sustainable Solutions to Landscaping](#) - 9:15 a.m.
- Mar 7: [LCAC Annual Monopoly Tournament](#) - 9 a.m.

---

[Visit our Website](#)

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518  
[MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) | [FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon](https://FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon)

STAY CONNECTED

