



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY  
Contact: Anthony Amos  
Anthony.Amos@fairfaxcounty.gov  
571-567-1551/703-451-8873

## ***Board Votes 9-1 to Consider a Meals Tax Despite Previous Referendums***

Fairfax, VA – On Tuesday May 21st the Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 to consider a meals tax between 1 and 6 percent, with Supervisor Herrity opposed. Supervisor Dalia Palchik (Providence) presented the proposal along with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Kathy Smith (Sully) for “revenue diversification” with a specific look at a meals tax implementation to come back to the Board at a September Budget Committee meeting.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors put a meals tax referendum on the ballot in 1992 as well as 2016. The referendums failed with 58 percent and 56 percent opposed respectively. Due to significant public opposition from residents and local businesses, Supervisor Herrity opposed the proposed meals tax in 2016 and voted against today’s proposal. A change in state law in 2020 allows Fairfax County to enact a meals tax without a referendum.

The proposal comes only two weeks after the Board approved an increase in the average homeowner’s taxes of 6 percent. This is on top of a 56 percent increase over the last 10 years. At the same time, they refused to consider Supervisor Herrity’s proposal to do a deep dive into the entire County budget, bringing in outside budget experts to help identify future savings and efficiencies.

**Supervisor Herrity commented: "Our residents have soundly rejected the meals tax in prior referendums, the Board should be listening to its residents."**

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**SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY**  
**SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT**  
**FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
6140 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152  
703-451-8873 TTY 711 Fax 703-451-3047  
Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov