

PROPOSED FY2026 **BUDGET** QUESTIONS

- **What is the total proposed budget for FY2026?**

The proposed FY2026 budget totals \$1.99 billion for the general fund, with \$997 million allocated to schools and the remainder funding county operations, public safety, infrastructure, and other services.

- **Will my taxes increase under the proposed budget?**

The budget maintains the real estate tax rate at \$0.92 per \$100 of assessed value, but due to property value increases, the average residential tax bill will rise by \$276 (5.6%). Personal property tax rates remain unchanged.

- **What are the budget priorities for FY2026?**

The budget prioritizes education funding (9.1% school transfer increase), public safety (police/fire staffing & crisis services), transportation improvements, and affordable housing investments. It also continues funding for the Crisis Receiving Center and the expansion of parks and public services.

- **Are there any new fees or increases in existing fees?**

Yes, the budget includes a 3% increase in the stormwater management fee, which supports environmental initiatives and flood resilience projects. Landfill fees remain unchanged, but the landfill will now be open on Sundays without an additional cost to residents. Land Development fees are increasing 5% and Fire Marshall Fees are increasing 3%.

- **How many positions are added in the proposed budget?**

The budget includes the addition of 159.25 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions across various county departments to enhance service delivery and meet the growing needs of the community.

- **What funding is provided for schools?**

The County's general revenue transfer is proposed to be \$993.5 million to Prince William County Schools (PWCS), an increase of \$82.5 million (9.1%) over FY25. The budget also maintains funding for class size reduction grants, school security officers, and debt service for Gainesville High School.

- **What transportation and mobility projects are included?**

The budget doubles funding for the Transportation Roadway Improvement Program (TRIP), increasing each district's funding from \$225,000 to \$450,000. Other initiatives include continued support for OmniRide, increased investment in pedestrian and mobility safety, and road maintenance projects.

- **What investments are being made in affordable housing?**

The County is contributing \$5.5 million to the Affordable Housing Trust Reserve. The funding includes three additional positions in the Housing and Community Development Office. This investment aims to incentivize the construction of affordable housing units and expand housing assistance programs.

- **How can residents provide input on the budget?**

The County offers multiple engagement opportunities, including public hearings, community meetings, and an online budget Question & Answer (Q&A) feature that allows residents to submit questions and view responses online. Two public hearings are scheduled for residents to provide input on the budget on March 18 & April 8. The budget adoption is scheduled for April 22, 2025. Visit the PWC [Budget Web Page](#) for details and to participate in the [Online Q&A](#) feature.

