

TOP TEN QUESTIONS

1. What is the total proposed budget for FY2027?

The proposed budget total for County Government and Schools is \$5.9 billion, representing a 15.15% increase over FY2026. The County Government's General Fund budget totals \$2.22 billion and includes a \$1.12 billion transfer to Prince William County Schools. The budget provides funding for public safety, human services, transportation, government operations, debt service, and other core services. The primary objective of the budget is to ensure continued investment in the County's strategic priorities while maintaining fiscal stability.

2. Will my taxes increase under the proposed budget?

The proposed real estate tax rate remains flat at \$0.906 per \$100 of assessed value. However, because the average residential assessment increased by 3.5%, the average residential real estate tax bill will increase by \$181, bringing the average total residential tax bill to \$5,351. The proposed budget also reduces the Fire Levy rate and the Mosquito & Forest Pest Management levy rate.

3. What are the budget priorities for FY2027?

The proposed budget focuses on Education, Safe and Secure Community, Health and Wellbeing, Mobility, Environmental Sustainability, and Workforce Investment. Major priorities include a 12.8% increase in the school transfer, expanded public safety staffing and coordinated response programs, investments in behavioral health and aging services, transportation and capital infrastructure improvements, stormwater compliance efforts, and employee compensation adjustments to recruit and retain a competitive workforce.

4. Are there any new fees or increases in existing fees?

The proposed budget includes an increase in the Stormwater Management Fee to meet federally mandated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) water quality requirements. For single-family homes, the fee increases \$13.45 from \$53.83 to \$67.28 annually. The proposed budget also includes an increase to the Solid Waste Fee to support Phase 4 landfill infrastructure and long-term system sustainability. For single-family homes, the Solid Waste fee will increase \$9.00 from \$75.00 to \$84.00 annually. There is no proposed increase to the commercial landfill tipping fee in FY2027. In addition, the proposed budget has various fee increases for building and land development activities to assist in recovering revenue from development occurring in the County.

5. How many new positions are added in the proposed budget?

The proposed budget includes a net addition of approximately 129 full-time equivalent positions across County government. Most of the new positions support service delivery in public safety agencies such as Fire & Rescue, Police, Sheriff, and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. Beyond public safety, the top two agencies with new positions are Community Services for mental health and developmental disability services and Parks & Recreation for trail maintenance support, operations and capital project delivery to the community.

6. What funding is provided for schools?

The proposed County transfer to Prince William County Schools is \$1.12 billion, an increase of \$127.3 million or 12.8% compared to FY2026. The County continues to follow the revenue sharing agreement that allocates 57.23% of general revenues to Schools with the remainder to County government. In addition to the general revenue transfer, the budget includes funding for the Class Size Reduction Grant, Gainesville High School debt service, and the School Security Program.

7. How much of the budget is supported by data centers?

Data center revenues are projected to generate approximately \$549.7 million from real estate and business tangible personal property taxes in FY2027. This represents approximately 28% of total general revenues. The growth in data center revenues continues to play a significant role in supporting County services.

8. What investments are being made in public safety?

The proposed budget includes significant investments in public safety, including funding for amended collective bargaining agreements for Police and Fire & Rescue, market adjustment for Adult Detention Center and Sheriff staff, additional staffing in Fire & Rescue (including Station 27 engine unit support), new Sheriff deputy positions, and additional Commonwealth's Attorney staff.

9. What investments are being made in health and human services?

The proposed budget expands behavioral health services, developmental disability support, early intervention services for infants and toddlers, and adult and youth behavioral health programs to reduce waitlists, improve service access, and support growing community needs. It also includes funding for Children's Services Act contractual increases, Senior Center Without Walls expansion, hypothermia shelter services, and enhanced public health emergency planning. These investments support vulnerable populations and promote overall community wellbeing.

10. How is the County maintaining fiscal sustainability?

The proposed budget is structurally balanced, adhering to the County's Principles of Sound Financial Management. The real estate tax rate remains flat, fund balance is used only for one-time capital investments, and the five-year financial plan remains balanced in all years. The County maintains AAA bond ratings from each of the three major credit rating agencies and follows established debt policies that limit debt service to sustainable levels, for example total bonded debt will not exceed 3% of the net assessed valuation of taxable real and personal property in the County. These measures ensure that current investments do not create long-term financial instability.

GET INVOLVED. The budget is scheduled for adoption on April 21, 2026. In the meantime, the County offers several opportunities for public engagement. Sign up for public comment time during a Board meeting, attend public hearings (March 17 and April 7), and submit questions through the online Budget Q&A platform. Learn more by visiting www.pwcva.gov/budget.