

# FY 2026 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 20, 2025	<p>I appreciate the City's investments in infrastructure, public safety, economic development, and education in the FY 2026 budget. Cybersecurity must be part of this discussion. The systems that power our city—emergency services, flood mitigation, public transit, hospitals, and schools—depend on digital technology that needs protection to stay operational.</p> <p>Many of Alexandria's critical services rely on cloud platforms, automated control systems, smart sensors, and interconnected databases. Security gaps in these systems can lead to service outages, data breaches, and operational failures that impact residents. Investing in cybersecurity protects public services from these risks.</p> <p>Some key areas where cybersecurity plays a role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 911 and Emergency Services – Computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems, radio networks, and GPS tracking allow first responders to coordinate effectively. These systems need security to prevent interference and downtime.</li> <li>- Flood Mitigation Systems – Stormwater pumps and floodgates are controlled by Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems. Unauthorized access can disrupt flood response efforts.</li> <li>- Public Transit – GPS-based fleet tracking, traffic signal controls, and digital fare payment systems keep transportation running. Cyber protections are needed to prevent disruptions.</li> <li>- Hospitals and Healthcare – Electronic health records (EHRs), medical IoT devices, and patient scheduling platforms require security to prevent unauthorized access and system failures.</li> <li>- Schools and Education – Learning management systems, cloud storage for student records, and school administrative networks need protection from data breaches and ransomware attacks.</li> </ul> <p>Cybersecurity funding ensures these systems remain secure, reliable, and resilient.</p> <p>If cybersecurity isn't already part of the City's budget discussions, I want to be part of the conversation. As an Alexandrian and Cybersecurity Analytics Professional, I help municipalities secure critical infrastructure, identify risks, and strengthen essential services.</p> <p>A proactive approach today ensures our city's critical services remain secure tomorrow.</p>
Thursday, March 20, 2025	Please fully fund the Superintendents budget for Alexandria City Public Schools.
Thursday, March 20, 2025	Please fully fund the Superintendents budget for Alexandria City Public Schools.
Wednesday, March 19, 2025	<p>Dear Alexandria City Council &amp; Staff,</p> <p>Please include money to fund staffing hours and implementation of quick-build street safety projects. With low-cost, quick-build measures like street bollards or paint on the road, we can seriously advance our Vision Zero goals and make our city a much safer place to navigate.</p> <p>There are so many opportunities to tighten turning radii at intersections, to neck down dangerous crosswalks on routes to school, and many others as identified by the community that would require minimal expenditure of funds for major safety gains. But the City's long, arduous process of study-outreach-contract-build unnecessarily puts vulnerable road users at risk while the process percolates to completion.</p> <p>To fill this safety gap, Council should champion and Staff should execute incremental street safety improvements that are easy to build and easy to reverse, as needed. Incrementally improving street safety is a proven approach and one which Alexandria should adopt and fund. Please include funding for this quick-build street safety projects in the FY26 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this request.</p> <p>William Buschur</p>
Monday, March 17, 2025	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2026 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the City Manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>My family has used Duncan extensively. My kids grew up playing with the educational toys and reading books there as toddlers. Now as older kids, they devour the middle grades books. I attend a free writing group, which has supported my goal of becoming a published author.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because they are a community gathering place dedicated to the written word.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>In 2024 Duncan Library welcomed more than 144,000 visitors. Last year 308,000 books were borrowed from Duncan Library. Last year Friends of the Duncan Library supported over 800 programs at the library including youth book clubs, an authors' consortium, after-school activities, Lego competitions, and Dungeons and Dragons for teens. Additionally, 25,000 infants, youth and teens took advantage of programs in 2024.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Monday, March 17, 2025	Don't take any bows for not raising the property tax rate after you raised it last year and this year and hiked out property tax assessments--AFTER the elections last November.
Sunday, March 16, 2025	I feel the city of Alexandria should really consider its budget when it comes to public schools. I understand education is a big priority for the school for kids, but we should really consider who actually lives in the city and who currently attends our school. I've seen a lot of students who are currently being dropped off by parents in Maryland, with a DC license plate, and are currently attending Alexandria City High School and Mini Howard. It baffles me because we spend so much money on public education when probably the majority of the kids that currently attend school in our city don't really actually live in the city of Alexandria. They are the ones who cause problems skipping school and cause students who are trying to improve themselves for the future go in downfall and become a bad influence to them.

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Friday, March 14, 2025	Thank you to Mayor Gaskins, City Council and City Manager Parajon, for your continued support of Alexandria Library. I appreciate the funding for mobile hotspots and small increases for staff. As Alexandria residents face a number of impactful federal actions, we want City residents to find resources and safe spaces in the Library to navigate these transitional times. We also want to stay competitive with salaries in neighboring jurisdictions so that we can retain staff and pay them enough to live within the communities they serve. We don't want to sleep on the Alexandria Library salary increases that were implemented in December 2023, which was so welcome, needed and appreciated. We are making up years of lagging behind and have more work to do in budget planning for future FYs. For example, let's compare two similar open positions online today: an Alexandria Library branch manager requires a master's degree and starts at \$73k, versus a Prince William County branch manager that requires a high school diploma/G.E.D. and starts at \$83k. Can more be done in future FYs for Alexandria librarians and staff, particularly for those who have spent years/decades serving the system, those who innovate with new programming and services, and those who go beyond their job descriptions to reach out into Alexandria's communities? I understand the financial situation in Alexandria for FY26 is tight, and I appreciate the work you are all doing toward that.
Tuesday, March 11, 2025	<p>These questions arise in the context of ongoing cuts to the federal workforce, which will hit some workers, including some who are Alexandria residents, near retirement age and will cause some to be forced to continue working past planned retirement. According to the Proposed Budget-in-Brief, the City budget funds a business accelerator pilot program operated by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are funds being set aside to support business development efforts specifically by older workers?</li> <li>- This street is in need of a serious look from the city—the sidewalks are TINY and cars fly through this residential area. Those on bikes are forced to ride amidst pedestrians on the tiny sidewalks because the street is notably unsafe. I advocate for PROTECTED BIKE LANES, WIDER SIDEWALKS, more regulation of traffic and potentially camera tickets, beautification and addition of vegetation to the public spaces. With the new Sanse Naja building adding density, we are in desperate need of infrastructure to protect and protect encourage safe walking and biking. Ideally before this building is finished and people move in.</li> <li>- The City's Workforce Development group previously received COVID relief funds that were used to support stipends for enrollees in the Workforce Development Program during the enrollees' 12-week internship.</li> <li>- Since the COVID relief funds have been exhausted, is the City making plans to identify alternate sources of funding to continue the internship program?</li> <li>- If so, can the City create a set-aside, offering a portion of those funds to support internships filled by older workers?</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 9, 2025	West Glebe road (Arlandria between Mt Vernon and Charles Barrett Elementary) is home to many multifamily buildings with many who rely on alternate means of transportation including bikes, pedestrians, public transit. It can be a busy and sometimes dangerous street with mostly low income children walking to school. It truly feels neglected. This street is in need of a serious look from the city—the sidewalks are TINY and cars fly through this residential area. Those on bikes are forced to ride amidst pedestrians on the tiny sidewalks because the street is notably unsafe. I advocate for PROTECTED BIKE LANES, WIDER SIDEWALKS, more regulation of traffic and potentially camera tickets, beautification and addition of vegetation to the public spaces. With the new Sanse Naja building adding density, we are in desperate need of infrastructure to protect and protect encourage safe walking and biking. Ideally before this building is finished and people move in.
Saturday, March 8, 2025	<p>Warwick pool often has a line for entry as soon as it opens during peak summer weekends. At certain times last year, they were forced to limit capacity due to not having enough lifeguards on duty. Under the current operating hours schedule, many families elect to go to smaller Warwick and Charles Houston pools because the larger Old Town pool does not open until the noon. The City should allocate additional resources to RPCA to (1) extend operating hours of all the outdoor pools during peak season, and (2) hire enough lifeguards to ensure that as many residents as would like to can safely enjoy our outdoor public pools.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Peter Carlson</p>
Wednesday, March 5, 2025	We need to do something to stabilize the property taxes. I have been a 20+ year resident of Alexandria and in a dual working family and do not see a plan where I can retire in Alexandria. My mortgage just went up \$200 a month and that trend will continue. We need to figure out a way to work with the residents to not put the financial pressures on homeowners. I hope you will consider this request to challenge the city council to find ways to meet residents expectations but not continue to push cost to homeowners.
Wednesday, March 5, 2025	<p>Roads, Roads, Roads!</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>Many of our roads in old town were in bad shape prior to this year's snow, but at this point, they are delapidated. There are more potholes and craters in most areas. We need an aggressive repavement plan rather than filling potholes here and there. Is there a robust plan to address this issue?</p>
Tuesday, March 4, 2025	<p>February 27, 2025</p> <p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and esteemed members of the City Council,</p> <p>We recognize this year's city budget process is particularly challenging due to the uncertainty surrounding federal funding. In light of these complexities, we strongly encourage Council to uphold the following values as the City budget and the ACPS school budget are brought into alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Safety and Inclusion: Every student—regardless of ethnicity, country of origin, language, gender identity, or sexual orientation—deserves to feel safe, supported, and respected in their school and classroom.</li> <li>-Equitable Access: All students should have access to nutritious meals and the school supplies they need to succeed.</li> <li>-Welcoming Schools: Families of every language and cultural background should feel welcomed and empowered to engage in their children's education.</li> <li>-Support for Educators: Teachers deserve competitive benefits, professional development opportunities, and the resources necessary to feel valued, respected, and equipped to serve their students effectively, in line with other city employees.</li> </ul> <p>By centering these priorities, the Council can ensure that the budget reflects a commitment to the equitable success of Alexandria City students, families, and educators. We ask you to have confidence in Superintendent Dr. Kay-Wyatt's request for the necessary funding to ensure our schools continue progressing on a positive path.</p> <p>With our deepest appreciation,</p> <p>Alexandria PTA Council Executive Board 2024-2025</p> <p>Catie Brownback, President          Julia Sylla, Secretary          Cynthia McKeever, Treasurer          Maureen McNulty, VP of Advocacy          Katie Palavecino, VP of Communications          Emily Godfrey, VP of Outreach          Meta Viers, Past President          Keisha Brooks, Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion Co-Chair          Sue Heiler Brown, Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion Co-Chair</p>
Thursday, February 27, 2025	What is the average real estate tax bill increase for the proposed FY26 based on real estate assessments? What is the average residential real estate property value of Alexandria for the proposed FY26?
Wednesday, February 26, 2025	Please increase the city employee pay scale adjustment from 1% to 2% to match the FY2025 budget. Inflation is hitting everyone hard and the city must invest in compensation to stay competitive.

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Thursday, February 20, 2025	<p>Dear City of Alexandria,</p> <p>I would ask the City of Alexandria to more fully budget the personnel and money for quick-build transportation projects. Quick build projects prioritize affordable and rapid improvements to street designs using low-cost materials that can be installed quickly. Quick build projects allow the City to test out street designs in efficient and affordable ways, which if successful in achieving goals like improved street safety can later be made permanent with more permanent (and costly) materials. Well-implemented quick-build projects would save the City time and resources, while also improving safety and accessibility for residents and visitors.</p> <p>In an era where the City may not be able to rely upon the Federal government to support its infrastructure needs, quick-build projects offer a means by which the City can continue to redesign its streets to improve accessibility and safety. The City can still pursue Vision Zero and other goals in the Alexandria Mobility Plan by using quick-build projects, even in a period where funding from the Federal government may prove unreliable.</p> <p>Despite the benefits, the City of Alexandria has largely not provided the support to consider or implement quick build projects. While quick-build projects are cheaper and faster to implement than major street redesigns, they still require intention and support from the City. There is nobody at Complete Streets department to identify potential quick-build projects, to implement quick-build projects, or to evaluate the outcomes. Our current approach is ad-hoc, and provides no dedicated resources to identify and implement quick build projects that could improve our streets, reduce maintenance costs, and increase safety. Thus, I'd urge the City to budget in a specific program to identify, implement, and evaluate quick-build projects throughout the City.</p> <p>Respectfully, Dane Lauritzen</p>
Wednesday, February 12, 2025	<p>The city needs to stop spending money on leaf collection. Do a public outreach program to inform residents on the benefits of leaving leaves in their yards. Enough wasting scarce City resources to help houses look like golf courses.</p> <p>Andrew Hartsig</p>
Wednesday, January 22, 2025	<p>As a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation District, Alexandria has the authority to levy a tax on commercial property of up to \$0.125 out of \$100 of value. Our neighbors and fellow members Fairfax County and Arlington County levy this tax, but Alexandria does not. Alexandria's share of funding to the NVTA comes out of our General Fund. Alexandria should join its neighbors in levying this tax in order to achieve a better balance of revenue from commercial and residential property. Proceeds from this tax would help fund the city's transit projects without placing undue burden on residents.</p> <p>Peter D Carlson</p>
Tuesday, January 14, 2025	<p>Please consider fully funding parking enforcement in Old Town .Since the ALX traffic data was collected in 2015, for the 2016 study, there has been an unforeseen increase in delivery traffic by 400 % during peak times . Enforcing existing ordinances that prohibit double-parking, idling, or parking within 200 feet of a crosswalk might generate money as well as calm traffic. (Proactively notifying delivery based businesses could accelerate adherence.)</p> <p>Louise Watts</p>
Friday, December 13, 2024	<p>I wanted to request that the budget to add a glass recycling drop off to better serve the Del Ray, Rosemont, and North Old Town neighborhoods. The city has recognized that glass recycling is an efficient solution, but existing sites are not convenient to our neighborhood. We hope that a new drop off would increase participation in the program enough to pay for itself within a few years.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this request.</p> <p>Aaron Goldsmith</p>
Wednesday, December 11, 2024	<p>Please budget to add a glass recycling drop off to better serve the Del Ray, Rosemont, and North Old Town neighborhoods. City materials emphasize that dropping off glass at drop off locations is the "Least expensive, most sustainable option." The existing sites are not convenient to our neighborhood. We hope that a new drop off would increase participation in the program enough to pay for itself within a few years.</p> <p>We propose considering a new drop off bin near where Main Line Boulevard dead ends. The Main Line Boulevard location is far closer to Del Ray and North Old Town than any existing drop off, but far enough from residences to avoid creating a nuisance for neighbors. I and my neighbors have developed this idea in close and deeply appreciated coordination with city staff and with the Rosemont Citizens Association's PELT committee. We are particularly thankful for Gary Hensley's work advising us and getting input from his colleagues at T&amp;ES. City staff sound optimistic that the Main Line Boulevard location is feasible, as might be a second additional location near the Southern Towers.</p> <p>There is more about this request, including a map of existing and proposed drop off locations and photos of the potential locations at <a href="https://alx-glass.github.io">https://alx-glass.github.io</a></p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robert Letzler</p>
Thursday, December 5, 2024	<p>This is an opportunity to review the city's expenditures closely. With "After seeing the healthiest growth in our real estate tax base in over 15 years, the last two years have shown slowing. For 2025, we are expecting a continuation of that trend" becoming the trend, it should not be assumed that we can continue to spend as we have in the past. The city's property tax revenue may be projected to grow at 1.5%, but many residents will see a substantially larger amount on next year's real estate tax bill, as we always do. That's the reality of living in the city. If the city's expenditures are projected to exceed the inflation rate, looking for new revenue sources to cover the delta should not be the first thing done to fix the problem. A careful and possibly painful scrub of where the money should go should be first. When the "good times" return, returning some excess funds to the taxpayers should also be part of the process. You should also consider incentivizing your department heads to accomplish the year's objectives without using all the funds available. I realize that zeroing out the budget is a government mantra; maybe Alexandria can become a trendsetter in how local governments can run more efficiently. All homeowners in the city have seen their tax bills rise more than the inflation rate over the last fifteen years. As you look at the budget, remember that the tax rate is not the focus of your constituents. The focus is on how much the check is written for, and the tax rate should be set to keep the property tax bill as close to the inflation rate as possible.</p> <p>Rene Rodriguez</p>