

FY 2026 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
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	Roads, Roads, Roads! Hello, 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?
Tuesday, March 4, 2025	February 27, 2025 Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and esteemed members of the City Council, 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: -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. -Equitable Access: All students should have access to nutritious meals and the school supplies they need to succeed. -Welcoming Schools: Families of every language and cultural background should feel welcomed and empowered to engage in their children's education. -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. 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. With our deepest appreciation, Alexandria PTA Council Executive Board 2024-2025 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 & Inclusion Co-Chair Sue Heiler Brown, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Co-Chair
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.
Thursday, February 20, 2025	Dear City of Alexandria, 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. 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. 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. Respectfully, Dane Lauritzen
Wednesday, February 12, 2025	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. Andrew Hartsig
Wednesday, January 22, 2025	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. Peter D Carlson

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Tuesday, January 14, 2025	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.) Louise Watts
Friday, December 13, 2024	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. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Aaron Goldsmith
Wednesday, December 11, 2024	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. 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&ES. City staff sound optimistic that the Main Line Boulevard location is feasible, as might be a second additional location near the Southern Towers. There is more about this request, including a map of existing and proposed drop off locations and photos of the potential locations at https://alx-glass.github.io Thank you, Robert Letzler
Thursday, December 5, 2024	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. Rene Rodriguez