

FY 2027 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am a volunteer with Concerned Citizens of Alexandria (CCNA). Being a volunteer has given me the opportunity to attend community events and to meet individuals who are or not members of the community. No matter what the event mental health meetings, school programs, free eye clinics, holiday giveaways, or cookouts, Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office were in attendance to show support. I first met Sheriff Casey at Minnie Howard High School where CCNA had planned and scheduled a number of talks for the students on various issues. Sheriff Casey talked about discernment. Noted that as students we want to make the right decision. But we are met with uncertainties as to what is the right decision. We need to ask for advice. And recalled when he was in college and was uncertain in what direction to go. He wanted to change his course and to go into law enforcement. He first sought advice not only from family members but also friends. At every event Sheriff Casey and his office greeted all of us. This made me a witness to their commitment to the community and their respect for we the people. Their appearances earned high respect from all of us. And they in turn showed the same to each and every one of us. And this gave all of us a feeling of a community that is safe to live in. I applaud the commitment and the trust the sheriff and his office built with the community they serve. Please don't cut the budget.</p> <p>Cynthia Cortese, CCNA volunteer</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I live in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and have for over 70 years. I went to ACPS schools. After graduating from college, I returned to teach here for 36 years.. I support the sheriff's department. Please, DO NOT cut the departments budget. The work and programs they support are vital to our city!</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am writing in support of fully funding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in the FY 2027 budget. As a taxpayer, public safety is my top priority. The sheriff's office protects our courthouse, transports prisoners, and runs rehabilitation programs that reduce recidivism, saving us money in the long run. A 0.7% budget increase doesn't even keep pace with inflation. Our deputies deserve better, and our community deserves a fully staffed, fully funded sheriff's office.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is the most diverse public safety agency in the city, with a majority-minority staff that reflects the community it serves. You cannot advance equity by defunding the most diverse agency in Alexandria. Protect these jobs. Fund the sheriff's office.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>If council is serious about equity, fully funding the sheriff's office should be an easy decision. It's the most diverse agency in the city. Its programs serve the most vulnerable residents. Its staff comes from the communities it protects. Fund it.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I'm concerned that proposed cuts to the sheriff's office budget are politically motivated rather than fiscally responsible. The sheriff is a constitutional officer who follows Virginia law. Using the budget as political leverage against an elected official sets a dangerous precedent. Fund the sheriff's office on its merits.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I attend City Council meetings and I've watched how the sheriff's budget has been discussed this year. I'm troubled by the tone. These are real people with real jobs serving our community. They deserve respectful consideration and full funding.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>How do you find it acceptable to release violent offenders into the community and threaten the Sheriff through the budget process to violate his constitutional oath by doing so? Keep in mind that those released from the detention center are only blocks away from King St, a critical contributor to tourism dollars for the City. Why will anyone visit Alexandria when the incidents (violent crimes) similar to what is occurring in neighboring jurisdictions happen here? Releasing violent offenders distinctly changes dangerous outcomes to a "when it occurs" scenario and away from "what if it occurs" scenarios. Please don't exchange short term political gains for the reduced safety and security of the residents of Alexandria. Fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>Please fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. The individuals detained there -- the majority who are persons of color -- deserve quality services to remain safe while in the jail and to subsequently return to our community healthy. In order to ensure such quality services are provided to detainees, the jail needs proper staffing levels. The City of Alexandria is fortunate to have a leader like Sheriff Casey because he values safety for inmates and staff. But he can only do so much without proper funding. I urge you to believe him when he tells you what budget is required to ensure a safe jail; please provide him that funding so he and his staff may do the hard work required in a detention facility. Thank you.</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Our libraries serve 147,573 registered borrowers who last year borrowed over 1 million materials. At Duncan Library, the Friends group supported 650 programs last year that met the needs of Alexandrians from babies and infants all the way up through adults, including our popular infant story time and Dungeons and Dragons games for both teens and adults. These programs reached 30,000 participants in 2025.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because they're a vital third space in our community, especially for young people. Both of my children go there independently after school (they attend MVCS elementary and GW middle) to do school work and hang out with friends. The librarians know them by name and talk to them - not only about books, but about their lives and what they're up to. As Alexandria grapples with the challenge of engaging our youth and ensuring they have access to a variety of dynamic pathways to successful lives, few tools are more important than our libraries.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to continue to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Jesse</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>Proposed cuts to the Sheriff's Office should be reconsidered, as further reductions to an already tight budget would directly impact essential public safety services our community relies on. The Sheriff's Office operates the detention center around the clock, provides courthouse security, and enforces court orders—core responsibilities that support a safe and functioning justice system. In addition, the office offers education and reentry programs funded through inmate fees, not taxpayers, and generates significant federal revenue for the city. Reducing this funding would weaken public safety and undermine services that benefit both residents and city finances, making it critical to protect the resources that help keep Alexandria safe.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>March 26, 2026</p> <p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>As a former volunteer with the Sheriff's Department (Jail) – teaching life skills to inmates – supporting those being released... I have been requested by Sheriff Casey to come back in – health challenges and caregiving responsibilities limits my availability...</p> <p>I write to express my strong and unwavering support for Sheriff Sean Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. As a committed member of this community (former business owner) and someone who has worked alongside many dedicated leaders and organizations in Alexandria, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact the Sheriff's Office continues to have on public safety, community engagement, and the well-being of our residents. I respectfully urge you to reject any proposed budget cuts and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>Under Sheriff Casey's leadership, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has demonstrated a clear commitment to professionalism, accountability, and service. The Office's receipt of the National Sheriffs' Association's 2023 Triple Crown Award is a powerful testament to its excellence in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. This level of recognition is not easily earned and reflects a standard of performance that should be supported and sustained.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office plays an essential role in maintaining the safety and efficiency of our city. Its responsibilities - including operating the Adult Detention Center, providing courthouse security, serving legal processes, and transporting individuals—are critical to the integrity of our justice system. These services are foundational and must remain strong and well-supported.</p> <p>Equally important is the Office's deep and ongoing commitment to the community. I have personally observed Sheriff Casey's engagement with local organizations, faith leaders, and residents. Whether through outreach efforts, support for families, or participation in collaborative public safety initiatives, the Sheriff's Office has demonstrated that it values partnership and understands that true public safety is built on trust and connection.</p> <p>I am also encouraged by the Sheriff's Office's forward-thinking approach to accountability and care. The Adult Detention Center's achievement of federal PREA certification in 2024 reflects a meaningful commitment to safety, transparency, and dignity for those in custody. Additionally, the Office's efforts to address mental health challenges through partnerships with health professionals, academic institutions, and community stakeholders show a clear understanding of the complex needs within our justice system.</p> <p>Maintaining a local detention facility is both practical and necessary. Keeping the jail in Alexandria preserves important connections between individuals in custody, their families, and the support systems that are critical for successful rehabilitation and reentry. Relocating the jail would likely increase operational costs, create inefficiencies, and place unnecessary burdens on families—ultimately undermining the progress that has been made.</p> <p>At a time when many communities are striving to build trust and effectiveness within their public safety systems, Alexandria already has a model that works. Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office represent leadership, accountability, and a genuine commitment to the people they serve.</p> <p>Ladies and gentlemen, this decision is about more than budget considerations - it is about values, responsibility, and the future of our community. I respectfully urge the City Council to maintain full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to the City of Alexandria and your work in the DMV.</p> <p>Respectfully, s/ Fannie Allen City resident</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>I'm deeply disappointed that some members of the City Council are considering cutting the Sheriff's Office budget. Sheriff Casey follows the law and genuinely cares about the community. These cuts will have serious consequences. Do these council members want Sheriff Casey to adopt policies like those in Fairfax County? Do they want a tragedy like the one in December 2025, when a criminal illegal alien, Marvin Fernando Morales-Ortez, was released due to sanctuary policies and then brutally murdered a resident in Reston, Virginia, just one day after being released?</p> <p>I'm proud to work alongside the dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Casey was elected to run the office, and he should not be forced to worry about budget cuts because of policy disagreements. This feels like a political move—disagreeing with someone's stance, so you target their budget. (Remember DOGE?) The residents of Alexandria, the inmates, and the hardworking staff all deserve better.</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library and I am requesting that you continue to support funding for Alexandria Libraries in the Funding year 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Libraries are vital to our community. In addition to books, newspapers, magazines and internet access, they provide a variety of services and programs for citizens of all ages from infants to senior citizens. I live near the Duncan Branch and find great joy when I enter the library and see rows of baby strollers and hear the librarian animatedly reading a story to the children assembled there.</p> <p>My family has enjoyed activities from lego robotic competitions, to art projects, to "do it yourself" crafts to kid science programs to book discussion groups.</p> <p>Our libraries are an asset to our city and my family and I are grateful for your support.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Anne Curry</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>Good evening, I would like to express my support for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office (ASO) and Sheriff Casey and encourage the City Council to refrain from any cuts from their budget. ASO provides an often overlooked but critical public safety service by maintaining a safe and secure environment for inmates while providing them access to medical and mental health care, job skills, and academic advancement opportunities. To me, what separates ASO from other agencies is its presence in the Alexandria community. Sheriff Casey is an Alexandria native, a TC graduate, and is someone who ensures his Deputies are engaging with the community. Whether it be at an elementary school, a community cookout, a senior center, or taking a meal to those in need, ASO is present. I've seen it first hand from shoveling the sidewalk of a senior citizen's home to delivering turkeys at Thanksgiving for those in need. These are the people we want to represent our City!</p> <p>What message does it send to the people of Alexandria to cut their budget?</p>

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Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>I urge the City Council to reconsider any proposed cuts to the Sheriff's Office budget. Reducing this funding would not only impact operations within the jail and courthouse, but would also eliminate or weaken several critical programs that serve the broader community.</p> <p>Proposed cuts would mean fewer deputies and reduced protection for our City and its residents, as well as diminished security at the courthouse—both of which are essential to public safety and the proper functioning of our justice system.</p> <p>Programs like Project Lifesaver provide vital support to some of our most vulnerable populations, including children, individuals with disabilities, and those living with mental health conditions. These services save lives and provide peace of mind to families.</p> <p>Importantly, cutting the Sheriff's Office budget does not eliminate the legal obligations the City of Alexandria must meet under federal and state law. Instead, it strains the system, increases risk, and makes it harder to meet those requirements safely and effectively.</p> <p>Public safety is a foundational responsibility. Reducing resources for the Sheriff's Office ultimately makes our City less safe for those who live, work, and visit here. I respectfully ask that you maintain full funding to ensure these essential services and protections remain in place.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and full consideration on this topic.</p>
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	<p>Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I reach out to you as a deputy with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office—and as someone who has sacrificed time, energy, and personal moments to serve and protect this community.</p> <p>Every day, my colleagues and I show up to serve the City of Alexandria, often under difficult and demanding conditions. We work long hours and carry responsibilities that directly impact the safety and well-being of this community. These are not abstract duties, they are sacrifices we make willingly because we care deeply about the people we serve.</p> <p>This job asks a lot of us. It asks us to work long hours that sometimes doesn't end when they're supposed to. It asks us to show up exhausted, to push through stress, and to carry responsibilities that most people never have to think about. And we do it. Not because it's easy, but because this city depends on us.</p> <p>It asks us to miss the moments that matter most. Holidays spent away from our families. Empty seats at dinner tables. Missed birthdays. Time with our children and loved ones that we don't get to make up later. While others are celebrating, we are working. While others are home, we are out there making sure Alexandria is safe.</p> <p>Those are sacrifices. Real ones. And we've made them willingly, over and over again, because we believe in serving this city.</p> <p>So when we hear about proposed cuts to our department, it doesn't just feel like a budget decision—it feels like those sacrifices are being overlooked.</p> <p>Because what these cuts really mean is fewer people doing the same critical work. It means longer hours, more strain, and higher risk. It means asking the same people who have already given so much to somehow give even more.</p> <p>Reducing our funding does more than stretch resources—it puts public safety at risk. Because behind every cut is a person who is already stretched thin. It means fewer people carrying the same weight. Longer hours. More stress. More risk. It means asking people who have already given so much to somehow give even more.</p> <p>Please consider what these cuts will truly mean—not just on paper, but in the lives of the people who serve this community every day, and in the safety and well-being of the residents who rely on us.</p>
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	Don't cut sheriffs offices budget
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	I do not support cutting the sheriffs office budget.
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	<p>Please fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in this budget cycle. Any cuts will directly impact the level of service that currently supports safety and security in our great city. In fact, operations at the Office are in direct alignment with the City's vision of "A culture that supports each of us and inspires excellence". The Sheriff accomplishes this through all the great programs at the detention center focused on helping everyone achieve their highest potential. Cuts to the budget would also undermine what you are trying to accomplish as a Council. The great judgment of the constituency that elected you also chose the Sheriff and we expect you to follow through on fully funding the Sheriff's Office. Thank you.</p>

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Wednesday, March 25, 2026	<p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>As Executive Director of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA), and as a deeply engaged member of this community, I write to express my support for Sheriff Sean Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office (ASO) and strongly urge the City Council to reject any proposed budget cuts and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is not simply another city department. It is a vital pillar of public safety, accountability, and community trust. Under Sheriff Casey's leadership, ASO continues to distinguish itself through excellence, innovation, and integrity, providing clear and measurable value to the City of Alexandria.</p> <p>In 2023, ASO received the National Sheriffs' Association's Triple Crown Award, one of the highest honors in the profession and one achieved by only a select number of agencies nationwide. This recognition reflects accreditation in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. It confirms that Alexandria is served by an agency operating at the highest professional standards.</p> <p>ASO's responsibilities are both substantial and essential. The Adult Detention Center houses approximately 300 individuals, while the Sheriff's Office also provides courthouse security, prisoner transportation, and service of court orders. These functions are fundamental to the operation of our justice system and to the safety and stability of our city.</p> <p>Just as important is ASO's commitment to the community. I have personally seen Sheriff Casey build meaningful partnerships with CCNA, the Lions Club, faith leaders, and other stakeholders across Alexandria. Through youth outreach, food and coat drives, and family support efforts, the Sheriff's Office has demonstrated that effective public safety is rooted not only in enforcement, but also in trust, collaboration, and service.</p> <p>ASO has also taken an innovative and compassionate approach to mental health challenges within the detention system. Through partnership with the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, Howard University Department of Psychology, CCNA, and local faith and community leaders, the Sheriff's Office has helped advance a model that integrates clinical expertise, research, and community-based support. This effort improves care, strengthens safety, and reduces long-term strain on public systems.</p> <p>Its commitment to humane treatment and accountability is equally clear. In 2024, the Adult Detention Center achieved its first certification under the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), marking a major milestone in transparency, safety, and protection for those in custody.</p> <p>ASO's rehabilitation and reentry efforts also deserve recognition. When people are given the support needed to successfully return to society, recidivism declines, public safety improves, and long-term costs are reduced. That is not only sound policy; it is a smart investment.</p> <p>Programs such as Project Lifesaver further demonstrate ASO's value. Reducing search and rescue times from hours or days to approximately 30 minutes saves lives and lessens demands on public safety resources.</p> <p>Relocating the jail would not be a prudent decision. It would increase transportation costs, require more staffing and overtime, delay court proceedings, reduce judicial efficiency, and place greater burdens on families. In the end, it would create new costs and new problems while weakening programs and partnerships that are already working.</p> <p>Alexandria should not dismantle or diminish a system that is producing results. This is a moment to protect what works, invest in proven leadership, and affirm our commitment to safety, accountability, and justice.</p> <p>I respectfully urge the City Council to maintain full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and your continued service to the people of Alexandria.</p> <p>Sincerely, COL Jim Paige CCNA</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntary collaborating with ice. It's so sad and disgusting to know this man is at fault for some people possibly waiting for their loved ones to come home but people like him are the reason.</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Given that the School Board seems unable to live within the budget provided by Council over the last years, I strongly support the Council's response of splitting their budget into sections to help everyone better understand where the money the Council is providing is going. It is long past time for this Council to force the Board to solve its management problem that cannot live within its given budget.</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Why do so many departments etc. have metrics to measure success but the Office of Climate Action doesn't appear to have any? There is a minor discussion under the City Manager's section of the budget and a few suggestions of what the OCA is to do, but there is nothing that I can see that measures success or lack thereof. Why would the City declare a climate emergency and then not ask OCA to provide metrics to determine what they are doing, how much they are doing and whether they are succeeding or not each year? Are we headed for another situation where they don't spend all their funds because no one is really watching over their projects and spending? The City Manager has responsibility for too many things to also have to watch over OCA, but someone below him should be held accountable for what is on their docket for this year, the metrics on their successes or lack thereof, and their spending timeline. Council needs to make clear this should happen. If we know the metrics of buildings that need to be upgraded or transportation issues that need to be addressed to reduce our GHG emissions by 50% by 2030, then who is making sure the money we are spending is going to these 2 highest priority targets vs. spending it on much easier to do City projects that don't move the needle? Just because it's hard to do, doesn't make it wrong; and just because it's easy to do, doesn't make it right. Let's stop spending money on reports and task forces, if we aren't going to actually implement the solutions they provide!</p>

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Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>I want to take a moment as an employee of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, but as a person who takes pride in working hard to serve this community every single day.</p> <p>Budget cuts may look like numbers on paper, but for those of us on the ground, they translate into real consequences. They affect staffing levels, resources, training, and ultimately the ability to do our jobs safely and effectively. When those supports are reduced, the burden doesn't disappear—it shifts onto the shoulders of the people who are still here, showing up and doing the work.</p> <p>For me personally, this isn't just about a paycheck. It's about the commitment I've made to public service, to maintaining safety, and to being dependable for my colleagues and the people we serve. Budget cuts make it harder to uphold that commitment at the level this community deserves. They increase stress, stretch already limited resources, and can lead to burnout among employees who are already giving their all.</p> <p>As a hardworking individual, I take pride in what I do. I show up ready to contribute, to support my team, and to serve with integrity. But there is only so much any one person can do without the proper support and resources. When funding is reduced, it sends a message that the work—and the people doing it—are expected to do more with less, indefinitely.</p> <p>I urge the council and the community to consider the human impact behind these decisions. Supporting the Sheriff's Office means supporting the people who dedicate themselves to this work every day. Investing in us is an investment in the safety, stability, and well-being of Alexandria as a whole.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to listen and for considering the real-life impact of these decisions.</p> <p>Deputy L. Covington</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	NA
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and members of City Council,</p> <p>I am writing you today as a long time City resident and tax payer. I must ask that you NOT make any cuts to the Sheriff's Office budget. They are a vital public safety agency for the City and should not be defunded in anyway. Also, their deputies should be paid the same as Alexandria Police Officers because they deserve it and so they stay for a full career at the Sheriff's Office. Thank you.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	I would like the Alexandria City Council to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE. Instead, I would like to see funding for stable affordable housing for working class immigrants and neighbors.
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Do not reduce the Sheriff's budget.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	Sheriff Casey cannot continue to voluntarily operate with deportation officers in the city of Alexandria. Because of this, Casey's budget should be cut to make sure our funds go to measures that protect public safety rather than put innocent people in danger.
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Good morning. I am Donita Greene, a resident of Alexandria, Virginia and owner of Greene Funeral Home Inc. Law enforcement has always been important to me, both personally and through my family. I have a brother who is a retired police chief, a best friend who retired as a captain, and a niece and great nephew who currently serve in a local Virginia department, to name a few. Because of these connections, I make a conscious effort to stay informed and engaged in matters affecting law enforcement.</p> <p>To that end, last year I completed the Sheriffs' Citizens Academy to gain a deeper understanding of how the Sheriff's Office operates, and how individuals are treated within our local jail system.</p> <p>After speaking with professionals working in corrections, both locally and in other states, I firmly believe that our Sheriffs Office and jail system are among the best. The data supports this. Our Sheriffs office is one of only two in Virginia -- and one of just 51 nationwide -- to receive the National Sheriffs Association's "Triple Crown Award" recognizing excellence in law enforcement, corrections and correctional healthcare.</p> <p>In addition to its operational excellence, the Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in community engagement. Programs such as Project Lifesaver, and "away from home" checks, along with many other outreach efforts, help build trust and strengthen relationships within the community. These initiatives would be at risk if funding is reduced. Strong community ties are not optional -- they are essential. While "community policing" has become a common phrase, both our Police Department and our Sheriff's Office actively put those principles into practice.</p> <p>I am aware that some members of the community believe the Sheriffs Office is cooperating fully with ICE. That is not an accurate characterization. The Sheriffs Office operates within the requirements of the law and does not go beyond those mandates. I do not support ICE, and I strongly oppose the harm being reported across the country. However, it is important to distinguish between personal opinions and legal obligations placed upon local agencies.</p> <p>For these reasons, I strongly oppose any proposal to cut \$4 million -- or any amount -- from the Sheriffs Office budget. Such reductions would jeopardize a high-performing system that is serving this community well. Additionally, discussions about relocating the jail out of the city raises serious concerns. We already face challenges ensuring that individuals -- particularly those dealing with mental health issues -- maintain access to family support. Moving the facility far away would only worsen those challenges and create additional barriers to communication and rehabilitation.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to maintain full funding for the Sheriff's office. There is meaningful, effective work being done, and there is still more to accomplish.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.</p>

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Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Please make economic conditions part of your deliberations on all budget items. Residents have taken many financial hits in recent years: COVID lock-downs bankrupted businesses and their workers took that hit on their personal finances; government job cuts have affected many more in this area; housing and other living expenses (including some now due to tariffs) have risen, yet incomes have not increased to support these exponential increases. And, yet, city council continues to increase residential taxes and fund projects some might consider non-essential. When people are living paycheck to paycheck, they cannot afford many of these niceties they once could, and the city budget needs to be adjusted for the current conditions.</p> <p>Like most home budgets, the city budget should prioritize needs over wants. And serve the most residents and resident businesses, not the few. A particular glaring element of the budget (and a pet peeve of mine!) comes under Transportation and Environmental Services. A major issue for many residents, particularly on the west end, is the degradation of quality of life by the many measures you tout as being beneficial to our existence. It is hard to decipher how much of the budget is associated with implementing the vision zero and green initiatives of "smart transportation," but page 13.1 on this link for the "Livable, Green, and Prospering City" expenditures at https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/Section%2013%20-%20Livable%2C%20Green%2C%20%26%20Prospering%20City.pdf shows that over a whopping \$96 million is spent on this. (And before you pass it off as being funded by the state of Virginia, please note that it, too, is our tax money being spent!)</p> <p>My observation is that road diets/bike lanes, reduction of parking; reduction of speed limits and imposition of penalties associated therewith; and, the restrictions soon to be imposed on the gas-powered equipment which makes physical work more efficient is causing major stress for residents who already live paycheck to paycheck. Many are already working two and three jobs. And these city "initiatives" reduce - not improve - their ability to manage their lives. Families cannot use bicycles to transport children and disabled family members and to acquire household groceries and supplies. Workers still need their vehicles to transport their tools and materials to their jobs. There is currently no viable alternative being offered to serve these needs.</p> <p>Road diets, parking restrictions, bicycle lanes, and elimination of power tools are a construct of the "laptop class." People who perform the physical work to make your lives better and people with physical disabilities are struggling and need the city council to focus on providing relief to their stressors, not adding to them. (Was the Americans with Disabilities Act even considered by planning officials?) They aren't represented at your meetings because they are too busy working to make ends meet or attending to their health and family needs.</p> <p>Another consideration: Alexandria is looking to attract businesses which will bring jobs and boost the economy. Could it be that these road diets and parking restrictions make Alexandria a less attractive option for businesses? Accessibility for customers, employees, and efficiency of business operations are necessary conditions for an effective business operation. The absence of an efficient mass transit system in this city warrants an effective road system, not a reduction in its capacity.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Consider and approve the school board's request to increase funding by 3.5% instead of 1.5% to ensure we can pay a fair and competitive wage to teachers and cover cost of living increases. We have a 4th grader who has been fortunate to have great teachers at ACPS however all of his teachers have left ACPS for higher paying teaching positions after 1 year. We need to work on teacher retention and continuity.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Please cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE. We want to fund stable and affordable housing for working class and immigrant neighbors. We do not want a single penny to go towards the deportation machine.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>I'm very disappointed to see our city cooperating with ICE. I believe it's our moral duty to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Good Afternoon, 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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>At the Duncan Library (and others), I personally make use of the Internet computers, attend public meetings and events, pick up forms, and, of course, look at books, magazines, and news periodicals.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because it is a shared space to foster community and in-person social interactions in our city across all groups.</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>Thank you for your service to our city.</p> <p>Very respectfully,</p> <p>Tommy W. Lee</p> <p>Duncan Library in numbers and metrics:</p> <p>In 2025 Duncan Library welcomed more than 144,000 visitors</p> <p>Last year over 300,000 books were borrowed from Duncan</p> <p>The Friends of Duncan Library membership is about 350 people</p> <p>Last year FODL supported over 650 programs at the library including storytime for babies and infants, youth book clubs, an author consortium, after-school activities, Lego competitions, DIY craft classes, and Dungeons and Dragons for both teens and adults</p> <p>FODL programming served 30,000 participants in 2025</p> <p>FODL supports the purchasing of additional copies of high demand books, which reduces hold times across the library system</p> <p>FODL annually matches Duncan Library's funding from the city for purchasing new books</p> <p>Alexandria Library system in numbers and metrics:</p> <p>Number of programs hosted in 2025: 2,486</p> <p>2025 program attendance: 90,653 visitors</p> <p>Number of library visitors: 578,938</p> <p>Number of registered borrowers: 147,573</p> <p>Number of materials borrowed by customers in 2025: over 1 million</p> <p>Number of passports processed: 4,354</p> <p>Public library services satisfaction rate: 85.0%</p>

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>I would like to express my concern about the presence of ICE agents in Alexandria. I feel that this organization has shown across the country that they are respecting the rights of community members.</p> <p>I have a great deal of respect for the Alexandria police department and feel that they are the appropriate organization to serve and protect the peace and the people of Alexandria, VA.</p> <p>Sincerely, Deana</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Hello Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley and Members of the City Council - I am very, very appreciative of the work you do day in and day out for our City. I'm especially grateful for your approach here in our City during such a horrible time in our country coming from this Administration. However..... I am deeply bothered and concerned about the treatment of our Sheriff and his office. Like you, I am very upset and bothered how ICE is operating. At the same time, I DO respect that our Sheriff is following the law. I completely understand that advocates want him to operate differently. And, I understand if you all 'feel' that way as well. Where I am very upset is any attempt to keep him from doing his job professionally and thus, treating him and his staff in an unfair and unprofessional manner. I hope it is just a rumor that there is some discussion of 'punishing' the Sheriff by reducing the Sheriff's Office budget. I suppose I wouldn't even know that if it were just a rumor. I believe there is so much wrong with such an approach. First, it would serve as a very serious & terrible precedent - to punish an independently elected official in that manner. I think we could all regret what doors that could open in the future. Second, I'm afraid that would be a terrible message to send to our children and our entire community that we are going to punish someone because he will not break the law. If we want a change in operation, then please let's work together to change the law! Finally - I know we find ourselves in difficult, unprecedented times to have such a cruel and chaotic Administration pushing ICE to carry out horrible acts. Nonetheless, as a City, we don't want to then carry out our own acts that hurt those who are performing incredibly important duties here in Alexandria.</p> <p>I understand the pressure you feel because of the vocal individuals who are trying to be supportive of our community members who are being treated so poorly. I ask that you weigh that with a Sheriff and his staff who are also doing all they can in ALL aspects of their work to treat people fairly.</p> <p>I urge you NOT to even come close to considering reducing the Sheriff's office budget as punishment. As I have said, you will set a terrible precedent and you risk our City being less safe and certainly less professional.</p> <p>Thank you for reading. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. Diane Charles 571-722-2445</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Im currently looking for assistance for rent and putting more money for my child to attend school and activities-</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Sheriff/jail funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fund programs for recidivism/ mental health -Continue funding benefits & pay for officers -Fund processes that can contribute positive revenue for the community using overcrowded ex incarcerated individuals seeking work or actively incarcerated persons working. <p>Sources for example studies:</p> <p>Correctional Officer Recruitment & Retention Efforts - Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services. (2026, March 3). Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services. https://evidence.alabama.gov/publications/correctional-officer-recruitment-retention-efforts/</p> <p>Nesbit, R. (2022). The Role of Mandated Mental Health Treatment in the Criminal Justice System. ArXiv.org</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget. He is voluntarily collaborating with ICE and harming our community. Please fund things that help, not hurt, Alexandria like affordable housing.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I reside in close by Fairfax County and shop quite frequently in Alexandria City. I can easily stop doing that is Sheriff Casey continues his collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>Budgets are moral documents. If the City Council values our immigrant neighbors and their rights, we can't continue to blindly fund a department whose policies are contrary to our values.</p> <p>The Trump administration is trying to bully localities into participating with mass deportation operations. Alexandria should not be helping ICE deport our neighbors by continuing to blindly fund a Sheriff's office that refuses to end its voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>"An estimated 70% of ICE arrests nationwide result from a detainer and transfer from another law enforcement agency". Ending the Sheriff's collaboration with ICE is an important step in disrupting the jail to deportation pipeline.</p> <p>Transferring people to ICE can be deadly</p> <p>2025 was ICE's deadliest year in two decades. 32 people died in ICE custody, and many of these deaths were a result of neglect and abuse.</p> <p>ICE's private detention centers, including Farmville in VA, have well documented violations of human rights that go back years.</p> <p>Continuing to fund any collaboration with ICE from the sheriff's office is one of the gravest threats to the safety of Alexandria's jail</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Stop bringing politics to public safety and fund sheriff office</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I support Sheriff Casey and the great work he does in our community. I attended the Academy at the jail and support him 100%. Please to not cut his budget. The work they do is very important.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I urge you Not to cut the Sheriff's budget. As an attorney here in the city for 40 years , and as a volunteer with the Lions Club & CCNA ,I can personally attest that the outreach programs and trust that Sheriff Casey's department has worked so hard & successfully on, has made a huge impact in our community.</p> <p>Sheriff Casey understands the anxiety over ICE enforcement, and conversations with me and other community partners, he has indicated that his department limits its cooperation to the minimum legal requirements.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a long time City resident and I support the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. Please do not cut their budget. They need proper funding to provide important public safety services to our community.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a long time City resident. Please do not cut the Sheriff's Office budget. I support the Sheriff and his Office. They provide an important service to our community.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Mayor and members of City Council, I am asking that you do not cut the Sheriff's Office budget. I support the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. They have and continue to keep Alexandria safe. I ask again, please do not cut their budget.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to please ask City Council NOT cut funding to the Sheriff's Office budget. I am a long time resident of the City and the Sheriff's Office has and continues to keep our courts, jail, and community safe. Please don't cut their budget and put community safety at risk.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and members of City Council,</p> <p>I am a long time City resident and I am asking you to NOT cut the Sheriff's Office budget. The Sheriff's Office works extremely hard to keep our jail, courts, and community safe. They have always been their for my family and our community. Please do not cut their funding.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Mayor and members of City Council, please do not cut the Sheriff's Office budget. They need the level of funding outlined in the FY27 proposed budget in order to run the jail properly, keep the courts safe, and help our community. Please do not cut their budget. Thank you.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Mayor and Members of City Council,</p> <p>I fully support the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. I am asking all of you, as a long time City resident, to NOT cut their budget. Thank you.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and members of City Council,</p> <p>I am writing you today, asking you to NOT cut the Sheriff's Office budget. They provide a valuable service to our community and they need the proper funding to continue it. As a City resident and tax payer I ask again that you not cut their budget. Thank you.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I would like the city to work with the water taxi to provide commuter routes back and forth to the wharf. Now it is just for tourists as there are no routes scheduled in the early morning. At one point during the metro shutdown the city supported the commuter route. It was an amazing 17 min ride between OT docks and Wharf. The docks are owned by the City. This should be leverage to use to incentivize a commuter route. Other cities do it. Believe me run it for a year and it will work!! This is a sustainable means of travel, supporting the residents , and celebrating the city's history as a water town. This should not just be for tourists!</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Please prioritize our tax dollars for housing, services and support for our immigrant friends and neighbors. I do not want a single cent being spent on helping ICE. Let's fund schools and social services instead of a militarized police force.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>It's disappointing to hear that city council may consider cutting the Sheriff's budget because your views do not align with his lawful actions. This action would punish the people who are the beneficiaries of Sheriff Casey's commitment to serve others.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley & Members of Council,</p> <p>This is a difficult email to write because I deeply respect your dedication to the citizens of Alexandria but I am so disappointed in the recent discussion by some of you to cut the budget of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>For over 30 years, I have seen firsthand the tremendous outreach and community service to our city that the Alexandria Sheriff's Office performs each and every day. And that community service especially includes our neighbors in the Arlandria community. Each of you KNOW Sheriff Casey and how respected he has been in the community. What he is doing is following the law and what is legally and morally right. If it is a bad law, then instead of punishing both him & his dedicated staff, then CHANGE THE LAW - we now have the votes in the state. While the argument is Fairfax & Arlington are not following the law, look at what has happened when they didn't. Are you prepared to look at one of your neighbors or friends if they were to lose a child or family member as a result of someone being released that shouldn't have?</p> <p>Any cuts would be devastating. While I could describe all the critical services that the Sheriff's Office performs and the lives they are rehabilitating & changing, I know, you know that they are providing these critical services. You have attended the graduation programs, you have spoken to the inmates, I have heard you heap praises on the Sheriff's Office. So how do you turn your back on them now?</p> <p>I, personally am shocked & disgusted with the actions of ICE and every opportunity that has come up to support my neighbors in their fight against ICE, every protest in Arlandria, on Rt 1 & at Market Square, I have participated in & while I, and I believe almost everyone in our City vehemently opposes what ICE is doing to innocent neighbors, everyone that I have talked to does NOT support taking funding from the Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Please do not let a vocal group that, while their heart in protecting innocent neighbors is right, I believe, is wrongly attacking our Sheriff's Office.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>I am calling on Alexandria City Council to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE. We want to fund stable and affordable housing for working class and immigrant neighbors. We do not want a single penny to go towards the deportation machine.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Properly fund the sheriff's office</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>The tax payers fund Sheriff Casey's office while voluntarily transferring people to ICE without judicial warrant. Mayor Gaskins has spoken out against this practice. Sheriff Casey's budget should be cut.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Council should be ashamed to be planning to further cut the Sheriff's Office budget due to calls from a small irrelevant group of extreme activists. They do not represent Alexandria residents and our interests. Look at the math on the Sheriff's budget, you are already asking them to do more with less and have under funded that department for years. The numbers don't lie. Act like you care and stand up for your public safety agencies, which includes the Sheriff's Office.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Dear City Council</p> <p>In my humble opinion it doesn't make sense to cut the budget of the Alexandria Sheriffs department. It's a great agency and that jail makes money.</p> <p>Don't let short term political winds damage an Alexandria institution.</p> <p>Very Respectfully,</p> <p>Tom Lacey</p>

Date Received	Comment
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>I support moving money from the Sheriff's office to support affordable housing, public transit, and other government services. While I appreciate Mayor Gaskins and the City Council's public statement against the Sheriff's policy to turn people over to ICE, I urge the City to put collective power behind their words. The majority of the Sheriff's budget comes from taxes paid by Alexandria residents. Sheriff Casey has used some of those funds to voluntarily collaborate with ICE.</p> <p>In a tight budget environment, we have so many priorities that deserve more support in our City. Affordable housing will help people stay in their homes. Public transit will help them travel, get to work, and visit friends. Even outside the context of the Sheriff's collaboration with ICE, I believe we should spend more to invest in our community, support our schools, and fund cheap public transit. Budgets are moral documents. If the City Council values our immigrant neighbors and their rights, we can't continue to blindly fund a department whose policies are contrary to our values.</p> <p>Thus, I urge the City to reduce the Sheriff's budget, and instead fund priorities that invest in our communities and our City more broadly.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	Please continue to support the Sheriff and his staff. Maintaining the jail and keeping residents safe is of paramount importance.
Saturday, March 21, 2026	My neighborhood supports and appreciates the Office of the Alexandria Sheriff. Please DO NOT CUT the Sheriff's budget.
Saturday, March 21, 2026	I'm hearing there's a push to cut the sheriff's budget. It would be a shame to cut back the engagement they have in Del Ray. They keep our community safe.
Saturday, March 21, 2026	Law enforcement officers leave their homes to keep our homes safe. They deserve the pay and everyone's support especially our coty councils. Politics apart, these men and women deserve to be treated well if not better than their counterparts in neighboring jurisdictions to avoid brain drain and apathy.
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>Continually raising property taxes by any and all means possible eventually drives longstanding owners to question their domicile choices. The City appears hell bent on development at the expense of quality with resulting unappealing denser population and increased traffic.</p> <p>Given the challenging affordability crises for younger buyers and the disillusionment of its elderly population the City would do well to reconsider its knee jerk expectation that existing residents will simply cough up more each year.</p> <p>Killing its golden geese will have intended and even unintended consequences that may just leave them high and dry when the quality of life is weighed against more palatable options.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	Alexandria needs a bigger non property tax base. We need more businesses preferable mom and pop shops. Having too great a reliance on property taxes doesn't seem sustainable approach to finance the city. Please explain how you make this work.
Friday, March 20, 2026	Alexandria needs a bigger non property tax base. We need more businesses preferable mom and pop shops. Having too great a reliance on property taxes doesn't seem sustainable approach to finance the city. Please explain how you make this work.
Friday, March 20, 2026	Soy un padre que a vivido en la ciudad por 6 años y quiere seguir viviendo en la ciudad de Alexandria . Pero se me hace difícil con el alto costo de renta y la falta de vivienda de bajo costo para familias como la mía que ganan el salario mínimo . Porfavor apoyen el programa de ayuda de renta Y el programa de subsidio
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>MUY BENDECIDO DÍA ! YO PIENSO Q TODOS MERESEMOS LA MISMA IMPORTANCIA NO AHY DESTINCION DE NADA YO PERSONALMENTE APLIQUÉ POR AYUDA DE STAMP Y SIN PREGUNTAR NADA ME NEGARON LA AYUDA EN AMBITO DELA RENTA PEDÍ AYUDA Y PUEDO DECIR AHY UNA LINDA PERSONA Q SE TOMO SU TIEMPO Y BENDITO SEA DIOS Q ME AYUDO GENTES PORFABOR NO AGAN INSTINCION DE RAZA YO SOY MAMA Y PAPA YO TRABAJO PERO NO ME ALCANSA Y DEJO DE CRITICA AHY MUCHAS MUJERES EN ESA OFICIINA DE STAMP Q NO TRABAJAN Y ELLAS SI RESIBEN TODA LA AYUDA ! Lo ciento lo centi así Bendiciones. MASHALLA !</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>The Sheriff's Office does not serve the community base of on politics. Unfortunately, some of the groups being that are being listened to portray the Sheriff's Office as if deputies are out on the street working with ICE, which is simply not accurate.</p> <p>In fact, one of the main reasons ICE has maintained a limited presence in Alexandria is because the Sheriff is following the law as written. That adherence to the law should be supported—not criticized.</p> <p>We have all seen what can happen when situations escalate elsewhere, including recent incidents in Minnesota involving ICE operations that led to controversy, loss of life, and widespread unrest. Alexandria should be working to avoid that kind of outcome, not move closer to it.</p> <p>The question is: does the Council want that type of situation here?</p> <p>We should not penalize the Sheriff's Office for following the law. Decisions of this magnitude should not be driven by a small group of 30–40 voices, but by the broader community. The citizens of Alexandria deserve to be heard.</p> <p>It also raises concern that members of the Council may feel pressured by a particular group. Giving in to that pressure now sets a precedent—what will be demanded next?</p> <p>Let's stay focused on the law, public safety, and the will of the entire community—not politics or pressure.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	No funds for ICE collaboration! Defund Sheriff Casey's police.

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>I cannot believe that council is considering taking away the Sheriff's department money due to ICE. You want the Sheriff to break the law and be arrested for not performing his duties of the office. That department does better then you realize and they have important programs they run. As a parent who has a son with disabilities we count on the Sheriff's office the Project Lifesaver Program, our son was the first participant to the program. He was lost by his teacher while at Pentagon City doing job sampling. It was a nightmare as a Metro officers put him on a train into DC where he was found that evening exiting the Metro at the Benning Road station when a Metro officer got him and returned him to us at Pentagon City.</p> <p>If this program is discontinued, we are in serious trouble ourselves as many other participants would suffer as well.</p> <p>I know many have voiced their opinions of ICE then why don't you support finding a way that the Sheriff's office would not have to deal with all of this.</p> <p>I hope you really think this out before acting.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	Please do not fund the sheriff's office seeing as they are collaborating with ICE.
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>This month, you are making decisions about what Alexandria's tax dollars should fund—and what they should not. Right now, our city budget is funding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office's voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>Since taking office in 2022, Sheriff Sean Casey has transferred 142 people from the Alexandria jail into ICE custody without a judicial warrant. In 2025 alone, that happened 54 times. These are not court-ordered transfers. They are voluntary decisions, and they could stop tomorrow.</p> <p>Yet Alexandria taxpayers are still paying for the system that makes them possible. This matters because Alexandria should be a place where our immigrant neighbors feel safe and are treated with fairness and due process. And to your credit, this Council has already said you oppose the Sheriff's voluntary collaboration with ICE. But right now, the budget still funds it.</p> <p>Alexandria spends roughly \$20 million in local tax money every year on the jail, and about 90 percent of the Sheriff's budget goes to incarceration itself. At the same time, families in Alexandria are struggling with rising rents and the threat of eviction.</p> <p>Budgets require hard choices. But leadership means choosing investments that make our community safer and stronger. So the question before you is simple: What actually makes Alexandria safer? Helping ICE detain our neighbors? Or investing in housing stability, rental assistance, and eviction prevention—programs that keep families rooted in this community? Housing keeps families stable. Jail cells don't.</p> <p>You have already spoken about your values. Now Alexandrians are asking you to align the budget with those values: Reduce the sheriff's funding until he stops collaborating with ICE. Invest in housing and stability for Alexandria families.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	I don't want any funding going to ICE in the new budget!!
Friday, March 20, 2026	I urge you to cut the Sheriff's budget. He's using Alexandrians' dollars to voluntarily comply with ICE. Cooperating with ICE is not the equivalent of partnerships with other enforcement agencies. Since October 2025, 23 people have died in ICE custody. The federal government has now been partially shutdown for 43 days entirely due to the fact that Congress agrees that DHS and ICE cannot continue to operate as they have. Usually, the Sheriff should have some discretion over use of funds but never before has this discretion supported a threat to the very lives of Alexandrians. The Sheriff's non-mandated choice to cooperate with ICE is at odds with his mandated role to protect Alexandrians and it is the City Council's duty to step in and prevent this harm by all means within their power.
Friday, March 20, 2026	Hello - Thank you for all that you're doing to help the City of Alexandria and beyond. However, please Do Not give any funds to the Sheriff's budget that supports ICE or additional funds that include supporting funding for any ICE implications in initiatives. This is a federal operation and should not be a part of our City or State. We need to protect our citizens from harm and abuse. I was at the City's budget talks on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 and heard first-hand that the Sheriff is trying to increase "his" budget to project more inmates, etc. It means that the Sheriff is hiding the fact that he is working with the federal government/ICE to house and increase the number of immigrants. This is unacceptable. We need affordable housing, Healthcare, etc. for residents. Please proceed with caution and use our budget wisely and frugally.
Friday, March 20, 2026	I understand that the Sheriff is coordinating with ICE - if he has budget for this, it should be rerouted to fixing our streets which were badly damaged this winter in particular North Henry.
Friday, March 20, 2026	I am writing to request that the city of Alexandria reduce funding to Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria PD. I strongly oppose Sheriff Casey's voluntary cooperation with ICE. His cooperation with ICE does nothing to increase public safety or public trust in the police department. In fact, it does the opposite. His cooperation increases fear and mistrust among the community. We should not be increasing funds allocated to someone who brings terror and mistrust into our community. As an Alexandria resident and taxpayer, I want my tax dollars allocated to community programs that increase housing availability and affordability and increase access to social programs for those in need. Please do not allocate additional funding to Alexandria PD. Prioritize our community and our needs.
Friday, March 20, 2026	The City Council should properly fund the Sheriff's Office. Stop cutting and taking away any benefits and funds.
Friday, March 20, 2026	I'm calling on you to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget since he is VOLUNTARILY collaborating with ICE. We should be funding things that improve our city, not working for the deportation machine that Donald Trump has created
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>Please use our money to help our neighbors — including immigrants.</p> <p>Do not give the sheriff money to support ICE terrorizing humans.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to support, at a minimum, the City Manager's proposed FY2027 budget for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Recent public comments have suggested reducing the Sheriff's budget in response to concerns about inmate transfers to federal authorities. However, as Sheriff Casey has clearly stated, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office is not acting voluntarily or outside of community values. It follows well-established federal and state law. The Office does not hold individuals beyond their release date, does not act on detainers alone, and requires a valid federal warrant for any transfer. Addressing disagreements with federal law should occur through the legislative process, not by reducing funding for a local agency that is fulfilling its legal obligations responsibly and professionally.</p> <p>Beyond this issue, I believe it is critical to recognize the full scope of the Sheriff's Office's work and its direct impact on the safety and well-being of Alexandria residents.</p> <p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office consistently goes above and beyond in proactive, community-focused policing. One example is the "Away From Home Check" program, which allows residents to notify the Sheriff's Office when they will be out of town so deputies can monitor their property.</p> <p>My partner and I used this program while we are away during the holidays. During our most recent travels, sheriff deputies came to our door more than 10 times while we were out of town over a two-week period. They checked to make sure the door was locked and drove around back to make sure our and our neighbors' homes were in good shape. This type of care makes a meaningful difference. Knowing that our home was being watched over provided a real sense of security and peace of mind. It is exactly the kind of thoughtful, resident-focused service that reflects the best of local government.</p> <p>Programs like this are not incidental. They are the result of a well-supported, properly funded Sheriff's Office that has the capacity to prioritize both public safety and community engagement. Cutting the Sheriff's budget risks putting these types of proactive services on the chopping block, ultimately diminishing the quality of life for Alexandria residents.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in our city, not only in operating the jail safely and in compliance with the law, but also in building trust, providing services, and protecting residents in ways that often go unseen but are deeply felt.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to support the City Manager's proposed funding level and ensure the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has the resources it needs to continue serving our community effectively.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to our city.</p> <p>Sincerely, Daniel Roth</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>When was an audit of the school system performed? Seems as if the balance between administrative personnel and employees directly involved in teaching is skewed. Not a promising scenario for a small system with all 18 of schools conditionally accredited! 9 schools are off track, & 3 need intensive support!!! Throwing money (1/3 of budget) at this broken system will not fix it. According to most recent Brookings Institute economist, Alexandria has lost more private sector jobs than nearly any other jurisdiction in region in 2025. Home listings are up 46%; median prices are down 25% & bankruptcy filings are up 28%. Wake up & institute cost/benefit analysis for expenditures. The City hires far too many consultants and study groups to delay critical decisions being made.</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>Please cut funding for the Sheriff and his department because he continues to voluntarily work with ICE. Also, if possible, restrict his budget so that he can't transfer money from different funds in order to pay for actions supporting ICE, CPB and other agencies discriminating against immigrants. Thank you.</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>My name is Juana, I been in the city for 23 years. Today I write to ask the city to invest in working class communities and give more money for the rental assistance to help our families stay in the city.</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>To City Council, please hold the Sheriff's office accountable to be fully transparent on their engagements with ICE. Please use the budget process and its effective role of oversight to pressure the Sheriff to end the voluntary practice of aiding ICE. Our taxpayer dollars should be spent on affordable housing, education, transportation, and other investments that strengthen Alexandria, including supporting our immigrant neighbors - not vilifying them and sending them to detention centers without due process. Thank you for your leadership.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>In 2025 Duncan Library welcomed more than 144,000 visitors, myself included.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because they serve as a vital space for community members of all ages to engage, learn, and receive services.</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>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Kaitlin Bell</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Council should approve the City Manager's budget submission and not impose a tax increase. Property taxes are regressive because they do not adjust based on a taxpayer's ability to pay, meaning lower income households often pay a higher percentage of their income in property taxes compared to wealthier households. Additionally, assessments can be regressive when low-value homes are taxed at a higher percentage of their market value than high value homes. Studies have shown that property tax burdens disproportionately affect owners of the least valuable homes. Leaning heavily on property taxes and assessments is inequitable and unsustainable. For our city to remain financially stable, become more equitable, and thrive in the future, Council needs to take strong action now to broaden sources of revenue and decrease reliance on property taxes as the primary tool to fund city operations. Let the City Manager execute his budget. Diversification of revenue sources needs to be job one for Council!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Thank you, Mayor and Members of Council, for the opportunity to provide public comment.</p> <p>As a citizen of the City of Alexandria, I am writing to express my strong support for fully funding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in the FY 2026–2027 budget. Decisions about this budget should be grounded in the actual operational needs of the Sheriff's Office, not influenced by politically motivated efforts to reduce funding for an essential public safety agency.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office is responsible for the safe and lawful operation of the detention center, court security, and the care and custody of individuals who are legally detained. These are non-discretionary functions that require adequate staffing, training, and systems to ensure safety, compliance, and professionalism. Funding reductions made for political reasons risk undermining these responsibilities and could create safety, legal, and operational challenges for the City.</p> <p>Budget discussions should focus on whether the Sheriff's Office has the resources necessary to meet its obligations effectively and humanely. Fully funding the office supports staff retention, reduces turnover, and ensures continuity of operations—outcomes that benefit detainees, employees, and the broader community alike.</p> <p>Policy disagreements or broader political debates should be addressed through appropriate legislative or policy channels, not through broad budget cuts that compromise core operations. The budget should reflect what is required to operate a safe, professional, and legally compliant Sheriff's Office for the residents of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge Council to approve full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in the FY 2026–2027 budget.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>My major issue with the budget relates to the fact that Sheriff Casey continues to collude with ICE by handing over our neighbors. He is not required to honor Administrative warrants from ICE since they are not signed by a judge. However, he continues to do so despite urging from the mayor and city council. If he will not listen to Alexandria leadership and the people of Alexandria, please consider cutting his budget so he needs to clearly understand we do not want to support a Sheriff's office that is working against the welfare of the people of Alexandria.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Alexandrians want a community for everyone, including our immigrant neighbors. Instead of funding ICE collaboration, we can fund affordable housing and essential services that serve our children, youth, and families.</p> <p>The majority of the Sheriff's budget comes from taxes paid by Alexandria residents. Sheriff Casey has used some of those funds to voluntarily collaborate with ICE. Our taxes are going to fund a department that continues to voluntarily collaborate with ICE, despite wishes from City Council and the majority of Alexandrians.</p> <p>ICE has a long history of abuse and disregard for people's rights. Our local elected officials should be protecting the right to due process, not doing ICE's dirty work by funding voluntary collaboration.</p> <p>If Sheriff Casey continues his collaboration with ICE, it means our friends and neighbors can be detained and deported from the United States without access to their due process rights (a lawyer, trial by jury, etc).</p> <p>Alexandria residents value fairness, equality, and our immigrant neighbors. Our local funds should reflect that.</p> <p>Budgets are moral documents. If the City Council values our immigrant neighbors and their rights, we can't continue to blindly fund a department whose policies are contrary to our values.</p> <p>The Trump administration is trying to bully localities into participating with mass deportation operations. Alexandria should not be helping ICE deport our neighbors by continuing to blindly fund a Sheriff's office that refuses to end its voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>"An estimated 70% of ICE arrests nationwide result from a detainer and transfer from another law enforcement agency". Ending the Sheriff's collaboration with ICE is an important step in disrupting the jail to deportation pipeline.</p> <p>Transferring people to ICE can be deadly</p> <p>2025 was ICE's deadliest year in two decades. 32 people died in ICE custody, and many of these deaths were a result of neglect and abuse.</p> <p>ICE's private detention centers, including Farmville in VA, have well documented violations of human rights that go back years.</p> <p>Continuing to fund any collaboration with ICE from the sheriff's office is one of the gravest threats to the safety of Alexandria's jail today.</p> <p>I call upon the city council to put the tax dollars where we say our morals are: dry up Sheriff Casey's funds until he complies with only judicial warrants and instead fund ACPS and the requests from the Tenants and Workers Union.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>I thank the City Manager and his staff in their work to put forth a thoughtful budget that makes difficult cuts and does not raise taxes. I especially appreciate the Mayor's interest in not raising taxes in next years budget. Many families are experiencing difficult times and this should not be dismissed. The City Manager asked that all departments keep their funding increases to 1.5% for next year. This request should not be ignored as many departments have made difficult cuts, however, ACPS has blatantly showed total disregard for this request.</p> <p>ACPS is a source of concern and needs to be reigned-in because of ACPS impact on COA budget and it's taxation of the citizens. ACPS has not communicated or been transparent with City Council and the community on several recent occasions. Most recently City Council and tax payers found out via a press release that ACPS approved in their budget with a \$12.7 million teacher salary increase which isn't even a multi-year agreement and will adversely impact future budgets. This "ask" leaves a \$5.65 million budget gap when the City Manager has asked to limit funding request.</p> <p>I believe City Council must restructure how they fund ACPS and hold them more accountable for the monies they receive. ACPS blatantly and decidedly ignores and does not work with the City Manager or the City Council. ACPS, recently (2023-2024) was not transparent about their budget. They approved a budget then randomly late in the process added an additional \$10 million of unbudgeted items. Amazingly, this was approved by City Council. BTW- none of the "asks" would do anything to raise test scores.</p> <p>Recently, the City Council was working in good faith to provide transportation and efficiency solutions for high school students by using the DASH bus. This seemed a practical solution to a problem that had staffing, funding and utilization issues however, ACPS suddenly and unilaterally decide they would no longer consider the option to utilize DASH services. This opportunity was shutdown without further consideration. ACPS sited that 52 drivers would see reduced hours and 34 would lose benefits. Yet, TransPar Group study states that only 60% of the systems overall bus capacity is utilized. This is not being fiscally responsible to COA and tax payers. Students have been using DASH bus for free even prior to 2020 when it became free for everyone. This was a missed opportunity for ACPS and the City to work together to begin to resolve some very real inefficiencies.</p> <p>Most recently, ACPS recommended making cuts to the Latin and Chinese language programs. First of all, ACPS is not a private school system. Financing and programs should meets the needs of the many. ACPS decisions should be supported by the numbers and cost. My understanding is there are about 72 kids participating in these 2 language programs. ACPS is a school system that has 4000-4500 students in their 9-12 grades. This does not meet the needs of the many and makes NO sense. My own children (2008 and 2011) participated in the Honors German foreign language program. I believe this was and is beneficial however, the current debate about the Latin and Chinese language programs are neither practical or make financial sense. We need a strong school system but we need to be diligent about meeting primary programs that prepare students across the board with the skills they need beyond high school.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Alexandria City leaders have strongly reiterated time and again that they welcome immigrants and value their contributions. And yet the Sheriff is using our tax dollars to collaborate with ICE. He is an outlier among regional sheriffs. Arlington and Fairfax sheriffs do not collaborate with ICE. Our sheriff, instead, chooses to funnel people into inhumane ICE detention rather than allowing them due process through the legal system. Individuals who get turned over to ICE never have the opportunity to defend their innocence in a court of law. Transferring people to ICE breaks up families and also endangers lives. Last year was ICE's deadliest year in two decades: 32 people died in ICE custody, many as a result of neglect and abuse.</p> <p>The City Council unanimously called on the sheriff to end his voluntary collaboration with ICE which has not happened. Now it is time for the City Council to use its oversight and budgetary power to hold the sheriff accountable. Now is the time to stand up for the city's values and make it clear that scarce city funds (tax-payer money) will not subsidize an unfair, immoral policy that separates families, denies due process, and subjects Alexandrians to the dangerous, inhumane conditions of ICE detention. It's time for the City Council to exercise the 'power of the purse' to hold the sheriff accountable for an unnecessary and inhumane policy that they have already clearly condemned. The Sheriff's budget should be cut! I leave it to the City Council to decide by how much, but the cut should be substantial enough to make it clear that Sheriff Casey's policy must change!</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>To the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing with concern for immigrants and working people. Sheriff Casey is a federal collaborator, and his willingness to transfer people to ICE is cruelty. We're in need of our elected representatives to do the right thing. Although Casey is funded with our taxes, and though the mayor and the council have condemned his actions, I worry our calls for justice will go unheeded. If you want to represent the will of people, our people, you need to slash Casey's funding. And if the sheer quantity of us asking for divestment from human trafficking isn't enough, maybe someone should resign from office. Take the sheriff's money and do something good with it. Affordable housing, public education, and robust public transit; each of these things are consistent with our values as a community. We might already know our own values, but it's time for the council to decide what it values, and slashing Casey's budget will show us you actually care.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>My name is Lucia I been a city resident for 25 years. This is comment is to ask the city council to invest on housing programs that help working class families; We want to stay in Alexandria, we all need a home.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>My name is Sandra, I been living here for 23 years, I'm writing this comment because as a working clase family we need the city to invest more in programs that help working class families stay in the city and not being displace by the high cost of rent</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>I have been a home owner in Alexandria since 1979 and at the age of 73 now/retired on a small pension, the property tax needs to be paid out of my small savings/451-457 account as my pension pays all the other monthly bills. The properties in my area have water problems under the homes (crawl spaces) and require huge \$\$ for repairs. The Real estate dept. dismisses these problems as minor while residents either pay huge bills or sell because it's unaffordable to continue to live here unless you have a six figure or more income. The city is running the middle class out and that leaves the wealthy and the poor. Our public schools have a poor rating compared to other jurisdictions and we spend TOO much on frivolous items , city wide. Cut the spending and balance the budget. Find new revenue OR stop the extra spending. The city is TOO dependent on residents' taxes and we are drowning. As it is, the city is over built-how much more. Just to bring in more revenue...this is a no end spiral because of the desperation for city revenue, in my opinion and it is ruining this city.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>As a resident of Alexandria and an employee of ACPS, I urge the council to fully fund the ACPS FY 2027 budget. Each of the programs and teaching positions on the chopping block are critical to the social-emotional well-being of our students and could be a key factor in increasing test scores. A budget speaks to the priorities of a district, and ACPS' priority is the health, safety, and education of our students.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Last year FODL supported over 650 programs at the library including storytime for babies and infants, youth book clubs, an author consortium, after-school activities, Lego competitions, DIY craft classes, and Dungeons and Dragons for both teens and adults.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because third spaces are so important for our community! I love what FODL does for the community, and the ability to use it for so many needs.</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>Thank you for your service to our city, Alison Walters</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Affordable housing isn't just a policy issue, it's a necessity for the stability and well-being of our entire community. In this area, wages simply have not kept pace with the rising cost of living, leaving many hardworking individuals and families struggling to secure safe and stable housing. People who contribute daily to our local economy, service workers, healthcare aides, teachers, and essential staff, are being priced out of the very communities they support.</p> <p>When housing becomes unaffordable, it creates a ripple effect: increased financial stress, longer commutes, displacement, and even homelessness. This is not sustainable. Prioritizing budget allocations toward affordable housing is not just compassionate, it's practical. It strengthens communities, supports the workforce, and promotes economic stability.</p> <p>Investing in affordable housing means investing in people. It means ensuring that individuals don't have to choose between rent and basic necessities. It means creating opportunities for families to thrive, not just survive. If we truly want a strong, resilient community, we must make affordable housing a top priority and direct resources where they are most urgently needed</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estoy pagando demasiada renta 3500 con los viles al mes</p> <p>I am paying too much rent — 3500 with the bills each month.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estoy pagando demasiada renta 3500 con los viles al mes</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenos días este mensaje es para comunicarles que nesecitamos ayuda la renta está demacida cara la comida también necesitamos más viviendas a bajo costo más programas para abollar a la comunidad gracias feliz día</p> <p>Good morning. This message is to let you know that we need help. Rent is extremely expensive, and food as well. We need more low-cost housing and more programs to support the community. Thank you, have a nice day</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estados Unidos</p> <p>United States</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estamos muy preocupados por el alto costo de la renta Necesitamos vivienda a bajo costo Ya nosotros ni para la renta ajustamos Estamos preocupados porque los pueden desalojar y con nuestros hijos porfavor necesito que bajen la renta Todos los años le suben 100 y 150 Nosotros ganamos 13 dolares la ora Como vamos a pagar tanto</p> <p>We are very worried about the high cost of rent. We need low-cost housing. We can no longer even afford the rent. We are worried because they might evict us, and we have our children. Please, we need the rent to go down. Every year they raise it by 100 or 150 dollars. We earn 13 dollars an hour. How are we supposed to pay so much?</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Soy Diana residente de Alexandria por ya varios años, y como mi familia ahí muchas en la comunidad que sufrimos del alto costo de la , renta por eso les pedimos que inviertan más en los programas de ayuda de renta!! Muchas gracias</p> <p>I am Diana, a resident of Alexandria for several years, and like my family, many in the community suffer from the high cost of rent. That is why we ask you to invest more in rental assistance programs. Thank you very much.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>My name is Maura, I been in the city for 19th years. I'm writing this comment because as a working class person we need the city to invest more into housing programs that would help families like mine stay in the city.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Hola buenas tardes keria aplicar para la ayuda</p> <p>Hello, good afternoon. I wanted to apply for the assistance.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenos días señores de la junta concejales el motivo de este mensaje es para pedirle de favor que consideren necesario el presupuesto de la vivienda ya que cada día sube</p> <p>Good morning, members of the City Council. The purpose of this message is to kindly ask you to consider the housing budget, since it increases every day.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Last year FODL supported over 650 programs at the library including storytime for babies and infants, youth book clubs, an author consortium, after-school activities, Lego competitions, DIY craft classes, and Dungeons and Dragons for both teens and adults.</p> <p>As a parent, I LOVE Alexandria's libraries for all of this programming. I've met so many other parents and families at baby storytime and other kid-focused events. It has helped me build my community and provided my children with fun and educational experiences that foster love for reading, exploring, and creativity. All crucial for the developing brain.</p> <p>The Alexandria Library System also serves the community by being a passport application/processing center. Last year alone, it helped 4,354 people in the community obtain passports. And it's where my family obtained passports for both our children! They made quick and easy for us which is huge when you have babies and toddlers in tow.</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 positively impacts so many lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Sarah Manning</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Vienda bajo costo</p> <p>Low-cost housing.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Vienda bajo costo</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Necesitamos que no eleven m el pr de la renta</p> <p>We need them not to raise the price of rent.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Me gustaría que la ciudad invierta en programas de ayuda de renta para las familias de clase trabajadoras que están sufriendo el alto costo de la renta en la ciudad también en programas para aprender inglés ya que es muy necesario</p> <p>I would like the city to invest in rental assistance programs for working-class families who are suffering from the high cost of rent in the city, and also in programs to learn English, since it is very necessary.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenas tardes me uno al ala sar la voz para solicitar ayuda para los programas de renta Tabien necesitamos programas de subsidio de viviendas Fondos para los programas del departamento de servicios humano Necesitamos ayuda para que sigan siempre con fondos para mantener esa ayuda que nos veneficia principalmente a madres solteras que necesitamos de estas ayuda en nuestra ciuda d alexandria</p> <p>Good afternoon. I join in raising my voice to request support for the rental assistance programs. We also need housing subsidy programs, and funding for the Human Services Department's programs. We need help so that these programs can always continue to receive funding, because they benefit us—especially single mothers who depend on this assistance in our city of Alexandria.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenas tardes me uno al ala sar la voz para solicitar ayuda para los programas de renta Tabien necesitamos programas de subsidio de viviendas Fondos para los programas del departamento de servicios humano Necesitamos ayuda para que sigan siempre con fondos para mantener esa ayuda que nos veneficia principalmente a madres solteras que necesitamos de estas ayuda en nuestra ciuda d alexandria</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Necesitamos más fondos para los programas del departamento de servicios humanos . Y también ayuda para vivienda a bajo costo</p> <p>We need more funding for the Human Services Department's programs, and also assistance for low-cost housing.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of the Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and to maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the City Manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Duncan Library is a vibrant, welcoming space that reflects the full diversity of our community. It accomplishes this through both the materials and the programming it offers. From curated collections to creative outreach, the library continually finds ways to connect people with stories that resonate.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because of the simple, everyday joy they bring. During this particularly cold February, Duncan Library offered curated "romance in a bag" selections, including both heterosexual and queer romance novels. I picked one up on a whim, and "Red, White and Royal Blue" turned out to be the perfect bit of spice for a long stretch of cold days. That small but thoughtful offering is a powerful example of how the library meets people where they are by providing comfort, representation, and a sense of connection through books.</p> <p>I also deeply value the library system's incredible range of books. Whether I'm looking for something new, revisiting a classic, or exploring a different perspective, I know I can find it at Duncan. That breadth of access is truly special and worth protecting and investing in.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued support of our libraries, which allow them to serve residents of all ages and backgrounds and to deliver programming that enriches lives across Alexandria.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Daniel Roth</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenas tardes sería importante que la ciudad tenga esos programas ya que la renta está muy alta gracias</p> <p>Good afternoon, it would be important for the city to have these programs since rent is very high. Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Mi nombre es felix y tengo 26 años de vivir en la ciudad de Alexandria. Les pido que pongan dinero para vivienda accesible para nosotros que ganamos poquito, pero somos mano importante para el desarrolló de la ciudad. Gracias</p> <p>My name is Felix, and I have lived in the city of Alexandria for 26 years. I ask that you allocate money for affordable housing for those of us who earn little but are an important workforce for the city's development. Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Muchos de Nosotros la comunidad la tina no corre tanta suerte como una familia Norte americana mi padre no tenia dinero para enviarme Ala universidad tenia 2 trabajos solo alcanzaba para la renta mi madre cuidaba ninos para Que tu vieramos comida nos vestia de ropa de segunda zapatos de Payless era una tienda Que mis padres podian compranos no quiero eso para mis hijos trabaja duro para tener lo basico techo y comida pero mi nina de 17 Quiere ir ala universidad y me da tristeza Que tampoco to podre ayudarle porque la renta esta suviendo como espuma</p> <p>Many of us in the Latino community do not have the same luck as an American family. My father didn't have money to send me to college. He had two jobs, and it was only enough to pay the rent. My mother took care of children so that we could have food. She dressed us in second-hand clothes, and our shoes came from Payless because that was the store my parents could afford. I don't want that for my children. I work hard to have the basics—roof and food—but my 17-year-old daughter wants to go to college, and it makes me sad that I also won't be able to help her because rent is going up like foam.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 16, 2026	<p>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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>I find myself at the Duncan Library nearly every other day. Most often, I am checking out physical books or trading puzzles with other community members but also find out about community events and resources during my short time visiting the library.</p> <p>I ask you to invest in the library because learning is a universal practice that should not be impeded by a lack of financial access to books or programs. Libraries help individuals exchange not only literature but also intangible knowledge, crafts, and other ideas and items that are then shared throughout the community. I see my local library as a pillar of my community and I ask that you both maintain it's pivotal role.</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>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachel Miller Del Ray Resident</p>
Monday, March 16, 2026	<p>To Whom It May Concern: I would like to request a Departmental Review regarding my 2026 Tax Assessment. The property is located at 1250 South Washington St. (Unit 111).</p> <p>This property is located in a condominium building. Unlike some single family properties, condos generally do not experience a 19 percent increase in one year as is the case in my situation. Consequently, I believe the increase is excessive and deserving of a review to determine the basis for the large increase. The assessment remained the same in 2024 and 2025 yet there was a huge increase in 2026.</p> <p>It appears that the City took a few property sales, where the amount received was in excess of the property's true value, and used these sales to increase the assessment for all properties in the building rather than making assessments on an individual basis. Not all properties are of equal value and in large part depend upon the condition of the property. This condo building was built in 1984 and not all units have been rehabbed. Increases for the building ranged from 19 to 26 percent.</p> <p>Due to the large increase, some homeowners will no longer be able to stay in their homes due to mortgage payments and increases in HOA fees and tax assessments.</p> <p>Your consideration is appreciated and I am hopeful that there will be some relief on this issue.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jacqueline B. Campbell</p>
Monday, March 16, 2026	<p>I would like for my 2026 Property Assessment to be reviewed. I feel that my property has been assessed above the fair market value and is not equitable because by living in my condo building surrounding properties have also been assessed higher than they should be.</p>
Sunday, March 15, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase Alexandria teacher salaries to ensure high skilled teachers helping our kids learn and grow. -Reduce new build apartment and condo housing in Alexandria; it's becoming a very crowded city. Instead focus on a smaller number of single family homes to be unit for new families where applicable. -Ensure Alexandria has a sufficient infrastructure budget to fix the city's roads and bridges that are crumbling.
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Libraries are very important to me and my family. They helped both my children learn to read and given them valuable programming and activities in evenings and on the weekends. Taking out books to read for myself and my children is one of the great pleasures on living in our city.</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>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Aaron Gilary</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>As a concerned citizen and educator in Alexandria City, I am writing in regard to the city's budget. Specifically, the insufficiency of funds proposed by the city manager to retain and attract high-quality educators to our district.</p> <p>ACPS asked for a 3.5% budget increase compared to the city manager's proposed 1.5%, a disparity of \$5.7 million that helps to cover increased pay for licensed personnel and educational support staff.</p> <p>This is ACPS's first collective bargaining agreement for educators and support staff, and it is also still less than the increases given to other unionized city employees.</p> <p>Given the cost of living and proximity to DC, it is an embarrassment that, comparatively, Alexandria City ranks 7th out of 8 surrounding jurisdictions for the amount of its general fund used to fund schools' operating expenses.</p> <p>It is my hope that the city honors ACPS's funding request and sees it for what it is, an investment in our students through high-quality educators.</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>EAA said to fill out this form. I dont know what this form is or what I am supposed to exactly write about. Could you perhaps share more information with me about the budget and CIP?</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Please provide the funding for the ACPS request. The students, families, ans community depend on ACPS maintaining adequate staffing to meet the demands of public education. Also, ACPS must provide a compensation package that is comparative to neighboring divisions. Too often, the trend is that ACPS is losing valuable staff for better salary opportunities.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>I am one of 350 members of Friends of Duncan Library because we are a family of readers. Getting our library cards was one of the first things my husband and I did when we moved into Del Ray. We love going to the library programming (especially book sales!). Having our son means even more frequent trips because he loves checking out new books, coloring at the kids section, or attending music/story hours. When he needed his first passport for a special trip, we went to the library to get his passport.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because they truly represent a special place in our communities. Library cards are free and open up a nearly limitless world of opportunity and knowledge. As a kid the library was a place to enter reading challenges for cool prizes, study, and endless access to books that helped shape me. Since graduating college, I've used libraries for access to WiFi when my house had no power, taken classes on interesting topics, picked up tax information, taken refuge in hot weather, studied for nursing school exams, borrowed recent best sellers when I didn't have the money to buy a new hard cover, and countless other things. The library is a reliable, steadfast presence that is temperature controlled, doesn't care about socioeconomic status, age etc, and just feels like a safe place when you enter. Our wonderful librarians make this space magical with their knowledge, understanding, and kindness to all who walk through the doors. It is little wonder that Duncan was voted the Heart of Del Ray.</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>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Caroline Cheek</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Please continue to support the ACPS school budget, so that quality education can continue in all 18 schools.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Teachers are vital in the development of our next generation. They deserve the pay raises proposed by the school board, which has asked the city council for a 3.5% funding increase for next year. Our children deserve to have teachers that feel valued and respected — pay is an indicator and recognition of the respect for the profession.</p> <p>Prioritizing teacher pay raises will also address staffing shortages and improve retention. Recent legislative actions across the nation have resulted in significant salary increases for educators, reflecting a growing recognition of the importance of competitive compensation in the teaching profession. The City of Alexandria must take action to ensure our teachers remain committed to the profession. Our children deserve no less.</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>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 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget. [Share a talking point about Duncan Library or the library system in general].</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because [share a personal anecdote about what you love about Duncan or public libraries in Alexandria more generally].</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>Thank you for your service to our city,</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Our public libraries are vital to our community. Their programs do so much for us. Please support funding for our libraries in the 2027 budget.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Funding our libraries is so integral to providing resources to our community. My children and I visit the library on average 2-3 per week. Keeping librarians like Ms Venetta is so vital. We need them to stay funded and supported, especially with the nonsense and anti-intellectualism floating around the federal government. If we're going to allow all of these condos to be built, we need to make sure we are funding an appropriate amount of resources for the influx or new Alexandrians.</p> <p>Thank you, Julie Rukavina</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>I would like a review of my property assessment for 2026, since it represents an 18.86% increase over 2025.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Members of city council and the school board: Please work together to find enough funding for the teachers' collective bargaining agreement.</p> <p>Neighboring school districts pay their educators more than we do. And the reality is that most ACPS employees don't live in Alexandria.</p> <p>One of my son's instructional assistants makes her daily commute from Stafford — that's at least 50 minutes in the car each way. What's to stop our kids' teachers from accepting a higher-paying job in another district with a shorter commute?</p> <p>As the PTA president at Jefferson-Houston for the past two years, I have seen how teacher and staff turnover negatively affect our kids' academic progress. Raising salaries is a powerful way to reduce turnover.</p> <p>I humbly urge you to prioritize funding for teacher raises so we can retain this invaluable workforce.</p> <p>Setting a city budget means naming your community's priorities, and as a 21-year resident of Alexandria, I want us to stand for equitable educator pay.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Fund the library budget!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Hello. I am writing to voice my opposition to providing any additional funding to ACPS for FY 27.</p> <p>I am a 30+ year resident and homeowner, co owner of an Alexandria-based small business, an ACPS employee, and a member of the EAA Board of Directors and Collective Bargaining Committee.</p> <p>As an elementary homeroom teacher in a Title 1, west end school, I am more likely than most to feel the effects of any change in class size cap or staff reduction. But I still cannot support an increase in funding at this point.</p> <p>From where I sit, ACPS has not made a good-faith effort to cut unnecessary costs. Why do we need a professionally produced video for everything? Why do entire administrative departments go to conferences each year?</p> <p>Our students deserve for every single penny to be focused on them and their learning. ACPS has a lot of work to do to prove to the residents of Alexandria that they also agree with that statement. Thank you for your time.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Please support Duncan Library! I continue to use that as my 'main' library, although I moved to Carlyle/Eisenhower east about 3-4 years ago. Duncan Library is a 'Main Stop' as I visit the Y and various restaurants in Del Ray.</p> <p>Duncan Library is extremely important to my quality of life in Alexandria!</p> <p>Elizabeth Talian</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>As a 22 year veteran ACPS educator, I implore you to fully fund the ACPS budget. All staff deserve to be appropriately compensated for the hard work we do educating, guiding, and helping safe the children of Alexandria.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of the Council,</p> <p>I am a member of the Friends of Duncan Library, and have been a proud library patron since moving to the city in November of 2022.</p> <p>I am asking you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendations in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me. Especially with the cuts in hours to other recreational facilities and programming, it is important to maintain the accessibility and programming that our city's libraries provide to patrons of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. Our libraries provide a wealth of information and programming to individuals who may have nothing else in common but their library membership. Beyond the programming and materials to check out, the libraries also provide a safe and warm space for people to work, study, read, and reflect.</p> <p>Funding for the libraries will also help purchase additional books or licenses to electronic books (of personal interest to me, as I am currently patron #122 of 228 for one particularly popular title, having placed that hold more than two months ago).</p> <p>I am grateful for all previous investment in our libraries, and wish for continued investment into these programs, resources, and facilities, that make a positive impact on our community.</p> <p>Thank you, Allison Foley</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>I would like city council to understand how difficult it is to retain teachers! Study show that this career is 26% lower than it's been in the past. When I went to teaching in the 90s I put on a waiting list because that how popular education careers were in the past. I think it's imperative that we remind people in Virginia that if you want good education you will have to pay for it! Young adults are graduating from college and making more money than teachers who put over 20 years in a job! Why would you go into a career where you can't make past \$120,000? I think everyone needs to wake up and realize that taxes need to be raised for teachers to be paid what they deserve in an area that is so expensive your teachers can't even afford to live. I feel like cutting teachers is the last thing we should be doing. We also want inclusion in public education but we don't want to pay the teachers that have to do the hard work to keep the CSL program in the school. I hope we can come to a good solution that teachers do not get cut!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>How does city council plan to address a huge mortgage increase for ACPS teachers? Our income comes indirectly from the city, who is unsupportive of ACPS collective bargaining efforts, so how are we to remain citizens of the city we service if we are unable to afford our mortgage? As a person who's family has lived in this city for 60 years, it's shameful how Alexandria is treating our teachers and their families.</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>As a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Alexandria should join its neighbors in Arlington and Fairfax counties to levy a commercial real estate tax. According to estimates contained in the City Manager's proposed budget, this tax would yield \$10.3 mil in additional revenues for FY2027, and would free up funds from the General Fund currently committed to transportation.</p> <p>This \$10.3 million should then be used for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund the \$5.6 million ACPS budget shortfall. 2. Revive and fund the small business resiliency grant program from 2024 to offset the impact for locally-owned businesses that contribute to placemaking goals detailed in the ALXForward plan. The amount and number of recipients should be based on an assessment by staff to determine need and impact. 3. Any remaining funds should be allocated to the Housing Trust Fund. <p>When there is a budget crunch, the City must ensure it is taking full advantage of all revenue opportunities authorized by the General Assembly. Levying a commercial real estate tax, as our neighboring jurisdictions do, will fully fund our schools while leaving enough leftover to offset the cost to the locally-owned small businesses that make our city a great place to live.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Peter Carlson</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of Council,</p> <p>Having previously served the City of Alexandria as Fire Chief, I understand firsthand the responsibility Council carries in balancing community priorities with sound fiscal leadership.</p> <p>As you consider the FY27 budget, I urge you to take a measured approach to additional school funding. Alexandria already spends among the highest amounts per student in Virginia, yet our academic outcomes and statewide rankings do not consistently reflect that level of investment.</p> <p>ACPS enrollment has remained relatively stable in recent years, while operating budgets have grown substantially over the past decade. In recent years, the budget process has also followed a familiar pattern in which the School Board proposes funding levels well above the City Manager's recommendation, and Council ultimately closes much, if not all, of the gap.</p> <p>During my tenure as Fire Chief, and as someone who managed a major city department budget, funding was tied directly to measurable performance and service outcomes. If I had returned year after year requesting increased funding while performance indicators moved in the wrong direction, Council would have rightly questioned both the request and the management of the department. Your recent vote to require category-based school appropriations, rather than a single lump-sum transfer, is a positive step toward improving oversight and public accountability.</p> <p>Alexandria residents strongly support public education, but continued investment must be accompanied by transparency, measurable improvement, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources. Council ultimately holds the responsibility for those resources, and this budget presents an important opportunity to reaffirm that principle.</p> <p>I respectfully encourage Council to ensure that future funding requests, and any increases, are tied to clear performance benchmarks and measurable academic progress.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Robert C. Dubé Resident and retired Fire Chief, City of Alexandria</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Please prioritize ACPS teachers in this year's city budget. I know there are many competing priorities and these are not easy decisions but please find a way to pay our teachers more.</p> <p>As a principle, teachers deserve pay equal to the enormous value they bring to our community. But investing in teachers makes sense from an economic and practical sense as well. Investing in recruitment and retention of exceptional teachers is the surest way to improve our schools. When schools improve, our tax base increases and children achieve greater educational, social and economic outcomes. This benefits not just parents but all of Alexandria. The long-term benefits may be further down the road but they far outweigh the costs.</p> <p>One idea for efficiency is to consider shared city/school services. Departments like human resources, facilities/groundskeeping, finance, or IT services could potentially be shared between the city and the school at potential cost-savings.</p> <p>Thank you your attention and your hard work for Alexandria.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Erin Miller Parent of an ACPS first grader</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>I understand that middle school sports are going to be cut for the next school year. I just want to say sports in school have a tremendous impact on student achievement, attendance and test scores. It is a motivating factor for many students who are not otherwise motivated to work hard. I encourage you to review the data and look at the impact the sports programs have had on student achievement, attendance and test scores. I'm positive that you will see growth, so imagine how much time and money you will have wasted if we quick now and imagine how many students will be impacted due to a lack of motivation. Just some food for thought!</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins and Council Members:</p> <p>On behalf of the Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the budget process for the 2027 fiscal year. First, we want to register our appreciation for the strong support that the CSB has received from you over the past two years, particularly the additional funding approved by the Council to meet service needs and help address the high number of staff vacancies. While a very competitive job market continues to prevent us from reaching all our hiring and retention goals, the funding has enabled us to make substantial progress in filling needed positions and reducing the vacancy rates affecting services.</p> <p>We recognize that the City is in a difficult fiscal position this year and that City agencies have been asked to submit proposed budgets including spending cuts. DCHS staff have thoroughly analyzed the data on CSB's operations and discussed options with CSB members during this process. Based on this, DCHS staff have developed and submitted a proposed list of budget adjustments that we think will meet the need for cost savings while preserving our ability to provide high quality and essential services to the residents of Alexandria.</p> <p>We urgently request that you accept these proposals and keep the CSB's budget otherwise intact. In the current environment, the need for the behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services that the CSB provides is greater than ever.</p> <p>I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this matter. For additional information, please contact Kate Garvey, the Director of DCHS and Acting Executive Director of the CSB.</p>
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jesse, and I am the parent of a student at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy in Alexandria City Public Schools.</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully ask that City Council fully fund the School Board's FY2027 budget request. The proposed funding gap of approximately \$5.6 million may seem small within the overall city budget, but the potential impact on students is significant. As presented in recent discussions, closing this gap through reductions could lead to larger class sizes, fewer classroom teachers, and fewer student support services.</p> <p>As a parent, I want my child and every student in Alexandria to learn in classrooms where teachers have the resources and support they need to succeed. Adequate staffing, reasonable class sizes, and access to student support professionals such as counselors and social workers are critical to creating a healthy learning environment.</p> <p>Alexandria's students deserve stability and opportunity in their schools. Fully funding the School Board's request will help ensure that students continue to receive the high-quality education and support that our community values.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Alexandria's students and families.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jesse Alexandria Parent</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	As a community member for 20 years I ask the city to reinvest funds from other institutions into housing programs for working class communities
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	This is a budgetary priority, even if it means increasing local taxes
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Please give the ACPS budget to the requested 3.5% increase in funding for next year. Without this the teacher in our district will not get the raises that they absolutely deserve. Our ACPS teachers play a vital role in shaping the future of city by educating the next generation. Competitive salaries not only attract and retain high-quality educators, but also recognize the significant time, effort, and dedication teachers invest in their students. Additionally, better compensation can help alleviate financial stress, allowing teachers to focus more on delivering effective instruction and supporting their students' academic and personal growth.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Teachers in American are the one of the most underappreciated professions. Seeing that Northern Virginia is one of the most expensive areas to live in America it would be only right to pay the teachers the right pay. This would help them be able to live in the city of Alexandria, many teachers have insane commutes ranging from two hour to three hours daily. I know multiple teachers who live in cheap rooms and have to have a house in the tidewater area of Virginia or even North Carolina. Its really insane teacher should not have to have multiple residences to save money or have to commute up to three hours daily just to reap the benefits of their pay. Many teachers work very hard and they should be paid more.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I believe that ACPS spends a significant amount of money on wasteful contracts with outside consultants (https://www.acps.k12.va.us/academics/prek-8-analysis) that could be better dedicated to priorities like increasing funding to classroom teachers and school social workers. I appreciate City Council's effort to help ACPS allocate it's funds most effectively.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I am a teacher within ACPS - we deserve a better salary. We shouldn't be struggling to live.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Please pay our teachers more!!! They do a very important job and need to be paid to reflect that, more than just COLA.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I highly encourage the City Manager and Council to increase the budget for teacher salaries. Our school district will not stay afloat with underpaid teachers who bend over backwards for families and children to make their school world better.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	We support raising teachers salaries! 1.5% is not enough to cover the cost of living or inflation adjustments; please revisit the city councils request to raise it by 3.5%. We need our teachers to feel supported by the administration in order to focus on education and our children's best interests. They cannot do this if they are concerned on how to pay for basic needs or have to commute from far away since they cannot afford to live near the school. The requested 3.5% is the minimum amount we should be giving them and I would argue should be higher.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I am an ACPS parent and volunteer. My step-daughter has attended ACPS schools since Kindergarten, and is now in 8th grade at Francis C. Hammond. We have largely had a great experience with ACPS so far. My step-daughter has had enormous personal and academic growth through the dual-language program, arts enrichments, school sponsored after school activities, and more. She personally has benefitted from a number of incredible teachers, nurses, and school social workers who heavily invested in her and supported her development. However, we have also seen the enormous stressors that the school district is under. Class sizes are too large in many cases, and schools are overcrowded. There are often no substitute teachers available when teachers are out, which forces even more students into each classroom when teachers have to provide coverage for other classes. There are enormous needs for students with special needs, English language learners, and recent immigrants who have experience significant hardships before entering ACPS, and yet resources to provide these extra supports are being proposed to be cut. Enrichment activities like after school sports that are offered by the schools for free are a gift to students whose families may not have the time or financial resources to provide them on their own, and these are also potentially on the chopping block. I hope that the city of Alexandria understands how much value our schools provide to local families and the community overall, and chooses to provide financial supports to one of our city's greatest assets: our schools.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Hi, I would like to advocate for a 3.5% pay raise for teachers. Additionally, I'd like to advocate for removal of all virtual learning days in the event of inclement weather. If a school day is cancelled, it should be made up in person. I believe that many important learning opportunities were missed this year with the significant number of holidays and teacher work days. Please get back to basics and keep the days of education in the classroom maximized! COVID taught us the importance of face-to-face learning. Thank you. Best, Seth
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Teachers have a HUGE responsibility in preparing our children for the future. Let's match that HUGE responsibility with a HUGE increase in pay. If anyone deserves a raise it should definitely be our ACPS teachers. Show them the MONEY!!!
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	This testimony is shared on behalf of ACT for Alexandria, our city's community foundation. At ACT, we amplify the work of the community by bringing people and resources together. I would like to start by thanking the City Manager, City staff, the Mayor, and members of City Council for listening to and incorporating feedback from nonprofit partners throughout this budget process. We are grateful to see many of these priorities reflected in the FY27 budget, including investments that recognize the critical role nonprofits play in supporting Alexandria residents and strengthening economic mobility and well-being as the City continues to invest in economic development and growth. Alexandria is feeling the effects of a changing landscape—from layoffs in the federal workforce to rising costs of living. At the same time, changes in federal policies may mean more residents become ineligible for programs like SNAP or face new work requirements tied to Medicaid. When that happens, the pressure on the local safety net increases. Alexandria's nonprofits are often the first-place neighbors turn when they need help with housing, food, childcare, healthcare, or navigating a difficult moment. They are on the front lines responding to these gaps, which is why maintaining a strong safety net is so important. We appreciate the City's investment in the nonprofit sector through the Alexandria Fund for Human Services and the proposed increase in funding for survival services. We also encourage continued attention to keeping these investments in line with inflation. As we shared previously, funding that was \$1.9 million several years ago would need to be about \$2.7 million today to have the same impact. Ensuring these resources keep pace with rising costs helps equip nonprofits to respond to evolving community needs. ACT is proud to partner with the City and with nonprofits across Alexandria to strengthen this ecosystem of care because we know investing in our city's residents is critical to Alexandria's growth and prosperity. We are grateful for your trust and investment in ACT, which allows us to mobilize additional philanthropic resources and support nonprofit organizations doing critical work every day in our community. Thank you for your leadership and continued partnership as we work together to ensure Alexandria is a just, vibrant, and equitable place where all who live and work here can thrive and feel they belong.
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	Homeowners need real estate tax relief!! It does not matter that the real estate tax rate did not go up. My home was assessed \$100k over last year which equates to a substantial tax increase. I see from the budget that real estate tax revenue is going up \$15 million. The budget should be reduced by \$15 million and homeowners should get relief if their tax assessment went up a certain amount. This is not sustainable for homeowners who probably receive the least in city services.

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 9, 2026	<p>As a long-time Alexandria resident and caregiver for my adult son with schizophrenia, I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding for the TRAILS (Transitioning Adults into Living Successfully) program. It's operated by the Community Services Board and offers specialized, multidisciplinary care for residents aged 15–30 experiencing their first episode of psychosis. First-episode psychosis (FEP) in Virginia and nationwide typically affects individuals aged 15–25, with an estimated incidence of 86–107 per 100,000 in this age group.</p> <p>TRAILS provides critical, evidence-based psychiatry, therapy, and recovery support to enable continued participation in school, work and independent living. The positive support of TRAILS has resulted in my son taking his medication for over 1 1/2 yrs, with no hospitalizations since 2022. The ongoing services from TRAILS have helped him resume employment and recover from homelessness.</p> <p>The 2025 Inova Alexandria Community Health Assessment identified Mental Health and Substance Use as a top health issue with unmet needs. The services provided by TRAILS are essential to filling gaps in our current, often overloaded, mental health system. In 2025, TRAILS provided weekly intensive outpatient support to 42 clients with almost 20% of them achieving school enrollment. Early treatment significantly improves long-term health outcomes. Without continued funding, our young Alexandria adults with untreated psychosis are at high risk of suicide, incarceration, chronic homelessness, persistent unemployment, and drug use.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to continue funding TRAILS to ensure the sustained mental wellness of our community.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cynthia Webster</p>
Monday, March 9, 2026	<p>I am writing to urge the City Council to fully fund Alexandria City Public Schools in the upcoming city budget. Our public schools are a vital part of our community, and ensuring they are adequately funded demonstrates that we value our educators and are committed to supporting the success of the next generation of Alexandrians.</p> <p>It is essential that the budget fully supports teacher salaries and planned pay increases so that Alexandria City Public Schools can continue to attract highly qualified educators and retain the talented teachers already serving our students. Competitive compensation reflects the respect our educators deserve for the critical role they play in shaping our children's futures and helps ensure stability and continuity in our classrooms.</p> <p>Teacher compensation in neighboring school divisions is expected to increase between 4.5% and 7.5% in FY 2027, making it critical that Alexandria City Public Schools sustains competitive salaries to attract and retain high-quality educators in Alexandria.</p> <p>In recent years, I have observed a concerning trend of teachers leaving their positions at James K. Polk Elementary School and Hammond Middle School, often for neighboring school districts that offer more competitive pay. This pattern underscores the importance of investing in educator compensation to retain experienced teachers and maintain strong learning environments for our students.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to fully fund the Alexandria City Public Schools budget and demonstrate that Alexandria is committed to supporting its educators, strengthening its schools, and investing in the future of our entire community.</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>Saludos quisiera ver si pudiera tener apollo con arriendo atrasado Soy madre de tres hermanos niños y me encuentro sola.</p> <p>Agradecería bastante el apollo si se pudiera</p> <p>Greetings, I would like to see if I could get assistance with overdue rent. I am the mother of three young children and I am on my own. I would really appreciate the help if possible.</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>The Alexandria Commission on Aging has supported the paratransit program for many years. The proposed budget does not appear to reflect the use of money from the contingency fund in FY26 to support the program. We urge that that amount of money be reflected in the FY27 Budget as well. Specifically,</p> <p>Page 13.41 includes the overall budget, including actuals from FY25, FY 26 Approved (which does not reflect the updated amount after council approved release of the contingency), and the FY 27 proposed (which is the same as the reduced amount from FY 26).</p> <p>Page 13.42 includes text about the budget amount and references the contingent reserve from FY26, which does not seem relevant to this year's budget, but nevertheless included.</p> <p>We would appreciate a clarification or a reconciliation of this discrepancy.</p> <p>Sincerely Michael Schuster Co-Chair, Commission on Aging</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>Please invest in short, medium, and long term housing solutions for Alexandria's housing crisis.</p> <p>The most vulnerable Alexandrians require immediate relief through rental assistance and a continued rental subsidy pilot program.</p> <p>Medium term, as debt becomes available, we should use our bonding authority strategically to unlock our pipeline of unfunded affordable housing.</p> <p>Long-term solutions require increased housing supply, which can be pursued by repealing wasteful parking mandates, allowing more housing near transit, and pursuing authority for a land value tax structure in Alexandria at the 2027 General Assembly.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Saturday, March 7, 2026	<p>Why has the city not enacted a Commercial and Industrial tax like our surrounding neighbors?</p>
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>hola por este medio les pido la ayuda</p> <p>Hello, through this means I am asking for help.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>Personally, I support an increased tax rate. Keeping the current rate amounts to an increase of just over \$40 per month for the average house owner - nothing compared to the equity gained by these properties in the last year, or to the rent increases faced by most Alexandrians.</p> <p>Most homeowners have a fixed rate mortgage, essentially rent control for people who could afford a down payment. With that built in stability, there should also be an expectation of contribution to the community through taxes that may increase over time.</p> <p>I understand that a rate increase is something to consider carefully and has impacts beyond personal & family budgets, and that increases are harder for homeowners on a fixed income. Fortunately we have relief programs for low income seniors. We should also continue encouraging flexible housing options so neighborhoods can evolve to meet changing needs, particularly given our aging population.</p> <p>The burden of rising costs should be shared, including by homeowners like me who tend to be wealthier Alexandrians. Restricting that burden to the vulnerable among us, by cutting services or staff pay and raising fees, without asking homeowners to do more goes against the city's stated values on equity.</p> <p>If money is available, with or without increased rates, I strongly support investments in local housing voucher programs that cannot be wielded against mixed status families in the way that federal programs are. Using the city's bonding authority to help unlock our pipeline of approved but unfunded affordable housing should also be a priority.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>As a long time community member, ask city council to invest more on housing programs that help working class communities stay housed in Alexandria.</p> <p>Emma Bruce St</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Si me gustaría. Nos apoyen con más presupuesto ya que tenemos todo super incrementado. Actualmente y nuestros sueldos son super bajos tenemos mucha necesidad con presupuesto para renta. Salud nuestra comunidad está sumamente afectada actualmente por esta amistrasion tenemos mucha necesidad en un. Recurso pa dentista en nuestra comunidades y. Salud. Espero nos apoyen pronto para que nuestras comunidad cuente con más recursos y. Mil gracias bendiciones para todos. Y recuerda pueblo. Unido jamás será vencido gracias espero nos apoyen</p> <p>Please support us with more budget since everything has become extremely expensive. Right now our salaries are very low, and we have a great need for funding for rent. Health in our community is extremely affected right now because of this administration. We have a great need for a dental resource in our communities and for health. I hope you support us soon so that our community can have more resources. Thank you very much, blessings to everyone. And remember: a united people will never be defeated. Thank you, I hope you support us."</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Si me gustaría. Nos apoyen con más presupuesto ya que tenemos todo super incrementado. Actualmente y nuestros sueldos son super bajos tenemos mucha necesidad con presupuesto para renta. Salud nuestra comunidad está sumamente afectada actualmente por esta amistrasion tenemos mucha necesidad en un. Recurso pa dentista en nuestra comunidades y. Salud. Espero nos apoyen pronto para que nuestras comunidad cuente con más recursos y. Mil gracias bendiciones para todos. Y recuerda pueblo. Unido jamás será vencido gracias espero nos apoyen</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I am writing today to urge you to fully fund Alexandria City Public Schools in the city's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Our schools are a vital part of our community and every student should have access to a safe environment, quality instruction and any academic supports that are needed. Fully funding ACPS demonstrates that our children matter and their future as the next generation of Alexandrans are important to us as a community.</p> <p>In particular, it is critical that the budget fully supports teacher salaries and planned pay increases so Alexandria can attract quality educators and retain the great educators we have. Competitive compensation shows respect for the people who are instrumental in shaping our children's futures and helps ensure stability in our classrooms.</p> <p>I've noticed a troubling trend of teachers leaving Polk Elementary School the past few years, often for other school districts with more competitive pay. My daughter is in 3rd grade and not one of her prior teachers remains at the school. Her amazing first grade teacher left Northern Virginia entirely to teach in a less expensive area of the state because it was difficult for her to live off an ACPS teacher's salary.</p> <p>The one caveat to my support for full ACPS funding is my complete lack of confidence in ACPS management. I was troubled by the redistricting process, which gives no indication it will alleviate the crowding issues at the poorest schools in this district. A couple examples of current inequity, to illustrate my frustration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of 'community schools' in the redistricting process, yet the vast majority of students living on the western side of the city, who happen to be some of the poorest in the city, are not afforded that luxury and there are no conversations about new schools for these communities, despite the development on the west end on top of already crowded, large schools (700-900) that already do not provide the same experience to their students as smaller schools in other parts of this city. 2. Class sizes. It's gotten better, but this still remains an issue. For example, George Mason Elementary's average Kindergarten class is currently 11 students (34 total students) and 2nd grade is 15 (44 total students), while Patrick Henry Elementary's average Kindergarten class size is 24 (120 total students) and 2nd grade is 25 (124 total students) - 13 more students per K class and 9 more students per 2nd grade class at a school with 2x the poverty rate of the other. Patrick Henry has 1,000 students, with 80%+ of students coming from economically disadvantaged households - some from extreme poverty and/or unhoused - and as recent as a year or two ago, ACPS thought one social worker was sufficient to serve those 1,000 students. <p>Most recently, I was disturbed to read the superintendent's recent statement that without full funding, "23 teachers, social workers, psychologists" positions would be cut. Not one central office job title on that list, which says a lot to me. Teachers and professionals who directly support our students should be the LAST positions cut, not the first. I think that Alexandria government, as a major funder of ACPS, and the ACPS school board should demand some accountability for the amount of funding directed to central office and perhaps suggest the position cuts need to come from there, if anywhere.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>As a working-class constituent of Alexandria City, I would like for City Council to invest in more affordable housing programs and policies.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have been a resident of the City of Alexandria for 17 years. During that time, I have participated in many budget processes and have spoken with members of the Council several times when they visited our community in the West End.</p> <p>For many years, we have been having the same conversation about the need for deeply affordable housing and the importance of investing in programs that help working-class families stay stable in their homes. These investments are critical for families who are doing their best to work hard, support their children, and remain part of this community.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 10 years and during that time I have seen how much the cost of housing has increased for families like mine. Many working families are doing their best to keep up with rent, but it becomes harder every year as prices continue to rise while our incomes stay the same.</p> <p>Housing programs such as rental assistance and rental subsidies are very important because they help families stay in their homes and avoid displacement. These programs provide stability for parents and children who want to remain part of this community.</p> <p>I respectfully ask City Council to continue investing in housing programs that support working families and help keep Alexandria an affordable place to live.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 16 years. Like many working families, I struggle with the high cost of rent. Housing has become more expensive every year, and it is getting harder to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to continue investing in housing programs like rental assistance that help families stay stable in their homes. These programs are very important for residents who want to continue living in the community.</p> <p>Jose West End community member</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Programas de ayuda de renta programa de subsidio de vivienda fondo para los programas del departamento de servicios humanos</p> <p>Rental assistance programs, housing subsidy program, fund for the programs of the Department of Human Services</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Nely and I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 8 years. Like many working families in our community, the high cost of rent makes it very difficult to stay stable. Every year the rent continues to increase while our incomes do not grow at the same rate.</p> <p>I am asking City Council to invest more in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program. These programs help families like mine stay in our homes and avoid displacement. Our community needs more support so working families can continue living in the city.</p> <p>Nely West End resident</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Edson. I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 11 years. My wife and I both work and we have three children. Even though we work hard, the cost of rent keeps going up and it is becoming harder for families like ours to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to invest in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program so working families like mine can stay in the city and have stability.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Marvela. I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 8 years. Like many families in this city, the cost of rent keeps getting higher and it is becoming harder to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to invest in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program so families like mine can continue living in the city and have more stability.</p> <p>Marvela West End resident</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>Hola buenos días necesitamos que nos ayudes con su apoyo para poder para renta porque está muy cara la renta cada ves me pone peor la situacion bendiciones</p> <p>Hello, good morning. We need you to help us with support so we can pay the rent because the rent is very expensive. Every time the situation gets worse. Blessings.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>BENDICIONES , YO PIENSO , que en algún momento Dela vida todos tengamos a tener NESECIDAD , YA SEA POR DESEMPLEO ENFERMEDAD O ETC PIENSO Q LA IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDAD ES LO MEJOR PIENSO Q SI PEDIMOS AYUDA ES CUANDO EN VERDAD AUNQ Q QUISIÉRAMOS NO PODEMOS SOBRELLEVAR LA CITUACION EN MI OPINIÓN. DECEO DE CORAZON Q PUEDAN DARNOS A TODOS LOS Q APLICAMOS O PEDIMOS AYUDA PUEDAN DARNOS OPORTUNIDAD DE SER ESCUCHADOS BENDICIONES !</p> <p>Blessings, I believe that at some point in life we all experience need, whether because of unemployment, illness, or something else. I think that equal opportunity is the best. I believe that if we ask for help, it is because truly, even if we wish we could, we are not able to handle the situation. In my opinion, I sincerely hope that all of us who applied for or requested help can be given the opportunity to be heard. Blessings!</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>One question and one proposal</p> <p>QUESTION: The city manager's claim that he is not proposing a tax increase strikes me as disingenuous.</p> <p>As long as property appraisals increase, additional tax revenue will occur</p> <p>Consequently, I want to know if he is proposing more or less spending.</p> <p>And by how much.</p> <p>But if it's more, then how much more and why?</p> <p>PROPOSAL: Require each year the city manager identify candidate services that can be privatized and paid by their recipients rather than by all taxpayers.</p> <p>Rationale: Private service providers will be more attentive to citizen-client needs. Unlike unionized city employees, contract renewal s of private service providers depends on citizen-client satisfaction.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>If the city cares about youth success, it must care about housing stability. Stable homes help us succeed in school and in life.</p> <p>Please invest more in housing stability.</p> <p>9th grade Minnie Howard</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>When families are struggling with rent, young people feel it too. We need leaders to show that youth matter by investing in housing stability in Alexandria City.</p> <p>David 7th grade GW middle school</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>Hi my name is Nicole and I'm in 7th also I attend George Washington middle school. Young people notice when families are stressed about money. It creates fear and anxiety. Please expand housing support so youth can feel safe and secure.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>My family works hard, but rent keeps going up. We need support so we can stay in our community.</p> <p>Héctor 7th gw</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	We talk about building a better future for youth, but that starts with stable housing. Without a safe home, it's hard to dream big. Franco 6th jefferson houston
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	I have live in this city for 26 years, rent increases affect working class like mine and have displaced many of us, please invest on housing programs to help families like mine stay in Alexandria city.
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	As young people, we carry a lot of stress when our families struggle with rent. It's hard to focus on school when you don't know if you'll have to move. Please invest in housing programs that keep families stable 11th grade Alexandria City High School
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Housing instability affects our grades, our mental health, and our future plans. We need leaders to make sure families can stay in their homes. It is bad to raise high prices of rent when the quality of our housing is bad. People can get sick from mold, infestations, and its hard when people do not have health insurance to be able to get healthy.
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	We need more investment in housing programs that help working class familias stay in the city of alexandria, we received high rent increases but our salary is not increasing at the same rate.
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	We need the school budget to be FULLY funded. I am very disappointed that the Alexandria City Manager ONLY put in a 1.5% budget increase for ACPS. This, DESPITE a 3.5% increase in revenue for the city due to property values going up. DESPITE all the data coming out of how Virginia has long underfunded schools and set them up to struggle. 1.5% DOES NOT cover a step increase and 1.5% increase (which is what city employees are getting). Also, this WILL NOT cover the collective bargaining agreement being negotiated. I care about our public schools. I have two children currently attending Alexandria City Public Schools. I need all of our city's children set up for success during their time in ACPS in order to ensure success post-graduation. I also need our veteran teachers to stay in our schools - teacher retention is a huge indicator of public school system health and directly impacts LEARNING. I need our class sizes to stay reasonable - In spite of the redistricting, we STILL have overcrowding across ACPS, continuously impacting historically disadvantaged communities the most. We ALL NEED our schools to be FULLY funded. Especially in light of the fact that Alexandria City receives only 68% of the per student in state Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding, marking the lowest per-pupil state funding amount of any school division in Virginia (Fairfax county received \$5,484 per student, state average was \$6,978/student). There is no reason why we shouldn't fund our schools adequately to provide commensurate compensation for teachers and student resources relative to Fairfax, Arlington, and other nearby localities. Strong successful schools grow community and ensure Alexandria remains vibrant. We need YOU to ensure that our city manager FULLY funds our schools!!
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	Necesito alluda para mi eenta I need help with my rent
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	Im need helado to my rent I need help with my rent
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	1: we need a rental assistance program . 2:housing subsidy program . 3:funding for the department of human services programs.
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	1: we need a rental assistance program . 2:housing subsidy program . 3:funding for the department of human services programs.
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	Soy una persona con desempleo y deseo la ayuda "I am an unemployed person and I need assistance.
Monday, March 2, 2026	I have 2 boys at Samuel Tucker Elementary. This year the class sizes are so large that the teachers do not have enough time or bandwidth to pay attention to all the children in their classes. My first grader is very bright and reading above grade level. Because he isn't in a "crisis" he gets little to no attention unless it is for redirection and focus. This leaves him feeling like he is "always getting in trouble" even though he is bored because he completes his work before the other students around him. His teacher has too many students to be able to devote her attention to him until he is causing a disruption. He is not being challenged. This is being made more apparent by the fact that one of the first grade classes was dissolved 6 weeks into the school year adding 5 additional students to each of the first grade classes. Now my student falls through the cracks because he isn't a "problem." My 4th grader really struggled as a military transplant going into such a large class with kids that have been mostly together since Kindergarten. The school is unable to provide him the support that he needs because there are students with more significant needs than his, and he gets lost in the crowd because he isn't a "problem" but that doesn't mean he isn't struggling with understanding how things function and expectations even though his teacher does her absolute best. What can someone expect from a teacher trying to stay on top of over 25 students needs?
Saturday, February 28, 2026	I believe we should give ACPS all the money that it is asking for. I think it is absolutely essential that we fully fund our public schools. We cannot leave more than 14,000 youth underfunded, especially with the districts around us becoming more competitive. We cannot drive teachers away. We absolutely might fully fund public schools and I think it is ridiculous to even suggest a 1.5% increase when we know it will harm collective bargaining for ACPS staff, knowing well that city employees will be getting an increase in their pay.
Saturday, February 28, 2026	Dear Alexanderia City Staff: Request to increase the frequency of the #32 bus service on Eisenhower Ave on weekends.
Friday, February 27, 2026	I think the schools need a bigger budget increase. Especially in the West End, where there is already a lot of overcrowding and only getting worse.
Friday, February 27, 2026	I am writing to express my strong support for our public schools and to emphasize how deeply I care about the success of our students. I want our children to be set up for success after graduation. I also want our veteran teachers to remain in our schools. Their experience, dedication, and mentorship are invaluable to student achievement and to maintaining a stable, high-quality learning environment. Finally, maintaining reasonable class sizes is critical. Our students deserve individual attention and meaningful engagement in the classroom. I urge you to prioritize policies and funding that protect and strengthen our public schools.,

Date Received	Comment
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Please fulfill the ACPS request of a 3.5% increase in budget. Our public schools are the foundation of our community. My two daughters benefit daily from the passionate educators in ACPS schools.</p> <p>A 1.5% increase does not even cover a step increase for our under compensated educators. I want veteran, highly qualified teachers to remain at ACPS like Ms. Goodlin, who inspired both my girls to greater academic achievement in the 7th grade English classes at Hammond, and Mr Fox who inspired both of them to do amazing history day projects.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Hello, With the city's revenue increase I would like to see more of that revenue go into our schools. Currently, the 1.5% increase won't cover salary increases and other needs to keep our classroom sizes small and retain experienced experts, including teachers. Teachers deserve the salary increase just like a city employee. In fact, teachers are critical to ensuring the city's children become strong contributors once they graduate. Please increase the budget for ACPS. If the city cannot afford it, I suggest they find creative ways to raise the funds, including gathering ideas from its citizens.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>As a resident and parent of an Alexandria Public Schools student, more money should be directed to educating our children.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Why do we treat our teachers like second class citizens? It has always amazed me that we under appreciate, under fund and under pay the very people that are shaping the lives of our future generations.</p> <p>Good teachers leave for for better pay in adjoining school systems for this very reason. Don't be apart of that drain. Fully fund the school and pay our teachers!!!</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Funding to support the middle school athletic programs should be prioritized. The positive impact athletics have reaches beyond just improved test scores, but social emotional development of this population. These programs are JUST gaining momentum and we should prioritize keeping that momentum going.</p>
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	<p>I am writing as a city resident and ACPS parent of 3, including one child at Hammond and two at Polk. As a resident of the city, I have come to understand and appreciate the many competing needs of the city that is struggling with limited funds. However, I nevertheless feel strongly that the city should do everything in its power to meet the proposed budget presented by ACPS to the extent possible.</p> <p>Public education is more important now than ever, and we risk losing our best educators and staff if we continue to ask them to do more with less. My children attend overcrowded schools with teacher-to-student ratios that make me want to cry. Moreover, an overwhelming number of students in the classroom require additional support, making the work of managing a class of 24 children feel twice as hard. We are faced with cutting invaluable language programs, and balancing the needs to of rebuilding crumbling schools with other schools that are far too overcrowded. At the same time, as a parent active in my children's schools, I see firsthand how hard the staff work every day to keep all of our students healthy and on track to be successful humans.</p> <p>And shouldn't the creation of successful humans be at the top of our priority list as a city? I recognize the many other funding needs the city faces but we will fail as a city in the long run if our future residents are not successful adults. I constantly hear that ACPS is viewed as "less than" neighboring schools systems and that this is why many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances did not consider moving here when it came time to buy a home and build a family. While I do not agree with this take on ACPS, I do not think we can ignore the fact that if we want to create a world-class city that attracts business and investment, we have to consider that the reputation of our schools, deserved or not, plays an important role in the process. We should be digging into ensuring that all Alexandria students receive an education that is considered to be on par with the surrounding districts. We must set the bar higher.</p>
Tuesday, February 24, 2026	<p>As a parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary, I am concerned that our schools do not have sufficient funding to support students effectively. Neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong educators have options. Large class sizes are also a concern.</p> <p>Where we put our money shows what we prioritize. If education is truly a priority, our budget should reflect that commitment.</p> <p>Will you commit to increasing funding for our schools so we can remain competitive and provide students with the support they deserve?</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>How much does it cost the city to administer the residential parking program? How much revenue does that program bring in?</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>This is what you get for electing democrats.</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I would love the city to explore a pedesetrian signal at commonwealth from Ancell to Mount Vernon Ave. Many of us from Warwick Village use that as a key space to cross commonwealth and during rush hour, it can be impossible to get cars to stop (even with a stroller).</p> <p>Thanks, Kate</p> <p>Prior Submission:</p> <p>Your Comments: Hi! Would it be possible to install a pedestrian signal that flashes to get traffic to stop while crossing commonwealth from Ancell to mount vernon ave? Not a huge problem in the day, but at night especially in the winter cars don't see people. Would especially be helpful during rush hour.</p> <p>Staff Comments: Kate,</p> <p>Thank you for contacting the City of Alexandria with your request for flashing pedestrian beacons stop signs at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Ancell Street.</p> <p>The City takes mobility, access, and traffic safety very seriously and has several plans and programs in place to enhance safety for all roadway users, such as the Vision Zero Action Plan, Complete Streets Program, and the Alexandria Mobility Plan.</p> <p>At this time, staff resources and funding are currently committed to other priority projects for this fiscal year. However, staff appreciates you taking the time to share your suggestions and will take your request into consideration as they plan future safety improvements.</p> <p>Thank you again for contacting the City of Alexandria with your concerns. Should you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Bryan Hayes Complete Streets Coordinator</p>

Date Received	Comment
Sunday, February 22, 2026	<p>As a parent of students in our public schools, I urge you to prioritize funding for our city's schools in the FY 2027 Operating Budget at this critical moment. We must remain competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers, and that means ensuring they feel valued, supported, and fairly compensated so they are not forced to leave our community. We are at a pivotal time when supporting the whole child — academically, socially, and emotionally — also means supporting their families. Many of our students are at risk and deserve the same access to strong learning opportunities, enrichment, and resources as their peers. We cannot continue placing the burden of closing opportunity gaps on our teachers and parents, who are already giving so much. While we are continuing to advocate at the state level for additional resources, we know that change there will take time. In the meantime, we are depending on you. Your investment in our public schools is an investment in our city's future workforce, safety, and economic stability. The decisions you make today will determine what our tomorrow looks like as a community. We cannot do this alone! We need you to stand with our students and families now. Please incorporate the school board approved budget into your budget plans to ensure we have a fighting chance. Thank you.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the original budget was presented in January a slide said that \$11.44 million was set aside for an approximately 5% raise for employees 2. The City of Alexandria advised the superintendent and school board they would only approve an additional 1.5 budget request. The superintendent asked for an additional 3.7 percent 3. Michelle Reif stated that if the city did not approve the full 3.7 % request staff would not even get a step increase. What happened to the reserve set aside for a 5% average pay raise, especially considering increased health care costs led to a decrease in take home pay for staff last year? 4. year 5. ACPS is being surpassed in salary enhancements by just about every district (last year neighboring districts provided staff with 5-8% salary increases and are providing the same this year) <p>The school board and superintendent are playing politics with the City of Alexandria regarding the livelihoods of staff. ACPS will blame the city for a lack of salary enhancements if the city refuses the 3.7 increase when the city provided budget guidance of approving 1.5 from the beginning. ACPS needs to cut funds from a multitude of sources, including an over bloated Central office staff and a building nobody works in, in order to provide those who serve students IN PERSON on a daily basis a fair and equitable salary that is comparable to surrounding districts.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<p>I am a parent at James K. Polk Elementary School, and school funding is extremely important to my family. My child depends on ACPS not only for academic learning, but also for a safe and supportive environment every day.</p> <p>Strong funding ensures smaller class sizes, dedicated teachers, and essential programs that help students grow both academically and emotionally. Budget cuts would directly affect my child and many other students in our community.</p> <p>Please prioritize full and strong funding for ACPS so our children can continue to receive the quality education they deserve.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello - I am the parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary School.</p> <p>I am concerned that our schools do not have enough funding to meet the needs of our students. I understand that City Council determines the funding level for Alexandria's schools, and your decisions directly impact the quality of education our children receive.</p> <p>We know that neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong teachers have choices about where they work. Retaining great educators should be a priority. I am also concerned about large class sizes and how they affect student learning and teacher support.</p> <p>Our students deserve the resources, attention, and opportunities needed to succeed. Can we count on you to prioritize education and increase funding for our schools?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>In order to retain and recruit talent in ACPS, salaries need to be competitive. Please include funding to support ACPS staff's collective bargaining in your annual budget.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello, I am writing to express my support for ACPS funding. Our school system faces many challenges, including overcrowding especially at many of the elementary schools and all the middle schools. Without funding for teachers, our students will receive a sub par education. I also support turning one of the elementary schools into another middle school or building a new middle school on the west end, to make the middle school environment safer for our children.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I am Vice President of the Patrick Henry PTA.</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for an increase in the funding allocated for ACPS schools, specifically for staffing. We remain uncompetitive with surrounding school districts (Arlington and Fairfax) and the proposed budget indicates we will continue to be so, resulting in attrition and teacher turnover. Retaining talented teachers is particularly important for us, given that many of our teachers are asked to manage very large class sizes. Providing this sort of stability should be an absolute priority for us, given the many challenges faced by ACPS students and families in light of the many changes due to redistricting.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>Please fully fund ACPS. It is critical that we keep and attract the best teachers. Fully funding ACPS is a step in the right direction to keep Alexandria competitive for top talent in the region. Strong schools lead to strong communities. Fund ACPS.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I would like to see two things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A significant improvement in the ratio of teachers to administrative staff, and 2. A significant reduction in the amount of laptops and tablets that are purchased and used for instruction at the elementary level.

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I would like to see the ACPS school budget prioritized in the FY2027 city budget, to be presented next week. I acknowledge that this is (yet again) a tough budget year. However, I am disappointed that the conversation around the budget continues to be "what can we cut" rather than "how can we increase revenue." Years without tax increases and without revenue investments have contributed to the schools being underfunded and repeatedly having to beg for adequate funding to meet the ever-increasing population and need in the city. It is clear based on recent research and data that at the state level, the recommendations and funding levels do not meet the need of any school across the commonwealth. However, until strong advocacy and a motivated General Assembly can change how Virginia schools are funded generally, it is the responsibility of this city to fund our school system. Claiming that we are adequately funding ACPS when we are not only adds to the problem. When you compare the percentages of funding that surrounding jurisdictions provide their public schools, all of them are higher than Alexandria, despite the fact that we educate a population with a higher percentage of need. We need more resources for our kids, not less.</p> <p>For a sadly large number of children in Alexandria, their schools are one of the safest places in their lives, and the primary source of positive adult interactions outside of the home. Many families don't have the extra funds to participate in travel sports (or any sports outside what is offered at ACPS), or extra theater classes.</p> <p>Many of our teachers are truly magicians to be able to give what they give to their students. You see that when you walk into a kindergarten class at the start of the year and see students that can't write their full name or accurately identify all the letters of the alphabet. Return in May, and you will find them sounding out words. Come to the schools. See special education teachers give up their lunch break to work 1:1 with their students to make sure they "get their wiggles out" before joining their class for encore classes. Walk into a middle school science classroom and find students bringing to life a flying robot for the science fair during their lunch break, constructively working with their teacher (even middle school students who won't talk to their parents).</p> <p>These magicians deserve to be paid fairly for the extraordinary work they do each every day so that our children graduate ready to be contributing citizens in our city. Teachers and administrators deserve to be paid at a level that acknowledges their years of service, their investments in their educations, and the truly impressive outcomes that they manage to produce on a shoestring budget. Retaining excellent, experienced teachers is key and unfortunately in Alexandria the pay gaps between us and the neighboring jurisdictions gets higher each year.</p> <p>We all watched as every collective bargaining unit came to the city and had their requests fulfilled this year, DESPITE the tough budget year. Funding the ACPS budget at a 1.5% recommendation will not allow that to happen for our teachers-not when nearly 80% of the budget is salaries. We can do better in Alexandria. And we have to. The kids are counting on us, and on you.</p> <p>Catie Brownback</p>
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I request that the budget includes a dedicated line item for non-technology curriculum materials — such as workbooks, printed homework packets, pencils, pens, paper, ink for printouts, and other hands-on learning tools for elementary and middle school students.</p> <p>Children are not yet mentally mature enough to consistently keep themselves on task or safe when using technology without constant supervision. Extensive screen use can make sustained attention, focus, and deep thinking more difficult for young learners, because digital media often delivers rapid, highly stimulating content that competes with slower, more thoughtful tasks (research shows screen exposure is linked with shorter attention spans and difficulty concentrating).</p> <p>Balancing technology with traditional, non-screen learning materials supports stronger cognitive development, real-world problem-solving, and foundational skills like handwriting, reading comprehension, and memory.</p> <p>I also ask that parents be given the option to opt their children out of learning through iPads, Chromebooks, or computers, so that families who prefer traditional, non-screen instruction for developmental or educational reasons can choose that path.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Ruth Leiva</p>
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I support the FY 2027 budget's focus on recruitment and retention of high-quality educators. Competitive teacher compensation is essential to attract and retain top talent and sustain instructional excellence across ACPS. The inclusion of salary reserves and recruitment/retention resources is a positive step; however, continued investment is necessary to ensure ACPS remains competitive with neighboring districts and supports long-term teacher stability.</p> <p>I also strongly encourage ACPS and City Council to expand access to high-quality, nutritious meals. While universal lunch programs are helpful, meal quality matters. Breakfasts should minimize added sugars (especially for elementary school children) and offer balanced options, and lunches should emphasize fresh, nutritious, whole-food ingredients. With more than 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals, food security and meal quality directly impact academic performance and overall well-being.</p> <p>Arts education and after-school programming must remain strong priorities. These programs are foundational to a well-rounded education and are not optional enrichment. Music, visual arts, theater, academic clubs, and extended-day programs support engagement, equity, and student development across all grade levels. Dedicated funding ensures these programs are protected and accessible to all students.</p> <p>Finally, as ACPS navigates school boundary changes and redistricting, I urge the inclusion of explicit resources to support impacted families. While staffing adjustments are included in the proposed budget, families would benefit from dedicated transition support such as transportation assistance, counseling resources, multilingual communication, and community-building opportunities at receiving schools. Proactive support will help maintain stability, trust, and student well-being during transitions.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I'm a 30+ year resident of the City and 17 year ACPS veteran teacher. Our salary increases do not come close to keeping up with the rate of inflation, and many of my colleagues are leaving the district for Fairfax, Arlington or Falls Church for more money.</p> <p>I am currently in the position of needing to make a decision of whether or not I want to do the same. I am coming up on my last 3 years of work before retirement, and it would be in my best interest to switch districts to maximize my VRS post-retirement income.</p> <p>I'm keenly aware of the budget issues facing Alexandria but I strongly urge you to consider the future of our educational system and our City's children.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I am a 3rd-grade teacher at a title 1 school on the west side of Alexandria. With the cost of living in Alexandria, I am barely making enough to get by. I am working paycheck to paycheck just to afford rent and groceries. I am also still using my own money to fund resources in my classroom to give my students an exciting education. Teachers' salaries need to be raised to match the expense of living in our beautiful city! I do not want to leave this city, both living and working, but I may have to if our school budget and teacher salaries are not increased!</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>Hello I am a city resident and a ACPS staff member for 20years. *I would like for the city council members to know that ACPS has one of the lowest pay salary in this area. The support staff members (bus drivers, cafeteria staff, office staff and paraprofessionals) work the hardest to make sure schools are ran in a great manner. Yes I could maybe should be going to our school board members. I will not waste my time.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	<p data-bbox="373 134 730 155">Dear Alexandria City Council and City Manager,</p> <p data-bbox="373 172 1995 318">Thank you for all that you do to make Alexandria City such a wonderful place to live. This is a welcoming, diverse, vibrant community because the people here believe in creating that kind of place. I know that it requires careful planning and balancing to make our budget meet the similarly diverse needs of a city like Alexandria. As a parent with two children in elementary school in ACPS, I believe that our schools are regularly called on to do a lot with not nearly enough resources. Because Virginia uses a staff-based model to assess educational costs and because of an unfair Local Composite Index formula, Alexandria City must shoulder an unreasonable portion of the expense of running our schools. I encourage City Council and the Mayor's office to press our state elected officials and leaders to address this situation. In the meantime, I ask that you do all that you can to meet the needs of our schools. Already, our schools are tightening budgets in painful ways for next year while grants that flowed freely in more prosperous times dry up. At Mount Vernon Community School, we are aware that our 3-5 grade after-school tutoring program for next year is unfunded thanks to budget cuts. For many complex reasons, ACPS will have a tough time meeting all the financial demands next year. A new collective bargaining agreement, inflation, and capital improvement demands are challenges that I know you are all aware of. I ask that you do everything you can to fund ACPS's budget, knowing that it is far, far from being funded to the level of its true needs.</p> <p data-bbox="373 334 485 355">With gratitude,</p> <p data-bbox="373 371 470 393">Evan Wilson</p>