

FY 2027 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 6, 2026	hola por este medio les pido la ayuda
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	As a working-class constituent of Alexandria City, I would like for City Council to invest in more affordable housing programs and policies.
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>
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	Programas de ayuda de renta programa de subsidio de vivienda fondo para los programas del departamento de servicios humanos

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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. Please invest more in housing stability. 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>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>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</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>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.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>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</p> <p>11th grade Alexandria City High School</p>

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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	<p>We need the school budget to be FULLY funded.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We need YOU to ensure that our city manager FULLY funds our schools!!</p>
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>Necesito alluda para mi eenta</p> <p>I need help with my rent</p>
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Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>1: we need a rental assistance program .</p> <p>2:housing subsidy program .</p> <p>3:funding for the department of human services programs.</p>
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Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>Soy una persona con desempleo y deseo la ayuda</p> <p>"I am an unemployed person and I need assistance.</p>
Monday, March 2, 2026	<p>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."</p> <p>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?</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>I want our children to be set up for success after graduation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Finally, maintaining reasonable class sizes is critical. Our students deserve individual attention and meaningful engagement in the classroom.</p> <p>I urge you to prioritize policies and funding that protect and strengthen our public schools.,</p>
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.</p> <p>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	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.

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Friday, February 27, 2026	As a resident and parent of an Alexandria Public Schools student, more money should be directed to educating our children.
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	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.
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	How much does it cost the city to administer the residential parking program? How much revenue does that program bring in?
Monday, February 23, 2026	This is what you get for electing democrats.
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>
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.</p> <p>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>

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Saturday, February 21, 2026	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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?</p> <p>4. year</p> <p>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> <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.
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>

Date Received	Comment
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>
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	<p>Dear Alexandria City Council and City Manager,</p> <p>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>With gratitude,</p> <p>Evan Wilson</p>