

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 29, 2024
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator
SUBJECT: Budget Comments



As part of our ongoing community outreach initiative to obtain the citizens' input regarding the upcoming budget, we have been receiving forms submitted through the County's website. The form solicits responses based on the following questions:

- What questions would you like to ask regarding the FY2025 Budget?
- What comments would you like to leave regarding the FY2025 Budget?

I have asked staff to compile a summary of the comments that have been received to date for your review. We have selected some of the questions to include in the budget videos running on WYCG Channel 48. Future videos are in the process to adequately capture the answers to the questions that have been received. A link to the form has also been included below for your review below.

<https://www.yorkcounty.gov/558/Budget>

Schott/3326

JOT FORM RESPONSES

From January 29, 2024 thru February 15, 2024

The following five (5) budget questions or budget comments were submitted:

- Lower the tax rate.
- Lower the tax rate especially for seniors and retirees.
- Lower the tax rate without taking money from the schools.
- Stop sending money to support Williamsburg.
- Stop building new facilities and spending surplus dollars.

From December 16, 2023 thru January 28, 2024

The following eighteen (18) budget comments questions/comments were received. The majority of the comments include reducing the tax rate to compensate for the increased property reassessments, and to do so especially for seniors/retirees.

- Lower the tax rate.
- Can we expect lower taxes when we stop spending money on public safety? School funding is steadily decreasing and this is where our budget focus should be.
- Proposed tax is excessive.
- Tax assessment are too high. Are there joint proposals with other localities that will require our tax base funding?
- Taxes must be kept to minimum. Try reducing recycling costs and have pickup once a month.
- The proposed cost for Riverwalk Landing Restaurant renovations, Dockmaster building are extremely high. What will be the ROI on these? PA system improvements at York Hall are excessive.
- Need more FY 2025 budget information available on County website.
- What are the metrics used to gauge whether the budget allocated for each office/department is being used efficiently? Based on this information will budget adjustments be made?
- Property tax reassessments were really excessive and as such the tax rate needs to be reduced.
- If excessive tax rate is not addressed, many citizens will be forced to leave the County causing an unstable population.
- All spending of taxes about a fixed amount should go to the citizens in a referendum prior to being approved.
- Excessive property tax reassessments must be addressed one way or the other.
- Lower tax rate to offset high reassessments.
- Opposed to more money supporting the EDA's bad decisions, i.e. Brewery.
- Support alternative ways of transportation to allow residents to reach other local transit centers in Williamsburg and Newport News.
- Will the tax rate remain the same for FY 2025 or lowered? With the high reassessments, they need to be lowered especially for seniors.

- Consideration should be made for seniors relative to the excessive news property assessments.
- Need tax relief and reduce spending. Tax relief especially for seniors needs to be addressed.
- We need to support and bolster our own libraries and stop supporting Williamsburg's libraries.
- Support for salary increases for teachers, mental health, health care and school lunches for those who cannot afford them. Concern over sports complex and its funding.
- Opposed to any funds for the sports complex and do not spend any tax dollars on projects outside of the County.
- Stop out of control spending and increase transparency and accountability for decisions.
- Questioned how and if funds were going towards public/private joint ventures in the County.
- Can sewer and trash costs be reduced in FY 2025?
- FY 2025 budget should include a dog park.

During this same timeframe we received 10 Jot Forms in Opposition to funding Cruise Ships

The following one (1) waterfront parking comment was received:

- Waterfront parking should either be free for everyone or be paid parking.

IN TOTAL WE RECEIVED 34 JOT FORMS – from 12/16/23 through 2/15/24, 10 of which expressed opposition to cruise ships.