



Watch Now

Quick links...

BREAKING NEWS

Crews fighting massive fire that tore through Hampton condo building

ADVERTISEMENT

NEWS > IN YOUR COMMUNITY > VIRGINIA BEACH



'It's unfair to us:' Boat owners slam new tax included in Virginia Beach budget proposal

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT



5:08
61°



By: John Hood , Maddie Miller

Posted 5:52 PM, Apr 17, 2025

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A potential boat tax proposed by Virginia Beach city leaders is being met with criticism by many boat owners.

At Wednesday’s city council meeting, about a dozen speakers voiced concerns about the boat tax included in the city’s proposed budget for FY 2025-26.

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT



The proposed boat tax entails imposing a \$1.50 per \$100 assessed value on “privately owned pleasure boats” 18 feet and above. The rate is the same boat tax city leaders eliminated in FY 2001-02, except back then, it applied to all boats regardless of size.



CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT

The tax at \$1.50 amounts to an approximate 149 million percent increase. Practically, that means an owner with a boat valued at \$100,000 who currently pays less than 1 cent would now pay \$1,500.

"My boat's over 20 years old. Maintaining it fuel repairs cost me plenty already. I don't store it off site. It's on a lift above the water at my place, a \$15,000 assessment," Virginia Beach resident Ryan Davidson said at the meeting. "This new \$1.50 per 100 boat tax means a \$225 bill. That's steep when I'm barely keeping it afloat financially. I know the city wants revenue, but this tax punishes boat ownership."



John Hood

One speaker highlighted the potential economic impact if the tax drives people

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT



Watch Now

Russ Kostinas. "If these boats leave, the marina operators are certainly going to have empty slips... The folks that leave are not going to eat at your restaurants. Their friends aren't going to come into here at the city, and then all the related boat activities."

The boat tax revenue would generate about \$4.3 million, the proposal says. The revenue would support the Coastal section of the city's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). These projects include dredging both the Western and Eastern branches of the Lynnhaven River, as well as another project that aims to support dredge maintenance and equipment.

The proposal explains why the tax would apply to boats 18 feet and over, saying, "Larger boats typically draw more water driving more of the necessity for frequent dredgings to maintain navigable waterways."

The proposed budget will not be finalized until May 13. However, during Tuesday's informal session, city leaders said they were already aware of backlash from the community, and indicated that they may be looking at alternative ways to support the Coastal CIP.

More stories from Virginia Beach

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT



Watch Now

Renovated
**areas at
Mount
Trashmore
Park now
open to the
public**

With sex
**trafficking 15-
year-old girl at
Virginia
Beach
Oceanfront**

Arrested,
**charged
following
shooting on
Sassafras
Court**

Chief says
**stolen guns
from vehicles
remains an
ongoing issue**

**6 hurt in 3 VB
shootings in
less than 24
hours**

**Dallas Wings
take 757's
James,
Quinerly in
WNBA Draft**

**VB NAACP
holds meeting
to discuss
concerns on
suspending
DEI policies in
schools**

**Shooting on
Haygood
Road leaves
three injured,
two seriously
hurt: VBPD**

Copyright 2025 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Sign up for the **Headlines Newsletter** and receive up to date information.

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT



Seniors Can Now Fly Business Class For The Price Of Economy Using This Hack

Paid Content: Online Shopping Tools



Virginia Will Cover the Cost to Install Solar if You Live in These Zips

Find out if you qualify. Get your free quote today!

Paid Content: EasySolar



Actor Michelle Trachtenberg died of complications from...

News 3 WTKR Norfolk



Suspect arrested, charged following shooting on Sassafras...

News 3 WTKR Norfolk



Judge rules Menendez brothers' bid for freedom through resentencing c...

News 3 WTKR Norfolk



Sleep Apnea: Ingenious Pillow Takes



Ask A Pro: "I'm 60 With \$1.2 Million in

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT



Watch Now



Amazon's Worst Nightmare: Thousands Canceling Prime for This Clever Hack

Paid Content: Online Shopping Tools

These Barefoot Shoes are Leaving Neuropathy Experts Baffled

Paid Content: Barefoot Vitality



Big Brother Casting Call

ADVERTISEMENT

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT



Watch Now



[News](#) [Weather](#) [Live Hampton Roads traffic updates](#)
[Support](#)



Scripps Local Media

© 2025 Scripps Media, Inc

*Give Light and the People Will Find
Their Own Way*

[Sitemap](#) [Do Not Sell My Info](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Privacy Center](#)
[Terms of Use](#) [EEO](#) [WTKR FCC Public File](#)
[WGNT FCC Public File](#) [FCC Application](#)
[Public File](#) [Contact Us](#) [Accessibility Statement](#)
[Scripps Media Trust Center](#) [Closed Captioning Contact](#)

CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT