

RESOLUTION PROVIDING GUIDANCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE FY2019 CITY BUDGET

- WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is valuable to provide early guidance on budget development; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council has received initial projections for revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year, as well as multi-year projections, and has considered these projections in providing budget guidance; and
- WHEREAS, the guidance statement is intended to provide a framework for the City Manager and the School Board as they develop a proposed budget for presentation next spring that is aligned with fiscal projections as well as Citywide goals as expressed in the Capital Improvements Program, the recent Voter Referendum, the Comprehensive Plan, and other approved plans; and
- WHEREAS, the City takes tremendous pride in the quality of public input and citizen involvement in the budget process, and the budget process is designed to provide as many opportunities as possible for citizens to exchange information about budget priorities, and this public input will ultimately inform the Council's final budget decisions next spring; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Falls Church that the attached "FY2019 Budget Guidance Statement" is hereby adopted.

Reading: 12-11-17
Adopted: 12-11-17
(TR17-49)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the foregoing was adopted by the City Council of the City of Falls Church, Virginia on December 11, 2017 as Resolution 2017-44.



Celeste Heath
City Clerk

City Council FY2019 Budget Guidance Statement December 11, 2017

The City Council seeks a FY2019 budget development process that advances the City Vision and Comprehensive Plan; supports the City's excellent schools and excellent government services; and adheres to adopted fiscal policies that keep City finances on a sound footing. The City of Falls Church is committed to providing valuable public services that promote a high quality of life in a cost effective manner. To these ends, the FY2019 Budget Guidance is as follows:

- Review all City government and school programs and operations to achieve the most cost effective delivery of services possible. This includes exploring opportunities for consolidating services currently provided by both the General Government and School Divisions.
- It is the Council's intention to maintain appropriate discipline on operating budgets for General Governments and Schools with a vision toward reserving financial capacity for the major capital projects in the City's immediate future, including the George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School projects, the Mary Riley Styles Library project, and the City Hall Public Safety project.
- The FY19 General Fund operating budget, inclusive of both general government and school operations, should be no more than 2% growth relative to the FY18 budget. Any revenue above that budget level should be dedicated to accomplishing the approved capital program.
- Present a FY19 operating budget and capital financial plan that is in accordance with the City's adopted Fiscal Policies.
- Present high level multi-year revenue and expenditure projections so that FY19 budget decisions can be assessed in the context of long term sustainability. Revenue forecasts should include potential economic development along with other factors.
- Present a budget that provides a level of employee compensation that is competitive within the regional labor market and sustainable over the long term, and that funds the City pension plan per the annual required contribution (ARC).
- The Budget should provide options for funding improvements that will further the progress in making the City's business districts vibrant, attractive, and walkable, and options for funding the neighborhood traffic calming program on a sustained basis.

- The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) should meet the commitments of the City Council in the adopted FY2018 – FY2022 CIP and include a ten year planning horizon for major capital needs.
- The CIP should include strategic use of the NVRTA 30% and 70% funds as well as other state and federal sources of funds for transportation improvements for all modes of transportation, including walking, cycling, transit, and vehicles. These transportation investments should be aligned with the walkability priorities established in the Mobility for All Modes Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Address funding for WMATA that:
 - Does not exceed the proposed 3% cap on annual increases to jurisdictional contributions for the operating budget.
 - Assumes that increases in WMATA capital funding beyond sustainable growth will come from a new state or regional source in light of Falls Church and other Northern Virginia jurisdictions' inability to sustain the FY 2018 levels of capital contributions.
- Calculate and highlight in the budget presentation the pension expense avoided by the investment of a portion of the water sales proceeds in the pension fund.
- Accompany the FY19 budget presentation with public information that explains the budget clearly and solicits public participation and input in budget decisions.