

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION
Real Estate Tax-Rate Resolution
Passed by Member Organizations 30-9-5 on April 4, 2017

Whereas, the assessed value of residential real property increased by 6.1% in CY 2014, 5.4% in CY 2015, 3% in CY 2016 and 2.5% in CY 2017—a cumulative increase of 17.0% within 4 years;ⁱ

Whereas, the Arlington County Manager proposes a FY 2018 budget with an advertised real property tax of \$1.011 per \$100 of assessed value (a 2-cent increase from FY 2017);ⁱⁱ

Whereas, under the advertised real property tax rate (with a 2-cent increase) the average homeowner would see his/her tax and fee burden rise from \$8,305 in calendar year (CY) 2016 to \$8,613 in CY 2017—a 4% increase, or about \$492—and will have absorbed a cumulative, 5-year total annual increase of \$1,613 in additional taxes and fees (CY 2013–CY 2017);ⁱⁱⁱ

Whereas, without a tax-rate increase at the current real property tax rate of \$0.991 per \$100 of assessed value, the average homeowner would already see his/her tax and fee burden rise \$184—a 2% increase—in CY 2017;^{iv}

Whereas, there is a \$114 million surplus of unspent funds—beyond what the County Board budgeted in FY 2016—that could be reallocated;^v

Whereas, in May 2016 the Arlington County Civic Federation passed a resolution urging “the Arlington County Board to annually consider setting aside a fair and reasonable amount of any surplus for the reduction of real estate taxes”;^{vi}

Whereas, the county appropriated \$17.8 million of the surplus funds in the close-out for FY 2016 that could have been used to cut the tax rate in FY 2018;^{vii} and

Whereas, the Transportation Capital Fund has a current balance of \$157.5 million and will accrue over \$26 million in new revenue in FY 2018;^{viii}

Therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation, absent contrary compelling reasons from the county:

1. Urges the Arlington County Board to adopt a maximum property tax rate of \$0.991 per \$100 of assessed value, the same rate as in FY 2017;^{ix}
2. Urges the County Board and County Manager to utilize surplus balances to fund additional needs in the FY 2018 budget; and
3. Urges the County Board to seek revisions in state legislation to increase flexibility in the permitted uses of Transportation Capital Fund revenues to include Metro funding.

Committee Vote

Yea: Burt Bostwick, Duke Banks, Frank Emerson, Jerry Auten, Roger Morton, Terry Showman, Suzanne Sundburg, John Tuohy, Tim Wise

Nay: N/A

Abstain: Charles Morley (traveling in March), Paul Holland

END NOTES

ⁱ CY 2017 <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2017/02/FY-2018-Proposed-All-in-One-WEB-with-footers-updated-2.pdf> (book p. 97, web p. 205)

CY 2016 <http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/02/FY17-proposed-all-in-one-to-post-compressed2.pdf> (book p. 2, web p. 80)

CY 2015 https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2015/02/FY16P_Sec-B-Revenues.pdf (book p. 79, web p. 93)

CY 2014 https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2014/02/FY15P_Sec-B-Revenues.pdf (book p. 65, web p. 77)

ⁱⁱ <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (p. 4) and <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (book p. 139, web p. 147)

ⁱⁱⁱ CY 2012–CY 2014 https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2015/06/FY16A_Final-All-in-One-Adopted-File.pdf (p. 116)

CY 2015–CY 2017 <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (p. 29)

^{iv} <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (p. 29)

^v https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/CAFR-FY2016_Online-1.pdf (book p. 39, web p. 38)

^{vi} <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2016-05/RevExp%20Budget%20Closeout%20Resolution%202016-05-03%20PASSED.pdf>

^{vii} http://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=924&meta_id=150600 (p. 2)

^{viii} https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/CAFR-FY2016_Online-1.pdf (book 131, web 126) and <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2017/02/FY-2018-Proposed-All-in-One-WEB-with-footers-updated-2.pdf> (see All Funds Revenue And Expenditure Detail - FY 2018 Proposed Budget table in web version only, p. 75, but page number is not marked)

^{ix} <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2017/02/FY-2018-Proposed-All-in-One-WEB-with-footers-updated-2.pdf> (see Comparison Of Northern Virginia Jurisdictions' Real Estate Tax Bill (1) for the Average Single-Family Home (2) table in web version only, p. 152, but page number is not marked)