

**APPROVED by MEMBERSHIP VOTE 2 APR 2019:
30 'AYES', 11 'NAY', 3 ABSTENTIONS**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION
Revenues & Expenditures Committee Real Estate Tax-Rate Resolution for FY2020
April 2, 2019**

Whereas, the Arlington County Manager has proposed a base real estate tax rate of \$1.008 and a stormwater management rate of \$0.013 for a total of \$1.021 per \$100 of assessed value, an increase of \$0.015 cents per \$100 of assessed value over tax year 2018 and,

Whereas one cent of the rate increase is designated as a "one time" transfer to the Schools and one-half cent supports General Government functions, and,

Whereas, the County Board has advertised a tax rate of \$1.0335, an increase of \$0.275, and

Whereas, assessments of residential real estate increased by 2.8% and commercial real estate by 4.1%, and,

Whereas, absent an increase in the tax rate the effect of the increase in assessments will result in an increase of 3.8% in revenues from real estate taxes, which exceeds the anticipated rate of inflation for 2020, and

Whereas, under the federal tax code, the itemized deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) are capped at a total of \$10,000, and

Whereas, according to published reports individuals' tax refunds for 2018 are averaging 8% less than the average for 2017¹, and

Whereas, the effects of the 35-day federal government shutdown are still being felt, and there is no guarantee that there will not be one or more additional shutdowns during 2019 or 2020, and

Whereas, the cumulative effects of the above make it increasingly difficult for residents to afford living in Arlington and make it likely that many residents of Arlington will be faced with significant financial stress during FY 2020,

Whereas, the County manager has not explored savings and efficiencies as suggested in the Arlington County Civic Federation's resolution of June 2018,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation, with reservations, supports a tax rate not to exceed the County Manager's recommendation for a rate of \$1.021 per \$100 of assessment and,

Be it further resolved that, the Civic Federation encourages the County Board, the County Manager and County staff to continue their efforts to prioritize core needs and identify savings ideas, as stated in the Federation's resolution of June 2018.

Approved by Revenue and Expenditure Committee March 21, 2019

Aye: John Tuohy, Tina Worden, Duke Banks, Frank Emerson, Burton Bostwick, Suzanne Sundburg, Roger Morton

Nay: None

This resolution was passed by a vote of 30 ayes, 11 nays and 3 abstentions at the April 2, 2019 Membership Meeting of the Civic Federation

¹ Internal Revenue Service as of February 19, 2019 as reported by Michelle Singletary in the Washington Post .
https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/02/19/tax-refund-recipients-respond-critics-stop-shaming-me/?utm_term=.abd96b529fda