

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 13, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATES ORDINANCE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005 (FISCAL YEAR 2006)

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**ISSUE:** Proposed Real and Personal Property Tax Rates Ordinance for Calendar Year 2005 (Fiscal Year 2006).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council hold the public hearing on the ordinance to establish the real and personal property tax rates for calendar year 2005, and schedule the ordinance for second reading and final passage on Monday, May 2, 2005.

**DISCUSSION:** In the event the proposed real property tax rates result in an increase of one percent or more in the total real property tax levied, State Code §58.1-3321 requires certain advertising and public hearing requirements be met. In addition, the State Code specifies the formal public hearing on the real property tax rate be separate from the public hearing on the budget. To meet these and other State requirements, the following schedule was established:

March 22:	Introduction of Property Tax Ordinances
April 4:	Public Hearing on the Budget
April 7:	Advertisement of Public Hearing of Effective Tax Increase and Property Tax Rates Ordinances
April 16:	Public Hearing on Effective Real Property Tax Increases and Property Rates Ordinances
May 2:	Final Adoption of the Budget and Tax Ordinances

On March 22, 2005, City Council amended the proposed ordinance to reflect a proposed decrease of \$0.08 in the real property rate from \$0.995 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.915 per \$100 of assessed value. Staff placed the advertisement for the public hearing on the effective real estate tax rate at the revised advertised rate of \$0.915 per \$100 of assessed value. Attachment 1 provides a copy of the effective tax rate advertisement. The real and personal property tax rates advertised for public hearing and final consideration are the highest tax rates City Council can consider and adopt. By State law, Council can adopt the advertised rate or can adopt lower tax rates, but cannot increase these rates without readvertising and scheduling a new public hearing.

On March 8, 2005, the City Manager submitted his FY 2006 Proposed Budget to City Council. This Proposed Budget reflected a \$0.04 proposed reduction in the real property rate from \$0.995 to \$0.955 per \$100 of assessed value. Council subsequently increased the proposed \$0.04 reduction to an advertised reduction of \$0.08. The value of the additional \$0.04 reduction of the real property rate is a reduction in the General Fund revenues of approximately \$16.4 million from the revenues proposed in the City Manager's Proposed Budget (\$5.4 million in FY 2005 and \$11.0 million in FY 2006). To offset the effect of the additional reduction to a rate of \$0.915 per \$100 of assessed value, Council is considering (1) reductions in the Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Program, and (2) a number of tax and revenue fee increases, including an Admission Tax, a Cell Phone Tax, and an increase in the Cigarette Tax and Sanitary Sewer Fees.

Currently, the City has two programs that mitigate rising real estate taxes due to significant increases in real property appreciation on those that can least afford it. These programs are the Affordable Homeownership Preservation (AHOP) Program and the Real Estate Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled Citizens. For FY 2006, it is recommended the AHOP program be substantially increased from the 2004 \$250 grant program and consist of a sliding scale of grants which are credited on home owner tax bills based on income providing up to:

- \$675 in grants to those home owners earning \$40,000 or less per year
- \$475 for those earning above \$40,000, but not in excess of \$50,000
- \$275 for those earning above \$50,000, but not in excess of \$62,000
- The limit on the value of taxable property is proposed to increase from \$362,000 to \$442,000, corresponding to the average assessed value of residential property in the City.

At the current advertised tax rate of \$0.915, the owner of an average residential property assessed at \$442,000 would see an increase in their tax bill of \$418. Through the AHOP program, eligible residents with income of less than \$40,000 see no increase in their real estate tax bill, as the grant is proposed to increase by \$425 from \$250 to \$675.

The Real Estate Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled Citizens utilizes a sliding scale of tax exemptions and deferrals based on income. Qualified applicants with income under \$40,000 will receive a full tax exemption. It has been recommended that this program be expanded to provide a prorated benefit to eligible people who reach age 65 during the year. The limit on excluded income of any relative, other than a spouse, residing in the home is proposed to be increased from \$8,500 to \$10,000.

At the February 22, 2005, City Council meeting, staff gave a presentation on the effects of the increase in real estate assessments. During this presentation, several charts were distributed illustrating the impact of different real estate tax rates on tax bills for:

- the average residential property (Attachment 2)
- the average single family detached residence (Attachment 3)
- the average condominium residence (Attachment 4).

As shown in Attachment 2, at a \$0.0915 tax rate the 2005 tax bill on the average residential property would increase by \$418 at the advertised tax rate of \$0.915. This is a smaller increase than occurred in 2004 or 2003. Attachment 5 provides a ten-year history of the City property tax changes.

The governing bodies of other Northern Virginia jurisdictions are also dealing with the issue of real estate tax rates. The Regional Tax Rates Updated chart (Attachment 6) shows the history of tax rates in the region and the announced rates as of April 13. As the chart indicates, an Alexandria real estate tax rate of \$0.915 would keep Alexandria in the position of having the second lowest real estate tax rate for a major jurisdiction in Northern Virginia. It would also keep Alexandria in the position of having the largest drop in the real estate tax rate of any jurisdiction in Northern Virginia over the last 20 years.

No changes are proposed in the City's primary personal property tax rates per \$100 of value of :

- \$4.75 for vehicles
- \$4.50 for machinery and tools
- \$3.55 for vehicles equipped for the handicapped
- \$0.01 for privately owned pleasure boats

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The chart detailing Fiscal Impact of Real Estate Rate Reduction Options (Attachment 7) illustrates the fiscal impact of real estate tax rate reductions from the \$0.04 reduction proposed in the City Manager's budget to a \$0.16 reduction. The value of the advertised \$0.08 reduction of the real property rate is a reduction in the General Fund revenues of approximately \$16.4 million from the revenues proposed in the City Manager's Proposed Budget (\$5.36 million in FY 2005 and \$11.04 million in FY 2006). The real estate tax rate ordinance maintains a \$0.01 deduction towards open space acquisition.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 - Effective Tax Rate Hearing Advertisement

Attachment 2 - Impact of Different Real Estate Tax Rates on Tax Bills for Average Residential Property

Attachment 3 - Impact of Different Real Estate Tax Rates on Tax Bills for Average Single Family Detached Residence

Attachment 4 - Impact of Different Real Estate Tax Rates on Tax Bills for Average Condominium Residence

Attachment 5 - Ten Year History of Residential Real Property Tax Changes

Attachment 6 - Regional Real Estate Tax Rates Updated

Attachment 7 - Fiscal Impact of Real Estate Tax Rate Reduction Options

**STAFF:**

Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal and Financial Affairs

D. A. Neckel, Director of Finance

Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Budget and Management



## The City of Alexandria, Virginia Notice of Proposed Budget For the Year Ending June 30, 2006

The City Manager has recommended a General Operating budget totaling \$470.7 million and an All Funds budget totaling \$565.7 million. A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2006 to FY 2011 has been proposed which totals \$325.0 million for this six year period, including \$70.7 million in City funding for FY 2006. The proposed budget and CIP both address the City Council's Strategic Plan in providing to meet the goals of:

1. Quality development and redevelopment that is well planned and consistent with Alexandria's vision.
  2. An integrated, multi-modal transportation system that efficiently and effectively gets people from point "A" to point "B."
  3. A caring community that is diverse and affordable.
  4. A strong local economy that is growing in varied small businesses and job opportunities.
  5. A City that respects, protects and enhances the natural environment.
  6. A City government that is financially sustainable, efficient and community oriented.
  7. Public schools that are among the best in Northern Virginia (in partnership with the Alexandria Schools).
  8. A safe community maintained by high quality public safety organizations and judicial administrations.
- The proposed budget and CIP are available for public review in the City's libraries and online at [www.alexandriava.gov/budget](http://www.alexandriava.gov/budget).

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

This notice is required by State law. The tax rate is proposed to decrease from \$0.995 to \$0.915 to fund the FY 2006 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program.

The City of Alexandria proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. **Assessment Increase:** Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 18.70 percent.
2. **Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment:** The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.838 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. **Effective Rate Increase:** The City of Alexandria proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$0.915 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed tax rate would be \$0.077 per \$100, or a 9.2 percent increase. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.
4. **Proposed Total Budget of the City of Alexandria** (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will increase by 8.2 percent compared to last year's total budget.
5. **Impact of Tax Exempt Properties:** For 2005, the total estimated value of taxable and non-taxable locally and non-locally assessed real property within the City is \$30.9 billion, with \$0.9 billion as the estimate of the value of non-governmental tax exempt property, \$2.7 billion as the estimate of the value of governmental tax exempt property, and \$27.4 billion as the value of taxable property. The estimated amount of forgone annual real estate taxes from non-governmental tax exempt property is \$7.9 million at the proposed tax rate of \$0.915.

A public hearing on the increase will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., at the City Council Chamber of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

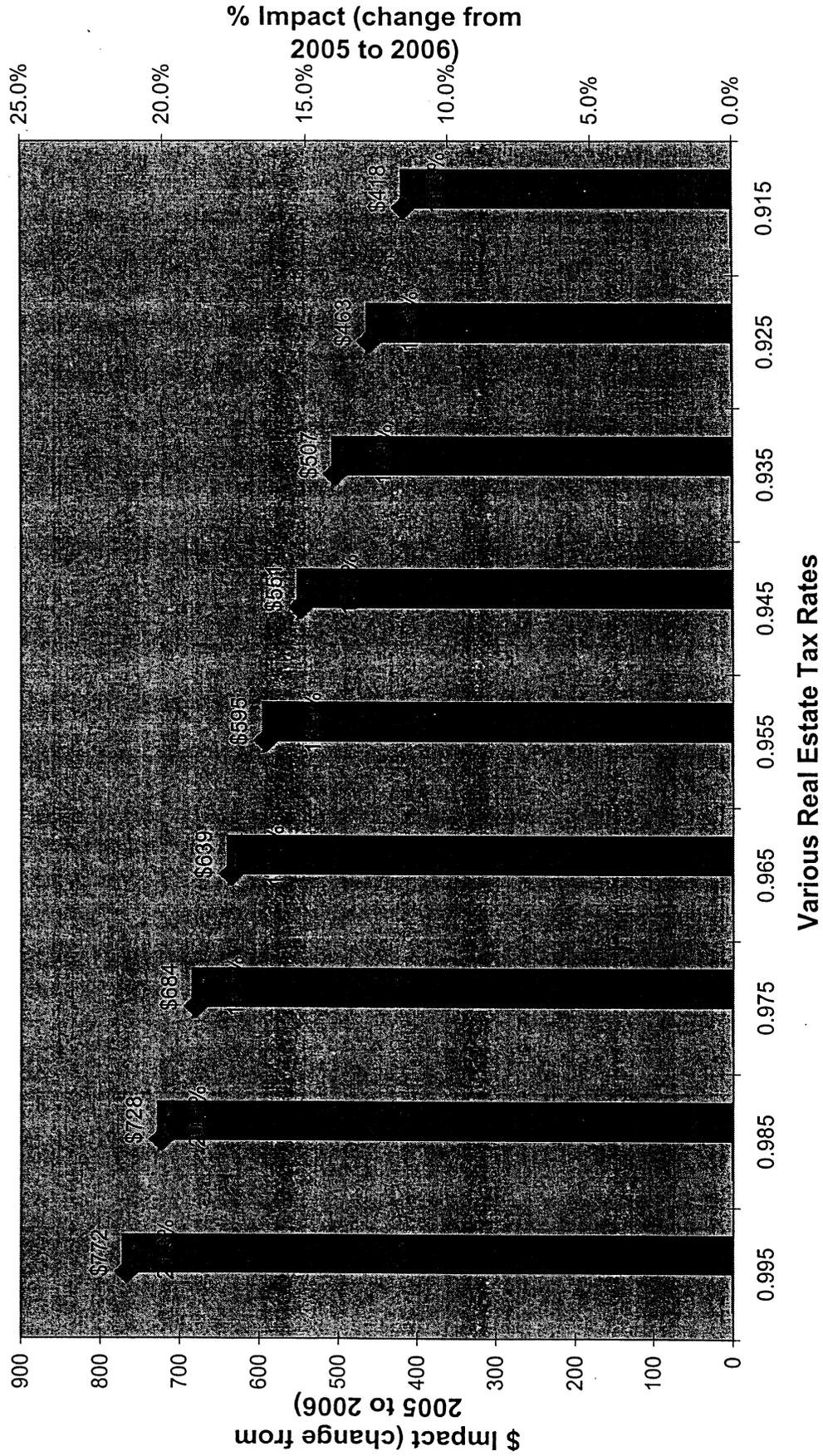
All persons wishing to speak to this issue may contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council located on the second floor, Room 2800, City Hall, or may appear and be heard after completing a Speakers form before Council.

Persons with disabilities who wish to request accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at 838-4550 (TTY/TDD 838-5056) prior to Wednesday, April 13, 2005, if possible.

Individuals who require translation services to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 838-4500. We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

Ave. Residential

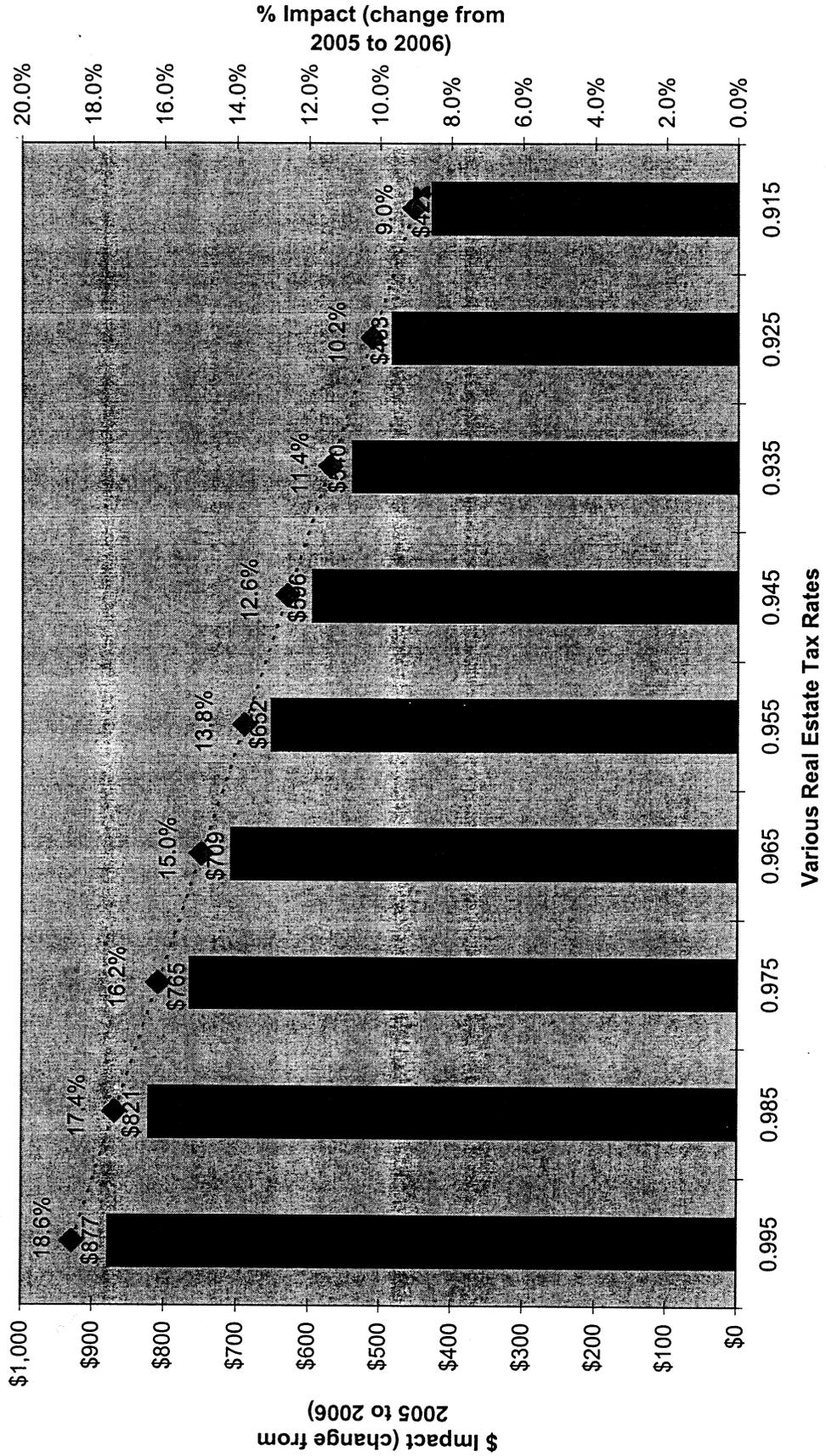
**Impact of Different Real Estate Tax Rates  
on Tax Bills for  
Average Residential Property**



5

Average Single Family

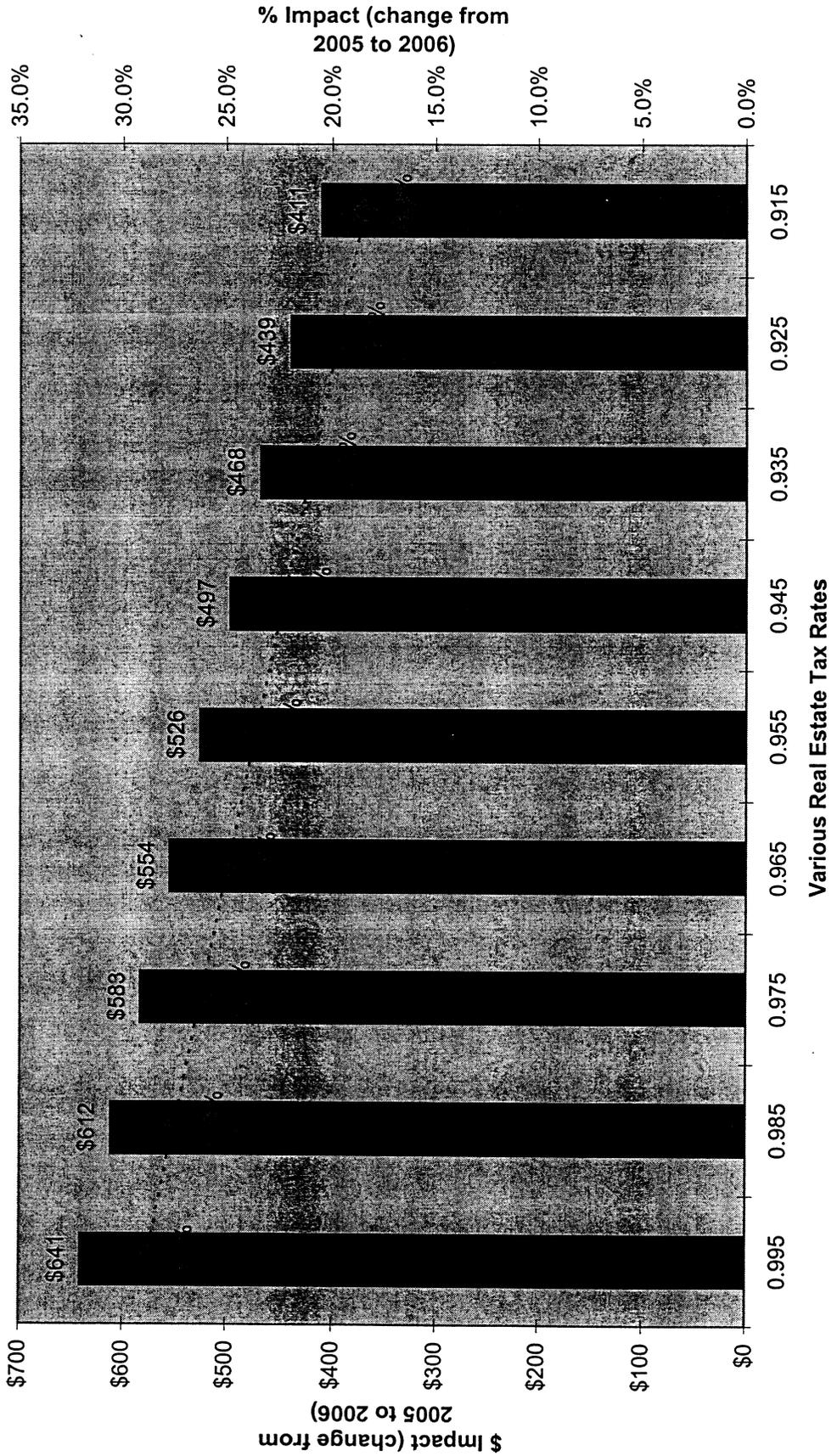
**Impact of Different Real Estate Tax Rates  
on Tax Bills for  
Average Single Family Detached Residence**



6

Average Condo

**Impact of Different Real Estate Tax Rates  
on Tax Bills for  
Average Condominium Residence**



Residential Property Tax Bill Increases/Decreases  
1995 to 2005

	Tax Rate	Average Assessed Value Residential	Ave Residential Tax Bill Change	Average Assessed Value Single Family	Ave Single Family Tax Bill Change	Average Assessed Value Condominium	Ave Residential Condominium Tax Bill Change
1995	\$1.07	\$175,006		\$230,635		\$106,563	
1996	\$1.07	\$177,148	\$23	\$233,713	\$33	\$106,257	(\$3)
1997	\$1.07	\$177,640	\$5	\$236,210	\$27	\$104,296	(\$21)
1998	\$1.11	\$179,496	\$92	\$239,061	\$126	\$103,689	\$35
1999	\$1.11	\$182,944	\$38	\$245,059	\$67	\$102,706	(\$11)
2000	\$1.11	\$194,300	\$126	\$260,907	\$176	\$106,875	\$46
2001	\$1.11	\$215,523	\$236	\$290,436	\$328	\$115,721	\$98
2002	\$1.08	\$247,980	\$286	\$333,344	\$376	\$135,625	\$180
2003	\$1.035	\$308,876	\$519	\$409,613	\$639	\$177,079	\$368
2004	\$0.995	\$364,240	\$427	\$474,782	\$485	\$223,368	\$390
2005	\$0.915	\$441,823	\$418	\$563,092	\$428	\$287,765	\$411

## Real Estate Tax Rates

Year	Alexandria	Arlington	Fairfax	Loudoun	P. William
1985	\$1.39	\$0.95	\$1.39	\$1.13	\$1.42
2000	\$1.11	\$1.023	\$1.23	\$1.08	\$1.34
2001	\$1.11	\$1.023	\$1.23	\$1.08	\$1.31
2002	\$1.08	\$0.993	\$1.21	\$1.05	\$1.23
2003	\$1.035	\$0.978	\$1.16	\$1.11	\$1.16
2004	\$0.995	\$0.958	\$1.13	\$1.1075	\$1.07
2005	\$0.915	\$0.878	\$1.03	\$1.07	\$0.984

→ Prince William's 2005 rate includes \$0.924 general rate and \$0.057 and \$0.003 in special county-wide levies for Fire and Rescue and Gypsy Moth control. Arlington's 2005 rate reflects its new, planned rate.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF REAL ESTATE TAX RATE REDUCTIONS**  
**(\$ in millions)**

Real Estate Tax Rate Reduction Options	Revenue Impact		
	FY 2005	FY 2006	Total
1 cent	\$1.34	\$2.76	\$4.10
2 cent	\$2.68	\$5.52	\$8.20
3 cent	\$4.02	\$8.28	\$12.30
4 cent	\$5.36	\$11.04	\$16.40
5 cent	\$6.71	\$13.80	\$20.51
6 cent	\$8.05	\$16.56	\$24.61
7 cent	\$9.39	\$19.32	\$28.71
8 cent	\$10.73	\$22.08	\$32.81
9 cent	\$12.07	\$24.84	\$36.91
10 cent	\$13.41	\$27.60	\$41.01
11 cent	\$14.75	\$30.36	\$45.11
12 cent	\$16.09	\$33.12	\$49.21
13 cent	\$17.43	\$35.88	\$53.31
14 cent	\$18.77	\$38.64	\$57.41
15 cent	\$20.12	\$41.40	\$61.52
16 cent	\$21.46	\$44.16	\$65.62

Introduction and first reading: 3/22/05  
Public hearing: 4/16/05  
Second reading and enactment: 5/02/05

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-181 (LEVIED; AMOUNT) of Division 1 (REAL ESTATE), and Section 3-2-221 (LEVIED ON TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OTHER THAN MOBILE HOMES, AUTOMOBILES, TRUCKS, ANTIQUE MOTOR VEHICLES, TAXICABS, MOTOR VEHICLES WITH SPECIALLY DESIGNED EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE HANDICAPPED, MOTORCYCLES, CAMPERS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS AND TRAILERS; AMOUNT), Section 3-2-222 (LEVIED ON MACHINERY AND TOOLS USED IN MINING OR MANUFACTURING BUSINESS; AMOUNT), Section 3-2-223 (LEVIED ON MOBILE HOMES; AMOUNT) and Section 3-2-224 (LEVIED ON AUTOMOBILES, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, SEMI-TRAILERS, ANTIQUE MOTOR VEHICLES, TAXICABS, MOTORCYCLES, CAMPERS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS AND TRAILERS; AMOUNT) of Division 3 (TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND MACHINERY AND TOOLS), all of Article M (LEVY AND COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES), Chapter 2 (TAXATION), Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981.

Summary

The proposed ordinance sets the city's 2005 tax rates for real property and tangible personal property. The ordinance, as amended by City Council on first reading, sets the 2005 real property tax rate at \$0.915 on each \$100 of assessed value, a reduction of \$0.08 from the 2004 rate. Personal property tax rates are unchanged from 2004. City Council has the authority to lower the tax rates set forth in the proposed ordinance. The sum of \$0.01 on each \$100 of assessed value, out of the real property tax rate, continues to be dedicated to the Open Space Trust Fund Account. Under the City Charter, all funds in this account must be used exclusively for the acquisition and improvement of new open space parks in the City.

Sponsor

Staff

- Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager
- Daniel A. Neckel, Director of Finance
- Bruce Johnson, Director of Management and Budget
- Kendel Taylor, Budget Analyst
- Ignacio B. Pessoa, City Attorney

Authority

Article X, § 4, Virginia Constitution  
§§ 2.02(a)(1), 6.15 Alexandria City Charter

Estimated Costs of Implementation

None

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

None

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

1  
2  
3  
4 AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-181 (LEVIED; AMOUNT) of Division 1  
5 (REAL ESTATE), and Section 3-2-221 (LEVIED ON TANGIBLE PERSONAL  
6 PROPERTY OTHER THAN MOBILE HOMES, AUTOMOBILES, TRUCKS, ANTIQUE  
7 MOTOR VEHICLES, TAXICABS, MOTOR VEHICLES WITH SPECIALLY DESIGNED  
8 EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE HANDICAPPED, MOTORCYCLES, CAMPERS AND  
9 OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS AND TRAILERS; AMOUNT), Section  
10 3-2-222 (LEVIED ON MACHINERY AND TOOLS USED IN MINING OR  
11 MANUFACTURING BUSINESS; AMOUNT), Section 3-2-223 (LEVIED ON MOBILE  
12 HOMES; AMOUNT) and Section 3-2-224 (LEVIED ON AUTOMOBILES, TRUCKS,  
13 TRAILERS, SEMI-TRAILERS, ANTIQUE MOTOR VEHICLES, TAXICABS,  
14 MOTORCYCLES, CAMPERS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS  
15 AND TRAILERS; AMOUNT) of Division 3 (TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND  
16 MACHINERY AND TOOLS), all of Article M (LEVY AND COLLECTION OF  
17 PROPERTY TAXES), Chapter 2 (TAXATION), Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND  
18 PROCUREMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981.

19  
20 THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

21  
22 Section 1. That Section 3-2-181 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,  
23 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

24  
25 Sec. 3-2-181 Levied; amount.

26  
27 There shall be levied and collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all real estate located  
28 within the territorial boundaries of the city and subject to taxation for city purposes under the  
29 constitution and laws of this state and city, a tax of ~~\$ .995~~ \$.915 on each \$100 of the assessed  
30 value thereof, for the support of the city government, for the payment of principal and interest of  
31 the city debt and for other municipal expenses and purposes.

32  
33 Section 2. That Section 3-2-221 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,  
34 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

35  
36 Sec. 3-2-221 Levied on tangible personal property other than mobile homes, automobiles,  
37 trucks, antique motor vehicles, taxicabs, motor vehicles with specially  
38 designed equipment for use by the handicapped, motorcycles, campers and  
39 other recreational vehicles, boats and boat trailers; amount.

40  
41 There shall be levied and collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all tangible personal  
42 property, other than mobile homes, automobiles, trucks, antique motor vehicles, taxicabs, motor  
43 vehicles with specially designed equipment for use by the handicapped, motorcycles, campers  
44 and other recreational vehicles, boats and trailers, owned or held by residents or citizens of the  
45 city or located within the territorial boundaries of the city or otherwise having a situs within the  
46 city and subject to taxation for city purposes under the constitution and laws of this state and city,

1 a tax of \$4.75 on every \$100 of assessed value thereof, for the support of the city government, for  
2 the payment of principal and interest of the city debt and for other municipal expenses and  
3 purposes.  
4

5 Section 3. That Section 3-2-222 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,  
6 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:  
7

8 Sec. 3-2-222 Levied on machinery and tools used in mining or manufacturing business;  
9 amount.  
10

11 There shall be levied and collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all machinery and  
12 tools used in a mining or manufacturing business taxable on capital and subject to taxation for  
13 city purposes under the constitution and laws of this state and city, a tax of \$4.50 on each \$100 of  
14 assessed value thereof, for the support of the city government, for the payment of principal and  
15 interest of the city debt and for other municipal expenses and purposes.  
16

17 Section 4. That Section 3-2-223 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,  
18 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:  
19

20 Sec. 3-2-223 Levied on mobile homes; amount.  
21

22 There shall be levied and collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all vehicles without  
23 motor power, used or designed to be used as mobile homes as defined in section 46.2-100 of the  
24 Code of Virginia, owned or held by residents or citizens of the city or located within the  
25 territorial boundaries of the city or otherwise having a situs within the city and subject to taxation  
26 for city purposes under the constitution and laws of this state and city, a tax of ~~\$ .995~~ \$ .915 on  
27 each \$100 of assessed value thereof, for the support of the city government, for the payment of  
28 principal and interest of the city debt and for other municipal expenses and purposes.  
29

30 Section 5. That Section 3-2-224 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,  
31 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:  
32

33 Sec. 3-2-224 Levied on automobiles, trucks, trailers, semi-trailers, antique motor  
34 vehicles, taxicabs, motorcycles, campers and other recreational vehicles,  
35 boats and trailers; amount.  
36

37 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (c) and (d), there shall be levied and  
38 collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all automobiles, trucks, trailers, semi-trailers,  
39 antique motor vehicles (as defined in section 46.2-100 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as  
40 amended, which may be used for general transportation purposes as provided in subsection C of  
41 section 46.2-730 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended), taxicabs, motorcycles, campers and  
42 other recreational vehicles, boats and boat trailers owned or held by residents or citizens of the  
43 city or located within the territorial boundaries of the city or otherwise having a situs for taxation  
44 in the city, a tax of \$4.75 on every \$100 of assessed value thereof, for the support of the city

1 government, for the payment of principal and interest of the city debt and for other municipal  
2 expenses and purposes.

3  
4 (b) There shall be levied on and collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all  
5 automobiles, trucks, trailers and semi-trailers with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or  
6 more which are used to transport property for hire by a motor carrier engaged in interstate  
7 commerce, and are owned or held by residents or citizens of the city, are located within the  
8 territorial boundaries of the city or otherwise have a situs for taxation in the city, a tax of \$4.50  
9 on every \$100 of assessed value thereof, for the support of the city government, for the payment  
10 of principal and interest of the city debt and for other municipal expenses and purposes.

11  
12 (c) There shall be levied on and collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all  
13 automobiles and trucks which are equipped with specially designed equipment for use by the  
14 handicapped and are owned or held by residents or citizens of the city, are located within the  
15 territorial boundaries of the city or otherwise have a situs for taxation in the city, a tax of \$3.55  
16 on every \$100 of assessed value thereof, for the support of the city government, for the payment  
17 of principal and interest of the city debt and for other municipal expenses and purposes.

18  
19 (d) There shall be levied on and collected for the calendar year ~~2004~~ 2005 on all  
20 privately owned pleasure boats and watercraft, which are used for recreational purposes only, and  
21 are owned or held by residents or citizens of the city, or are located within the territorial  
22 boundaries of the city or otherwise have a situs for taxation in the city, a tax of \$.01 on every  
23 \$100 of assessed value thereof, for the support of the city government, for the payment of  
24 principal and interest of the city debt and for other municipal expenses and purposes.

25  
26 Section 6. That this ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2005, *nunc pro*  
27 *tunc*.

28  
29 WILLIAM D. EUILLE  
30 Mayor

31  
32  
33 Introduction: 3/22/05  
34 First Reading: 3/22/05  
35 Publication:  
36 Public Hearing:  
37 Second Reading:  
38 Final Passage:

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43 C:\Documents and Settings\jhenders\Local Settings\Temp\notesC9812B\~6191225.wpd

13  
4-16-05

## **Alexandria Republican City Committee**

Resolution Concerning Real Property Taxes in Alexandria  
April 7, 2005

Whereas, the Republican Party stands firmly for lower taxes and fiscal restraint; and

Whereas, the Republican Party believes that government must be responsive to the citizens it serves; and

Whereas, the average assessed value of an existing residential home increased 21.3 percent from 2004 to 2005, continuing a five-year trend of double-digit increases; and

Whereas, real estate tax bills are growing faster than personal income; and

Whereas, Alexandrians, individually and through civic and neighborhood associations, have called for restraining growth in spending to no more than three percent in fiscal year 2006 and for development of restraints on growth in real property taxes and spending in subsequent fiscal years; and

Whereas, increasing other taxes or creating new taxes to continue profligate spending would not accomplish the goal of Alexandrians in making this call for restraint in taxation and in spending;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Alexandria Republican City Committee joins the call of Alexandria's citizens for continued fiscal restraint and lower property tax rates this year and in the future. The ARCC supports a real estate tax of no more than \$0.84 per \$100 of assessed value and no more than three percent growth in spending as a fair and balanced compromise. The ARCC urges the City Council to set the rate at or below this figure.

13  
4-16-05



<drilisalombard@earthlink.net>

04/29/2005 10:13 AM

Please respond to  
<drilisalombard@earthlink.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,  
cc  
bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Fri Apr 29, 2005 10:13:55] IP Address: [66.167.146.161]

Response requested:

First Name: Lisa  
Last Name: Lombard  
Street Address: 2435 Davis Ave.  
City: Alexandria  
State: VA  
Zip: 22302  
Phone: 703-836-5212  
Email Address: drilisalombard@earthlink.net

I am writing to urge the Mayor and members of City Council to hold the ACPS budget requests as their TOP priority during this budget debate. In my dual roles as a parent of children in public school and a professional who provides psychological services to children in the city, it has become ever more apparent that the educational needs of our children are complex and vital to the success of the community as a whole. Consequently, programs such as special education (e.g., reserve positions in special education, psychologists and other direct service providers),

**Comments:**

must be strengthened, not weakened. Obviously, many difficult decisions are at hand. The well-being of our children is multi-dimensional (education, mental health, physical health, basic safety issues, and so forth) and fundamental to future of Alexandria.

Thank you for your time and concern.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lombard, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist



<allisonmckay@comcast.net>

04/29/2005 01:21 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject 3% Property Tax Compromise

History:

📧 This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Jackie,

Could you please relay my message below to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager and add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13)?

I ask each Council Member to vote for a 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Thanks,

Allison McKay

132 Sanborn Place, Alexandria, VA 22305



"Jacquelyn Kittredge"  
<kittredgej@sidwell.edu>  
04/29/2005 01:53 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject 3 % compromise

Please add the comments below to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13)

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg,  
and Councilwoman Woodson,

We ask for your vote on May 2nd for a 3% Compromise, a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase, resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

We urge City Council, on or before May 2nd, to direct the city staff (who have been working on the budget since last fall) to provide City Council with an FY'06 Revised Budget that recommends how they would allocate a 3.5% spending increase or \$18.4 million more over last year, totaling \$539.2 million. We realize that there is sufficient time to undertake this effort since you and city staff have ample time before staff sends out the property tax notices in June for the second half of FY 2005 and secondly, the statutory deadline of June 27 (City Charter Section 6.12) to complete the budget.

We respectfully request you to vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that allows for the 3.5% spending increase. We are pleased to see signs that you are moving in that direction; but **urge** you not to stop until you get to the **86-cent** tax rate.

Thank you,

Ben and Jacquelyn Kittredge

412 North View Terrace

Alexandria, Va 22301



<jmacsr@aol.com>

04/29/2005 01:54 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject "3% Compromise" -- Please Pass To Mayor and City Council

To The Mayor and City Council of Alexandria --

As a five year Alexandria City resident, I strongly support the proposed 3.5% cap on city spending. It is time to differentiate between needs and wants, and to live within our collective means. More of the same won't cut it. I will be watching your response closely, and I do vote.....

J. L. MacMichael, 2151 Jamieson Avenue



"Shawn Smeallie"  
<smeallie@acgrep.com>  
04/29/2005 01:57 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject City Council Meeting on Tuesday

Ms. Henderson,

Could you please ensure my message on the budget is relayed to the members of the City Council. I respectfully request the City Council to vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that allows for the 3.5% spending increase. My neighbors and I are pleased to see signs that the Council are moving in that direction; but urge them not to stop until they get to the 86-cent tax rate.

Along those lines, I want to strongly urge City Council to direct the city staff (who have been working on the budget since last fall) to provide City Council with an FY'06 Revised Budget that recommends how they would allocate a 3.5% spending increase or \$18.4 million more over last year, totaling \$539.2 million. I understand that there is sufficient time to undertake this effort since you and city staff have ample time before staff sends out the property tax notices in June for the second half of FY 2005 and secondly, the statutory deadline of June 27 (City Charter Section 6.12) to complete the budget.

Thank you,

Shawn Smeallie  
1310 Bishop Lane

Shawn Smeallie  
American Continental Group, Inc.  
2099 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 850  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 419-2500  
(202) 419-2510 (fax)

--

No virus found in this outgoing message.  
Checked by AVG Anti-Virus.  
Version: 7.0.308 / Virus Database: 266.11.0 - Release Date: 4/29/2005



<Asrpub@aol.com>  
04/29/2005 02:05 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject To Members of the City Council

Please relay this to members of the City Council:

Please vote for the "3% Compromise," at the City Council meeting on May 2. As I understand it, this compromise will limit spending to a 3.5% increase over last year, resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value. A 3..5% increase in spending should be more than enough to satisfy all the needs of the politicians while not overburdening us taxpayers.

Thank youy

Alfred S. Regnery  
911 Vicar Lane  
Alexandria, Va 22302  
703 807 2011



<Mettbbmcc@aol.com>

04/29/2005 02:43 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Lower property taxes

Please relay my message to the City Council members.

My husband and I think the City already has more money to spend than it needs, a 3.5% increase in the budget is too high but we recognize that you have to get reelected, and that spending money is the way to do it. Any greater increase would result in a really bloated budget.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. McCrea  
and for Joubert S. McCrea  
3802 Chelsea Court  
Alexandria, VA 22304



"Pearson, Julie"  
<JPearson@cbmove.com>

04/29/2005 02:53 PM

To "Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov"  
<Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
"AlexVAMayor@aol.com" <AlexVAMayor@aol.com>,  
cc "DelPepper@aol.com" <DelPepper@aol.com>,  
"CouncilmanGaines@aol.com" <CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>,  
bcc  
Subject 3% Compromise

Dear Council Members:

Please vote for our 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

With the prices of housing going up so fast over the last five years, homeowners need a break... Please limit the spending increase for the City of Alexandria...and lower our property taxes. Thank you!!

Cordially,  
Julie Pearson  
Property owner in Alexandria, VA



**Richard Moose**  
<mooser@mailblocks.com>

04/29/2005 03:30 PM

Please respond to  
<mooser2@verizon.net>

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Analyze the 3 per cent plus budget

Dear Ms. Clerk; I respectfully request that you relay the attached message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager and add this text to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

Thank you,

Richard M. Moose



: DearCouncil REV\_27 April05.dococ.doc

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council;

A crisis faces the citizens of Alexandria. Distressed homeowners feel powerless as the Council appears bent upon adopting a budget that, for many, would raise their property taxes bills to unaffordable levels.

In reviewing the budget situation it came to my attention that the city's OMB staff at one point required all departments to submit a budget based upon last year's figures minus 1%. The disposition of that request is not clear to me, but I have seen a copy of a budget based upon a 0.5% reduction.

Concurrently, the City Attorney advises us that May 2, 2005 is a self-imposed limit and that the legal deadline is June 27, 2005. Thus it is clear that the Council could extend the deadline by almost two months if it chose to do so.

Given that the OMB staff has several alternative budgets already available, and since the Council in fact has until late June to act, it would seem feasible to for the Council to direct the very able OMB staff to prepare, for public review, a budget with a 3% increase over last year. I do not see how the Council could justify dismissing this proposition which enjoys such widespread support having given it some straightforward, open-minded analysis.

Recently certain Council members and staff have declared that a "plus three percent" budget would not permit the city to "provide the services that the public has come to expect." I believe that the Council and staff should identify what, precisely, are the services that would be so impacted. In any event, there must be feasible trade-offs of lesser priority items that would enable full funding of essential services.

I am convinced that many concerned taxpayers would be prepared to support the Council if it made the hard choices required by a “plus 3%” budget. Homeowners would also be more likely to accept the Council’s refusal to do so if they were shown budget numbers to back up your decision. On the other hand, if the Council ignores homeowners’ strongly felt protests, plows ahead without further analysis of new alternatives and adopts yet another budget that raises tax bills, I fear a serious loss of confidence in the Council..

I hope that you will accept this message, not as a sign of disrespect, but rather of my concern that time is running out to find meaningful solutions.

Respectfully,

Richard M. Moose



"Chip Rodgers"  
<crodgers@rer.org>  
04/29/2005 03:56 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Taxes

We ask each Council Member to vote for our 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Clifton Rodgers  
1509 Oakcrest Drive  
Alexandria VA 22302

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld ([www.BlackBerry.net](http://www.BlackBerry.net))



"Ernest Lehmann"  
<ernie265@hotmail.com>  
05/02/2005 01:18 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc <ernie265@hotmail.com>  
bcc  
Subject Please Reduce the Property Tax Increase more than 8 cents to 13 cents

Dear Ms. Henderson,

Please relay my personal concern that the increase in the property tax rate be substantially lower than the City Council planned. I am suggesting that it be 13 cents lower than last year.

Thank you. Sincerely, Ernest Lehmann



<patstop@comcast.net>

05/01/2005 09:04 PM

Please respond to  
<patstop@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Sun May 01, 2005 21:04:15] IP Address: [69.140.84.22]

Response requested:

First Name: P.J.  
Last Name: Howe  
Street Address: 19 W. Spring Street  
City: Alexandria  
State: VA  
Zip: 22301  
Phone: 703/548-2161  
Email Address: patstop@comcast.net

As the time nears for the Council's May 2 budget deliberations, I am writing one last time to urge your approval of the 3% Compromise that has been endorsed by most of the citizen associations and by many individual Alexandrians.

We believe it is well within the city's ability to better manage city affairs so as to significantly lower the tax burden without damaging essential programs and services.

A very good place to start the badly-needed

**Comments:**

streamlining process would be to refrain from throwing any more money at the proposed All-City Sports facility that is estimated to cost at least \$16 million and possibly as much as \$20 million, not counting perpetual maintenance costs. It appears this proposal is being stuffed down our throats by a small band of city officials interested in night football, among other things, despite the fact that it appears to duplicate sports facilities already planned for the costly new high school. There has been no demonstration that such a facility is needed, nor any effort made to relieve taxpayers of the burden of paying for it. (What don't the people and organizations that would use the facility pay for it's construction and upkeep?)

Thank you for your consideration.

P.J. Howe



**John Higgins**  
<higs743@yahoo.com>

05/01/2005 06:48 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject I support a limit on city budget increase to no more than 3.5% with a 3% increase in property taxes

Ms. Henderson,

Please relay this message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager AND add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

I am seriously concerned with the dramatic increase in property taxes and the discussion by some to use this "windfall" to increase city spending out of line with reasonable planning. I respectfully submit that a 3.5% increase in the city's budget is more than enough to prudently plan for the city's requirements.

If the property tax burdern on home owners continues to increase at the current pace, soon only the very wealthiest will be able to afford to live in Alexandria! This increasing tax burden could cause many Alexandrians to suffer a decreased standard living as they are forced to accomodate this increase.

Please decrease the property tax rate to \$.86 per \$100 and plan the city's budget at no more than a 3.5% increase.

Respectfully,

John M. Higgins  
717 Norfolk Lane  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



"Harriett McCune"  
<Harriett.McCune@verizon.net  
>

05/01/2005 03:51 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Property Tax Increase (please relay to all City Council Members and the City Manager)

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg, and Councilwoman Woodson:

As a long-time resident and property owner in the City of Alexandria, I am asking that you vote on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for a 3% compromise – a 3% - to - 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Most homeowners who work for a small business, as I do, rarely receive more than a cost of living adjustment each year in the range of 3 – 3.5%. This is nowhere close to the city's spending increases that result in 10%-to- 40% increases in our individual property tax bills each year. We cannot afford these rapid and onerous increases in tax each year and respectfully request that you vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that allows for the 3.5% spending increase.

Sincerely,

Harriett G. McCune  
19 Fort Williams Parkway  
Alexandria, VA 22304



<ped1@comcast.net>

05/01/2005 02:09 PM

Please respond to  
<ped1@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,  
cc  
bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Sun May 01, 2005 14:09:15] IP Address: [68.83.223.121]

Response requested:

First Name: Peter  
Last Name: Dykhuis  
Street Address: 714 West Braddock Road  
City: Alexandria  
State: Virginia  
Zip: 22302  
Phone: 703 683-1874  
Email Address: ped1@comcast.net  
---REVISED TEXT---

Dear Mr. Mayor, Ms. Vice Mayor, and Members of  
the Alexandria City Council:

I don't envy you. There are innumerable  
constituencies here in our city seeking budgetary  
funding with heartfelt persuasion. Wouldn't it be  
nice if our available resources could provide  
perfection, or even symbolic support, to every  
expressed need in our community. I sympathize  
with you who are in the difficult position of

balancing your civic responsibilities with political viability.

Imagine a world where the best available education, health care, and economic support are made available by government free of charge to all citizens, without impact to the economic engine of capitalism that drives this community and our nation. Imagine planning our future assuming that our lot can only get better, economic downturns are obsolete, and that Alexandria property values are in a permanent state of appreciation. These are pretty thoughts, but I hope no one over the age of 21 indulges too long in such reveries.

**Comments:**

Property taxes in Alexandria have nearly doubled in less than 5 years. Property values have soared. Personal income and returns on investments have, for most Alexandrians, declined. Yet our city government seeks increases above the inherent tax hikes driven by unprecedented double digit annual appreciation in property values over the past several years. The elitist message to your constituency is: "Sell your property, get out of Alexandria, and let people with fatter wallets take your place -- people who can feed our city government's insatiable spending habits." (The Greater Fool Theory.)

Alexandria was voted an "All American City" many years ago when the city had a mere fraction of the assets and tax base it enjoys today. Since that time, Alexandria has made great strides in many ways. Our city has lost a lot, too. I hope Alexandria can continue in this century as a home town for a diverse socio-economic community.

The future of Alexandria is in your hands. Runaway taxation is unsustainable. Please have the courage to budget on the basis that "worthwhile" cannot always be met with "wherewithal." (A hard lesson my 7-year-old and I are presently "enjoying.")

My family, as do many of my North Ridge neighbors, supports the reasonable 3% increase compromise on the city-wide property tax bill. Next week we will be watching closely and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Dykhuis

714 West Braddock Road

Alexandria, Virginia 22302



**Pamela Barr**  
<psbemail@yahoo.com>  
05/01/2005 12:34 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <AlexVAMayor@aol.com>, <DelPepper@aol.com>, <CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, <Rob@Krupicka.com>,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject I Support 3% Compromise proposed by Alexandrians for a 3% Compromise

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen  
Gaines, Krupicka, MacDonald and Smedberg,  
and Councilwoman Woodson

I support the 3 % compromise that would allow a property tax assessmet of \$.86 per hundred this year, as outlined below. I was stunned to see the huge increase that Alexandria was proposing in its budget for this year. The 3% proposal below presents a reasonable compromise in my opinion. It will still require property owners to pay a substantial increase in property taxes (my property taxes went up over 25% last year!!) and it should allow the City to have plenty of funding. (I work for the Federal government and our budgets are shrinking!)

My parents saw Alexandria featured in the Wall Street Journal several months ago for having among highest property tax increases in the U.S. (not increase in assessments, but increases in taxes that property owners must pay). That's shameful!

Pamela Barr  
221 S. West St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

#### LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen  
Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg,  
and Councilwoman Woodson,

On behalf of 5,000 Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise and (hopefully without being presumptuous) more than a dozen Civic Associations -- representing 1000s more Alexandrians -- which have approved a similar 3% Resolution, we ask for your vote on May 2nd for a 3% Compromise -- a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

We urge City Council, on or before May 2nd, to direct the city staff (who have been working on the budget since last fall) to provide City Council with an FY'06 Revised Budget that recommends how they would allocate a 3.5% spending increase or \$18.4 million more over last year, totaling \$539.2 million. We realize that there is sufficient time to undertake this effort since you and city staff have ample time before staff sends out the property tax notices in June for the second half of FY 2005 and secondly, the statutory deadline of June 27 (City Charter Section 6.12) to complete the budget.

We respectfully request you to vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that allows for the 3.5% spending increase. We are pleased to see signs that you are moving in that direction; but urge you not to stop until you get to the 86-cent tax rate. We want to thank:

- Mayor Euille who told a neighborhood group that he would try to get the property tax rate down to 88.5 cents "if possible."
- Vice Mayor Pepper for clearly sensing how so many of us feel when she said "Such tax increases have spurred an organized anti-tax effort that is unprecedented in recent memory... We are paying attention."
- Councilman Gaines for requesting city staff to examine a tax rate reduction in the range of 8 cents to 16 cents (or 91.5 cents to 83.5 cents).
- Councilmen Krupicka and Smedberg for having proposed another 1-cent reduction in the property rate, taking it down to 90.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value; and
- Councilman Macdonald for being sympathetic to the idea of determining a cap on our residential property tax bills.

Our apologies to Councilwoman Woodson if she has made overtures toward our 86-cent rate of which we are not aware.

On March 22nd, City Council said that you would "consider" lowering the property tax rate below 91.5 cents. We urge you to do so.

On a personal note, I hope you have appreciated the positive tone in all of my remarks to you. However, I would be remiss if I did not inform you of real anger in a vast number of Alexandrians over the city's large automatic spending increases that result in 10%-to-40% increases in our individual property tax bills each year.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have put into this issue and so many others for our city.

Lou Cordia  
Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise

---

Do You Yahoo!?  
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around  
<http://mail.yahoo.com>



"Lou Cordia"  
<Lou@Cordia.com>  
04/30/2005 08:36 PM

"Mayor Euille" <AlexVAMayor@aol.com>, "Vice Mayor  
Pepper" <DelPepper@aol.com>, "Councilman Gaines"  
<CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, "Councilman Krupicka"  
cc <Jackie.Henderson@AlexandriaVA.gov>

bcc  
Subject URGENT - Correcting The Record!!!

**To Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper and City Council,**

**Today I was informed of a statement that City Council is repeating about our 3% Compromise and I want to restate that it is dead wrong. I saw a Council Member's email again saying, "Some Alexandrians have advocated a 3% cap on taxes...Our budget staff has assured us that the City would be operating at a deficit." Quite to the contrary. We are advocating an \$18.4 million INCREASE [Please read Item #3 below].**

**At the Public Hearings and in the media, I thought I politely corrected the mistakes in Bruce Johnson's April 4 critique of our Petition and Fact Sheet. I did not want to embarrass him by publishing our mutually-agreed-upon corrections of his critique. Our Petition was not "factually inaccurate"; nor did it have "incorrect assumptions." Instead, these two characterizations are more aptly applied to Johnson's critique.**

**Please take a minute to read the facts below so we can all have an intelligent and serious discussion about the property tax rate that you will impose on Monday and the accompanying budget that you will approve.**

**Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to call (cell. 703/627-8763)**

**Thank you,**

**Lou**

**cc/City Clerk**

---

**To Drafters and Editors of the Petition and Fact Sheet of Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise,**

**Many of you said that I needed to meet with Bruce Johnson (Alexandria's Director of Management and Budget) after he conveyed to City Council on April 4 that we had "factual inaccuracies" in our Petition and Fact Sheet. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, I met with him to go over our Petition and Fact Sheet line-by-line and correct any factual inaccuracies as he saw them. Bruce was kind enough to take two hours out of his very busy schedule. He shared with me his marked-up version of our Petition and Fact Sheet. And on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>, Bruce emailed me additional thoughts.**

Here is the essence of Bruce's changes and comments:

(1) Bruce did not have changes in the vast majority of the budget and tax numbers we prepared so long as we want to continue to use the "All Funds" Budget instead of the "General Funds" Budget. His April 4 critique was largely based on plugging in "General Funds" numbers where we used "All Funds" numbers. Bruce prefers "General Funds" because he says City Council customarily focuses on these numbers; and they are fungible whereas the "All Funds" budget that includes an additional \$95 million primarily from federal and state funds have restricted uses. After speaking with many of you, we will continue to use the "All Funds" Budget numbers because they constitute 100% of the city budget whereas the "General Funds" are only 86% of the budget. Moreover, all federal and state dollars are actually spent on Alexandria programs so they should be counted despite their not being controlled by Alexandria government employees. Also in a review of the last three years of federal and state aid (FY'03-FY'05), each and every year federal and state dollars have increased; and updated budgets reflect Alexandria receiving more federal and state dollars than projected.

(2) Bruce now agrees that there is an estimated \$10 million collected each year over what is projected. These \$10 million are important because they constitute in our Petition a 2% emergency fund over and above the 3.5% spending increase we call for.

(3) In the April 4 critique, Bruce incorrectly stated that the 3% Compromise would cause a "0.2% cut" in spending from the previous year. Bruce compared our 86-cent tax rate to the obsolete 95.5-cent rate in the City Manager's Budget Request; and ignored the \$95 million coming primarily from the Feds who are increasing their contribution to Alexandria by 7.6% over last year, and Virginia whose contribution is increasing 5.6%. Our recommended 3.5% spending increase is \$18.4 million MORE than last year, totaling \$539.2 million as compared to \$520.8 million that was approved by City Council for FY'05.

(4) There is another correction to the April 4 critique. Bruce applied our 3.5% spending increase only to the smaller General Fund Operating Budget whereas we apply the 3.5% increase to the larger "All Funds" Budget.

(5) There were nine minor differences with Bruce in our calculations which we must double-check; but they are insignificant in the overall context of a \$540 million budget we are proposing. Some changes would make our arguments a bit stronger while others slightly weaker. Some have already been checked and are noted below:

- Is the double-digit increase in the average residential property tax bill 13% (our number) over the last five years or 10.5% (Bruce's number)? [Both numbers are correct. The 13% figure is an average increase per year whereas the 10.5% figure is compounded annually from 2000 to 2005.]
- Does the average residential property tax bill go up 12.5% (our number) over last year or 11.5% (Bruce's number)?
- Does our tax bill double (our number) or "nearly" double (Bruce's insert) since 2000? [We will insert "nearly".]
- Are property owners are being asked in FY 2006 to pay 56.2% (our number)

of all General Fund revenues or 53.8% (Bruce's number)? [We will use Bruce's number because he calculated the percentage based on the City Council Cap of 91.5 cents tax rate whereas we used the number from the FY'06 Budget book that was based on 95.5 cents.]

-- Did property owners pay 47% (our number) of all General Funds Revenues in FY'01 or 45% (Bruce's number)? [We will use Bruce's number because his is an actual number based on a city audit whereas ours was from the FY'01 Budget book that only projected what the percentage would be.]

-- Over the last five years, did Alexandria's cost of living increase an average of 2.7% (our number) or 2.8% (Bruce's number)? [We will use our number of 2.7% because we used the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics number that was adjusted for the Washington-Baltimore area.]

-- Should we continue to reference Deputy City Manager Mark Jinx's statement that "this year was the largest assessment increase in Alexandria in 25 years" or look only at the residential increase (Bruce's suggestion)? [We will keep our statement because it includes all Alexandria property owners, and constituted a city-wide average increase of 21.2% according to the Director of Real Estate Assessments Cindy Smith-Page.]

-- Should we reference an exodus of residents from the Alexandria Community (our statement) or note as Bruce suggests that Alexandria's population is up 4.7% since 2001? [We will keep our statement regarding long-time Alexandrians who have left and are leaving because we are trying to help people stay. We do not disagree with the fact that more people have moved into the city. We just don't want to see long-time residents having to sell their homes to the highest bidder.]

-- Bruce also suggests that we calculate the tax revenue for the period of January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005 for the various options on the table to know exactly how much the city could project in revenues. Here we have a fundamental difference of opinion over how we and he look at the budget. We look at how much more the city will get in property tax revenues over last year; and Bruce looks at how much less the city will have to spend from the City Manager's proposed increase of 8% using the now obsolete 95.5 cents property tax rate. Here are the estimated revenues for this six-month period; and as you can see the 3% Compromise generates more revenue than last year:

- \$112.3 million: FY'05 Projected Property Tax Revenue based on CY2004 Assessments, times 99.5 cents, and divided by 2.
- \$117.6 million: "3% Compromise" Projected Property Tax Revenue based on CY2005 assessments, times 86 cents, and divided by 2.
- \$125.2 million: "City Council Cap" Projected Property Tax Revenue based on CY2005 assessments, times 91.5 cents, and divided by 2.

In all three estimates, the city cannot ignore the additional \$5 million that will be collected from property owners during the six-month period over what it projects as has been the case each year.

(6) Contrary to the suggestion that we demand from the City Manager or Bruce Johnson a public apology that would state that our Petition and Fact Sheet were “factually accurate,” I am simply going to share the correct facts and figures with the City Council, City Manager, Bruce and any others interested in the property tax issue. I urge you to do the same in sharing this email with anyone who was confused by the City’s critique of our Petition and Fact Sheet.

Thank you for your time and effort on this important property tax issue.

Lou Cordia  
(cell. 703/627-8763)

P.S. Bruce’s changes/suggestions/comments/review should not in any way be presented as his or City Staff’s endorsement or approval of the petition or its recommendations or conclusions in either whole or in part. He did this review as a courtesy so that we at least don’t have to argue over the facts.



<Mounir@aol.com>  
04/30/2005 08:32 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject 3% Tax Compromise

Dear Ms. Henderson:

Please relay to each member of the City Council my request that they vote on Tuesday for the 3% Tax Compromise.

Sincerely,

Mounir Murad  
3712 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22302



**Jim Blakeslee**  
<j.blakeslee@att.net>  
04/30/2005 06:31 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Vote for our 3% Compromise

Ms. Henderson,

Please relay my message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager AND add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

We ask each Council Member to vote for our 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

#### LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg, and Councilwoman Woodson,

On behalf of 5,000 Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise and (hopefully without being presumptuous) more than a dozen Civic Associations -- representing 1000s more Alexandrians -- which have approved a similar 3% Resolution, we ask for your vote on May 2nd for a 3% Compromise, a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

We urge City Council, on or before May 2nd, to direct the city staff (who have been working on the budget since last fall) to provide City Council with an FY'06 Revised Budget that recommends how they would allocate a 3.5% spending increase or \$18.4 million more over last year, totaling \$539.2 million. We realize that there is sufficient time to undertake this effort since you and city staff have ample time before staff sends out the property tax notices in June for the second half of FY 2005 and secondly, the statutory deadline of June 27 (City Charter Section 6.12) to complete the budget.

We respectfully request you to vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that allows for the 3.5% spending increase. We are pleased to see signs that you are moving in that direction; but urge you not to stop until you get to the 86-cent tax rate. We want to thank:

- Mayor Euille who told a neighborhood group that he would try to get the property tax rate down to 88.5 cents.
- Vice Mayor Pepper for clearly sensing how so many of us feel when she said "Such tax increases have spurred an organized anti-tax effort that is unprecedented in recent memory. We are paying attention."
- Councilman Gaines for requesting city staff to examine a tax rate reduction in the range of 8 cents to 16 cents (or 91.5 cents to 83.5 cents).
- Councilmen Krupicka and Smedberg for having proposed another 1-cent reduction in the property rate, taking it down to 90.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value; and

- Councilman Macdonald for being sympathetic to the idea of determining a cap on our residential property tax bills.  
Our apologies to Councilwoman Woodson if she has made overtures toward our 86-cent rate of which we are not aware.

On March 22nd, City Council said that you would "consider" lowering the property tax rate below 91.5 cents. We urge you to do so.

On a personal note, I hope you have appreciated the positive tone in all of my remarks to you. However, I would be remiss if I did not inform you of real anger in a vast number of Alexandrians over the city's large automatic spending increases that result in 10%-to-40% increases in our individual property tax bills each year.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have put into this issue and so many others for our city.



<irar@cox.com>

04/30/2005 04:35 PM

Please respond to  
<irar@cox.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Sat Apr 30, 2005 16:35:55] IP Address: [4.249.195.18]

Response requested:

First Name: Ira  
Last Name: Rosenberg  
Street Address: A  
City: Alexandria  
State: VA  
Zip: 22302  
Phone: -  
Email Address: irar@cox.com  
Comments: Your large property tax increase is going to prevent many of us from contributing money to charity. Please lower the tax rate to 82 cents per \$100.



"Audrey Rasmussen"  
<audreypr@msn.com>

04/30/2005 02:12 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Please direct this message to all of the City Council Members.  
Thank you.

#### LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg,  
and Councilwoman Woodson,

I am A member of the Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise. I am asking for your vote on May 2nd for a 3% Compromise – a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

I urge City Council, on or before May 2nd, to direct the city staff (who have been working on the budget since last fall) to provide City Council with an FY'06 Revised Budget that recommends how they would allocate a 3.5% spending increase or \$18.4 million more over last year, totaling \$539.2 million. There is sufficient time to undertake this effort since you and city staff have ample time before staff sends out the property tax notices in June for the second half of FY 2005 and secondly, the statutory deadline of June 27 (City Charter Section 6.12) to complete the budget.

Very truly yours,

Audrey P. Rasmussen  
66 Wolfe Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314



"julie okkema"  
<julieokkema@hotmail.com>  
04/30/2005 01:24 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Please vote for our 3% Compromise

Dear Ms. Henderson,

I wish to ask you pass on my wishes to all seven City Council Members, our City Manager, as well as add my message in the Official City Record on Property Tax Increase (Public Hearing April 16, 2005 City Docket #13)

I encourage each Council Member to vote affirmatively for the proposed 3% Compromise- a 3.5 % spending increase resulting in a 3 % City wide increase in our property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 assessed value.

Fully aware of the burden on the tax payer to support our great City, I am also mindful of the clear need to constrain future City spending in a reasonable manner so as to not pose too great a burden on the City's residents.

A 3% Compromise such has been proposed would help assure a Citizenry which knows it's future lies with Alexandria by budgets mirroring those in our own house holds.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue. I trust City Council's support will be forthcoming.

Respectfully yours,

Julie Okkema M.D.  
1300 Bishop Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22302

---

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<bobsoltys@comcast.net>

04/30/2005 10:55 AM

Please respond to  
<bobsoltys@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Sat Apr 30, 2005 10:55:27] IP Address: [69.143.37.188]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Bob  
**Last Name:** Soltys  
**Street Address:** 1409 Bishop Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-370-9859  
**Email Address:** bobsoltys@comcast.net

**Comments:** Monday, May 2nd will be a watershed day for the City of Alexandria. As a member of the City Council you will be casting a crucial vote. Accordingly, I ask you to vote for the 3% compromise proposal that has been put forward and endorsed by many Alexandrians. This will accomplish what I strongly believe to be the right course to set, namely, directing a 3.5% budget spending increase. This will produce a 3% increase in the city-wide property tax bill, resulting in a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

All eyes will be on you. You will be measured by and accountable for the vote you cast. I have stated my expectation of you. I truly hope you can support it.



"Francine Neville"  
<Fneville@comcast.net>

04/30/2005 09:41 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Taxes

History:  This message has been forwarded.

Ms. Henderson: I support the 3% compromise. Thank you. Francine Neville, 3 W. Rosemont Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301



<SakiDuncan@aol.com>

04/30/2005 07:59 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject 3% Tax

Please tell the men in charge that we can't keep paying out without selling out--please do something for the property owners of Alexandria.

sakiduncan@aol.com



<michye00@hotmail.com>

04/30/2005 07:09 AM

Please respond to  
<michye00@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Sat Apr 30, 2005 07:09:44] IP Address: [4.249.15.112]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Micheline  
**Last Name:** Eyraud  
**Street Address:** 2181 Jamieson Avenue #509  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703 5678896  
**Email Address:** michye00@hotmail.com

**Comments:** I seems clear to me that the Council is set to ignore the response of Alexandria taxpayers to proposed tax hikes. What you don't seem to understand is that if you don't fulfill all the initiatives proposed by City Staff, you won't have the deficits promised. Next year the Council is up for reelection -- how do you suppose the taxpayers of Alexandria are going to feel when they find out that our Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator makes between 47347 and 61650 when they are struggling to pay the massive tax bills that you are foisting on them year after year?



"terri phillips"  
<tphillipsonline@comcast.net>

04/29/2005 11:22 PM

<AlexVAMayor@aol.com>,  
To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <DelPepper@aol.com>,  
<CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, <Rob@Krupicka.com>,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Property Taxes

Jackie:

I am asking that each Council Member **vote for the 3% compromise** - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

I am an Alexandria resident and I have been hit with very large increases in my property taxes over the last couple years. In fact, the increases have outpaced my salary increases so I am effectively making less money each year. I will be watching how each Council Member votes on this issue and I will vote for them when they come up for re-election based purely on this issue alone – it is that important. Alexandria needs significant property tax relief now or new political management as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Terri Visente-Heany  
Cameron Station Resident



"Peter E. Dykhuis"  
<ped@idcgroup.org>  
04/29/2005 09:51 PM

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>  
<DelPepper@aol.com>, <CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>,  
cc <Rob@Krupicka.com>, <MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>,  
<PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>, <Council@JoyceWoodson.net>,  
bcc  
Subject 3% Compromise On Alexandria Property Tax Bill

Dear Mr. Mayor, Ms. Vice Mayor, and Members of the Alexandria City Council:

I don't envy you. There are innumerable constituencies here in our city seeking budgetary funding with heartfelt persuasion. Wouldn't it be nice if our available resources could provide perfection, or even symbolic support, to every expressed need in our community. I sympathize with you who are in the unenviable position of balancing your civic responsibilities with political viability.

Imagine a world where the best available education, health care, and economic support are made available by government free of charge to all of our citizens, without impact to the economic engine of capitalism that built this community and our nation. Imagine planning our future assuming that our lot can only get better, economic downturns are obsolete, and that Alexandria property values are in a permanent state of appreciation. These are pretty thoughts, but I hope no one over the age 21 indulges too long in such reveries.

Property taxes in Alexandria have nearly doubled in less than 5 years. Property values have soared. Personal income and returns on investments has, for most Alexandrians, declined. Yet our city government seeks increases above the inherent tax hikes driven by unprecedented double digit appreciation in property values over the past several years. The elitist message to your constituency is: "Sell your property, get out of Alexandria, and let people with fatter wallets take your place -- people who can feed our city government's insatiable spending habits." (The Greater Fool Theory.)

Alexandria was voted an "All American City" many years ago when the city had a mere fraction of the assets and tax base it enjoys today. Since that time, Alexandria has made great strides in many ways. Our city has lost a lot, too. I hope Alexandria can continue in this century as a home town for a diverse socio-economic community.

The future of Alexandria is in your hands. Runaway taxation is unsustainable. Please have the courage to budget on the basis that "worthwhile" cannot always be met with "wherewithal." (A hard lesson my 7-year-old and I are presently "enjoying.")

My family, as do many of my North Ridge neighbors, support the reasonable 3% increase compromise on the city-wide property tax bill. Next week we will be watching closely and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Dykhuis

714 West Braddock Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

(voice) 703.683.1874  
(fax) 703.683.1878

ped1@comcast.net

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<ped1@comcast.net>

04/29/2005 10:26 PM

Please respond to  
<ped1@comcast.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Fri Apr 29, 2005 22:26:24] IP Address: [68.83.223.121]

Response requested:

First Name: Peter  
Last Name: Dykhuis  
Street Address: 714 West Braddock Road  
City: Alexandria  
State: Virginia  
Zip: 22302  
Phone: 703 683-1874  
Email Address: ped1@comcast.net

Dear Mr. Mayor, Ms. Vice Mayor, and Members of  
the Alexandria City Council:

I don't envy you. There are innumerable  
constituencies here in our city seeking budgetary  
funding with heartfelt persuasion. Wouldn't it be  
nice if our available resources could provide  
perfection, or even symbolic support, to every  
expressed need in our community. I sympathize  
with you who are in the unenviable position of  
balancing your civic responsibilities with political  
viability.

Imagine a world where the best available education, health care, and economic support are made available by government free of charge to all of our citizens, without impact to the economic engine of capitalism that built this community and our nation. Imagine planning our future assuming that our lot can only get better, economic downturns are obsolete, and that Alexandria property values are in a permanent state of appreciation. These are pretty thoughts, but I hope no one over the age 21 indulges too long in such reveries.

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Alexandria was voted an "All American City" many years ago when the city had a mere fraction of the assets and tax base it enjoys today. Since that time, Alexandria has made great strides in many ways. Our city has lost a lot, too. I hope Alexandria can continue in this century as a home town for a diverse socio-economic community.

**Comments:** The future of Alexandria is in your hands. Runaway taxation is unsustainable. Please have the courage to budget on the basis that "worthwhile" cannot always be met with "wherewithal." (A hard lesson my 7-year-old and I are presently "enjoying.")

My family, as do many of my North Ridge neighbors, support the reasonable 3% increase compromise on the city-wide property tax bill. Next week we will be watching closely and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Dykhuis

714 West Braddock Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

-----  
-----  
(voice) 703.683.1874  
(fax) 703.683.1878  
ped1@comcast.net

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<jscovell@comcast.net>

04/29/2005 09:01 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject property taxes

Hello.

I live in Old Town, and I am very concerned about what appear to be out-of-control rises in property taxes. Would you please convey my sentiments to the city council. It's fine that property values are increasing, this is healthy, but the reality is that my ability to pay uncontrolled tax increases does not keep pace with the raging property market. I haven't realized any gain on my property--I live in it and intend to continue doing so! The annual increases in tax more than cancel any increase in my salary, hence I am a net loser when the city council does not adjust the tax rate to compensate for the heated property market.

Please, have a heart. I support the 3% initiative. I hope you do, too.

Thank you.

J.S. Covell

330 S. West St.

Alx. VA 22314-5928



"Jon Phillips"  
<jrpathome@comcast.net>  
04/29/2005 08:38 PM

<AlexVAMayor@aol.com>,  
To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <DelPepper@aol.com>,  
<CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, <Rob@Krupicka.com>,  
cc <tphillipsonline@comcast.net>

bcc

Subject Reduce Alexandria Property Taxes Now!

Jackie:

I am asking that each Council Member **vote for the 3% compromise** - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

I am an Alexandria resident and I have been hit with very large increases in my property taxes over the last couple years. In fact, the increases have outpaced my salary increases so I am effectively making less money each year. I will be watching how each Council Member votes on this issue and I will vote for them when they come up for re-election based purely on this issue alone – it is that important. Alexandria needs significant property tax relief now or new political management as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jon R. Phillips  
Cameron Station Resident  
Alexandria, VA



"Amy Gergely"  
<wordsmithz@hotmail.com>  
04/29/2005 04:20 PM

To <AlexVAMayor@aol.com>, <DelPepper@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <Rob@Krupicka.com>, <MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>, <PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Please vote for the 3% compromise

Dear Alexandria City Council Member:

I am a single 34 year old Alexandria homeowner who has lived in the City for the past eight years. After my divorce in 2001, I struggled to keep my house and have since had to battle rising tax rates, with little corresponding increase in salary to remain at the same or similar quality of life. I have cut back all I can, but my 35 miles commute, and the corresponding rise in gasoline prices, has me stretched to the absolute limit. Another rise in my property tax rate similar to that of the past several years will likely put me over the edge and force me to move out of the area in search of more affordable housing. At times I have felt alone in my predicament, but I have learned that there are thousands in the same situation.

We have all cut back, and like many of my fellow residents, especially those who are single, those who are single with children and those with only one household income, I encourage you to do the same.

Please vote for the 3% compromise - a 3.5 percent spending increase and a 3 percent increase in the City-wide property tax bill for a rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Please also add my comments to the official City record on the property tax issue.

Thank you for your willingness to address this important issue.

Sincere Regards,

Amy Gergely



"Anita G. Baker"  
<anitagbaker@hotmail.com>

05/02/2005 08:31 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

Please communicate my support of a compromise on the tax issue. Thank you.  
Anita Baker, 526 Bellvue Place, Alexandria, VA 22314



"Skladany, Barney"  
<bskladany@AKINGUMP.CO  
M>

05/02/2005 08:45 AM

To <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject 3% Compromise

History:

📧 This message has been forwarded.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would forward this to the seven City Council members and City manager and include my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005, Docket #13).

Dear Mayor and members of the Alexandria City Council--I respectfully request that you vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that would allow for the 3.5% spending increase. My wife and I believe this strikes the appropriate balance between spending needs and taxes. Thank you very much.

The information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named above. This message may be an attorney-client communication and/or work product and as such is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message.



"Lou Cordia"  
<Lou@Cordia.com>  
05/02/2005 09:02 AM

"Mayor Euille" <AlexVAMayor@aol.com>, "Vice Mayor  
Pepper" <DelPepper@aol.com>, "Councilman Gaines"  
<CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, "Councilman Krupicka"  
cc <Jackie.Henderson@AlexandriaVA.gov>

bcc

Subject URGENT - May 2nd Vote

Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper and City Council,

I heard a most disturbing commentary this weekend from a City employee who said "On March 22, Council said that they were going to consider lowering our property tax rate below 91.5 cents; but they have done absolutely nothing in that regard for six weeks. Instead Council has only looked at raising new taxes on cellulators, cigarettes and movie tickets. Council neither asked OMB to provide a line-by-line budget detailing how the staff proposed its annual 1% across-the-board departmental cuts, nor did Council request staff to provide a revised budget to see how they would allocate a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase. Council either doesn't understand or care that people cut their family budgets each year to pay for 10%-to-40% increases in their individual property tax bills." I sure hope that these last six weeks have not been a sham. I want to believe that you neither feel, nor will vote, this way.

A soccer parent was guessing that "Council will probably split the difference, and compromise the 3% Compromise. They may very well vote for the Mayor's 3-cent cut; and our property tax rate will be 88.5 cents."

On behalf of 5,000 Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise, I again urge City Council to vote for an 86-cent property tax rate, thereby giving the city \$18.4 million more than last year, totaling \$539.2 million for FY 2006. Please hear our "3% Plea."

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (cell. 703/627-8763).

Thank you for your consideration. See you tonight.

Lou Cordia

P.S. City Clerk, please make sure that all Council Members and the City Manager get this email and that it is included in the official record.



"Howard Jaffe"  
<hjaf@loc.gov>  
05/02/2005 09:35 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject 3% compromise on property tax rate

History:  This message has been forwarded.

Dear City Clerk,  
I'm asking each City Council Member to vote for the 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Please relay this message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager AND add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

Thank you,

Howard Jaffe



<dav\_smith@comcast.com>

05/02/2005 10:28 AM

Please respond to  
<dav\_smith@comcast.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,  
cc  
bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Mon May 02, 2005 10:28:43] IP Address: [68.55.38.168]

Response requested:

First Name: David  
Last Name: Smith  
Street Address: 1213 Hillside Ter.  
City: Alexandria  
State: Va.  
Zip: 22302  
Phone: 7035197705  
Email Address: dav\_smith@comcast.com

Dear Council Members,  
I am writing you to to emphatically urge you to  
vote to restrain spending to the 3% increase plan.  
It is about time that city council got serious about  
reigning in spending. The tax increases of the last  
five years have gotten out of hand. Despite  
rehetoric city council likes put out about lowering  
the tax rate our property taxes continually  
increase, to the point where they now seriously  
impacting our financial situation.  
The city council must stop taking the approach  
that increasing assessments are a pot of gold that

**Comments:**

is there for you to spend, on every conceivable program. This council must start to make the hard decisions on cutting back spending. The time has come for the Democrats on the council to make serious steps towards fiscal restraint. As a life long Democrat I am disgusted by the tax and spend policies that this and previous councils have followed. Your vote tonight will dictate whether I will start voting and donating Republican accross the board in cityand state elections. It's imperative the council finally show some guts and address its addiction to spending.

Thank you,

David Smith



"John Reardon"  
<xreardon@earthlink.net>

05/02/2005 10:12 AM

Please respond to  
<xreardon@earthlink.net>

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc <AlexVAMayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>

bcc

Subject 3% makes sense

Jackie,

Please relay my desire that the Council support the compromise position:  
a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide  
property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of  
assessed value.

While I do not think this is enough of a tax rate cut, its hopefully a  
compromise the Council members will embrace.

Bill and Andrew, I hope you are both well. Thanks for your work on  
behalf of the City.

Best wishes,

John Reardon  
714 South Overlook Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22305



"Sullivan, Juliane"  
<jcsullivan@akingump.com>  
05/02/2005 10:12 AM

To <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

Dear Ms. Henderson:

I would greatly appreciate if you would forward this message regarding the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005, Docket #13) to the seven City Council members and the City Manager. Thank you.

Juliane Sullivan

Dear Mayor and Members of the Alexandria City Council:

I respectfully request that you support a property tax rate of 86 cents that would allow for the 3.5% spending increase. I believe this strikes the appropriate balance between spending needs and taxes. Thank you very much.

Juliane Sullivan

The information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named above. This message may be an attorney-client communication and/or work product and as such is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message.



<tombu@verizon.net>

05/02/2005 11:39 AM

Please respond to  
<tombu@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Mon May 02, 2005 11:39:16] IP Address: [141.156.180.58]

Response requested:

**First Name:** Tom  
**Last Name:** Burke  
**Street Address:** 2909 S. Dinwiddie St  
**City:** Arlington  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22206  
**Phone:** 7033798279  
**Email Address:** tombu@verizon.net

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

I am interested in which members of Council are willing to admit that our spending has gotten a bit out of control. Who will make a motion to cap 2006 expenditures at 3%? Who will second such a motion?

Who will push for and support an audit of operating and capital expenses?

**Comments:** I do not think anyone will show such courage and leadership, and the budget process tonight will be BAU. That being said...

Who will pledge similarly to actively promote these measures for the 2007 budget, when many of you will be up for re-election?  
I, and others, will be actively reviewing all expenditures from here on to identify unnecessary and gratuitous spending throughout the Alexandria budget. Things have to change.

Tom Burke



<rcdt-va@msn.com>

05/02/2005 12:02 PM

Please respond to  
<rcdt-va@msn.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Mon May 02, 2005 12:02:49] IP Address: [70.21.48.90]

Response requested:

First Name: Carol  
Last Name: Taylor  
Street Address: 417 jackson place  
City: Alexandria  
State: Va  
Zip: 22302  
Phone: 703 836-3851  
Email Address: rcdt-va@msn.com

I wholeheartedly agree with the following, which appeared in last week's Gazette-Packet:

Along with a growing number of Alexandrians who believe their property taxes are out of control, I want to associate myself with those who are advocating the "3% Compromise" proposal to reduce the tax and spending rates at the upcoming budget session of the City Council. My reasons are explained in the following letter to the Council. I respectfully urge my fellow citizens to contact the council's members before May 2 to

express support for the 3 percent option. Taxing and spending by the City of Alexandria are out of control. Consequently, I want to join with those citizens seeking to restore some sanity and restraint to the spending habits of city officials and to suggest a few places to start in reducing spending.

Like everyone else who lives in this community, I have curbed my own spending and slashed my personal budget to accommodate the city's ever-increasing demands on my fixed, spendable income. I have refinanced my mortgage, drive an eight-year-old car, given up my membership in the YMCA, foregone various "luxuries," and delayed needed home improvements and other expenditures in order to fork over more and more money every year to the city, only to see much of it blown on unnecessary or wasteful projects and programs. For example:

\* I cannot think of a single valid reason why taxpayers should pay for free shuttle bus service to carry people from the PTO/Eisenhower Valley area to Old Town for lunch every day. This service should be paid for by the people it benefits — the riders and/or the business people who seek to attract these riders — not by taxpayers.

\* The pending school budget apparently calls for creation of a new public relations position with a very generous salary. If this money must be spent at all, it should be for teachers who actually instruct students.

\* Why does the city need a "bicycle and pedestrian coordinator?"

\* One section of the proposed city budget notes that computers are needed for police, yet tax money is being spent to give each student a "free" laptop computer.

\* The \$100 million gold-plated high school currently being built for a declining student population should be monitored with great care to ensure wise use of money and to eliminate unnecessary frills.

\* The city government has no business buying up private land and taking it off the tax rolls for use as "pocket parks," dog exercise areas or other similar uses. If such parks are really necessary, maybe the civic associations in areas where they would be located and whose members they would directly benefit should explore ways of "creating" them with private funding.

\* It is unclear from news coverage to date of the planned renovation of the Landmark area just how much this undertaking will cost the taxpayers. I saw one figure of \$60 million-plus in city spending that might be required. General

**Comments:**

Growth Properties, Inc., the owner of the mall and the operative party in this project, is an enormous, multi-billion-dollar corporation which operates over 220 giant malls plus other commercial real estate projects in more than 44 states. It stands to benefit hugely from this project, as do many other commercial entities and tenants who will occupy the renovated space. These entities that will be directly enriched by this commercial project should be required to pay for the necessary infrastructure, parking, access, etc., that will be needed – not the taxpayers of Alexandria.

\* Whatever amount the city expects to spend to create the "Alexandria Citizens' Academy" described in a recent city newsletter, it is too much. We can figure out on our own how to "access city government." If we can't, then the city needs to simplify its structure.

\* Given the urgency of the need to shrink the tax burden on citizens, the plan to provide taxpayer-financed, "free" outdoor wireless internet access so that a few people can sit in the sun in Old Town with their iced latte and noodle around on the internet is not necessary and should be scrapped. Or, it should be paid for by the merchants who hope to benefit from it.

\* An article in the April 14 "Gazette Packet" indicates the City Council is examining a list of other kinds of taxes that could be imposed to offset a smaller increase in property taxes. This strongly suggests that the council just doesn't get it — people feel they are already taxed enough, and they expect the council to focus, instead, on ways to trim city spending — not figure out other "back-door" ways to extract more money from citizens.

It is depressing to note an apparent attitude on the part of too many city officials that the citizens exist to "grow" the government and that money must be thrown at every proposal that comes along, even if it benefits only a tiny portion of the population or is just plain unnecessary. Having retired from 30 years of government service, I know there is wasteful government spending at every level, including Alexandria. We see it all around us. There are plenty of ways to reduce the tax burden on citizens without sacrificing essential services. I wish more effort could be spent to pursue them.

Carol N. Taylor



"Tom Dews"  
<tomdews@hotmail.com>  
05/02/2005 11:25 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Tax Compromise

Dear Clerk Henderson:

Please forward a message on my behalf to all seven council members asking them to vote for the 3% compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value. As was expressed in a recent citizens' meeting in North Oldtown, loyal and long-time residents are considering moving away because of exorbitant taxes. Thank you for forwarding this message.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dews

607 Bashford Lane #1

Alexandria, VA 22314



"Anderson, Heidi S."  
<HEIDI.S.ANDERSON@saic.com>

05/02/2005 11:38 AM

To "Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov"  
<Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Please add my comments to the public record

Dear Ms. Henderson,

Please relay this message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager AND add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

Over the last 5 years, the average residential property tax bill has increased at double-digit rates each year (4 times the rate of inflation), rising an average of 13% each year. During this same period, the cost of living in Alexandria, has increased on average only 2.7 percent each year. When the City Council talks about "tax relief", it does not make sense because our tax bills are still increasing, out of control! I think now is the time for a serious investigation of how to restrain the growth of real estate property taxes and control spending for FY 2007 and beyond. My husband and I ask for your vote on May 2nd for a 3% Compromise - a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value. (Note: On March 22nd, City Council said that you would "consider" lowering the property tax rate below 91.5 cents. We urge you to do so.)

We also urge City Council, on or before May 2nd, to direct the city staff (who have been working on the budget since last fall) to provide City Council with an FY'06 Revised Budget that recommends how they would allocate a 3.5% spending increase or \$18.4 million more over last year, totaling \$539.2 million. We realize that there is sufficient time to undertake this effort since you and city staff have ample time before staff sends out the property tax notices in June for the second half of FY 2005 and secondly, the statutory deadline of June 27 (City Charter Section 6.12) to complete the budget.

I have to say that the number one issue that has people talking (and extremely angry) is the city's large automatic spending increases that result in 10%-to-40% increases in our individual property tax bills each year. We urge the Council to increase the budget no more than 3.5 percent this year.

Sincerely,

Heidi and Phil Anderson

705 Grandview Drive

Alexandria, VA 22305



"Elizabeth Colorado"  
<ecolorado@wmata.com>

05/02/2005 11:46 AM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Alexandria Property Tax

Ms. Henderson:

As a member of -Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise-, I ask each Alexandria Council Member to vote for a 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill, at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Please relay this message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager and add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

Thank you very much. Elizabeth A. Colorado



"Charlie Pease"  
<peasechas@worldnet.att.net>

05/02/2005 12:02 PM

Please respond to  
<peasechas@worldnet.att.net>

"Alexvamayor" <alexvamayor@aol.com>, "Delpepper"  
To <delpepper@aol.com>, "Joyce Woodson"  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, "Councilmangaines"  
cc <letters@washpost.com>, <Gazette@connectionnewspapers.com>,  
<letters@washingtontimes.com>, <mkuhn@dcexaminer.com>  
bcc

Subject The 3% Compromise

Having listened to the debate concerning the proposed budget, and having begun to analyze the budget in detail, and understanding the potential effects of "autonomous" school budget rules, I am firmly convinced that The Alexandria City Council has the power and the duty to tell the City Manager and the School Board that they are going to have to live with a 3% rise in spending for the coming Fiscal Year. Let them worry about the details of their budgets, that is their concern. Your concern is at the macro level. Do your duty.

For Jackie Henderson: Please add these comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13)

Sincerely,

Charles Pease



Susy Howard  
<showard@tmg-dc.com>

05/02/2005 11:59 AM

To: "Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov"  
<Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

To: Jackie Henderson

Please relay this message to all seven City Council Members, the City Manager and add our comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

#### LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg,  
and Councilwoman Woodson,

We urge you to vote on May 2nd for a 3% Compromise - a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

We respectfully request you to vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that allows for the 3.5% spending increase. We are pleased to see signs that you are moving in that direction; but urge you not to stop until you get to the 86-cent tax rate. We want to thank:

- Mayor Euille who told a neighborhood group that he would try to get the property tax rate down to 88.5 cents "if possible."
- Vice Mayor Pepper for clearly sensing how so many of us feel when she said "Such tax increases have spurred an organized anti-tax effort that is unprecedented in recent memory... We are paying attention."
- Councilman Gaines for requesting city staff to examine a tax rate reduction in the range of 8 cents to 16 cents (or 91.5 cents to 83.5 cents).
- Councilmen Krupicka and Smedberg for having proposed another 1-cent reduction in the property rate, taking it down to 90.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value; and
- Councilman Macdonald for being sympathetic to the idea of determining a cap on our residential property tax bills.

Our apologies to Councilwoman Woodson if she has made overtures toward our 86-cent rate of which we are not aware.

On March 22nd, City Council said that you would "consider" lowering the property tax rate below 91.5 cents. We urge you to do so.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have put into this issue and so many others for our city.

Wyman and Susy Howard  
3107 Old Dominion Blvd.  
Alexandria, VA 22305

Alexandria Residents at 3107 Old Dominion for 31 years.



**"Bill Sullivan"**  
<sullivan@government-sales.com>

05/02/2005 12:16 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Property Tax

Dear Ms Henderson,

I am writing to express support to reduce Alexandria's property tax rate by more than the reduction proposed by the City Manager. Our property tax should not be higher than the 3% which has been proposed by some in our community. The City Council needs to trim or defer some of the items contained in the City Manager's budget. As Alexandria taxpayers, I own a condominium) we can't continue to have these large property tax increases each year, and we look to the Council as our representatives to better control spending.

I'd appreciate it if you would share my e-mail with the City Council members.

Best regards,  
Bill Sullivan  
Alexandria House  
400 Madison Street  
Apt 1101  
Alexandria, VA 22314



"Geri"  
<geri@1800luggage.com>

05/02/2005 11:52 AM

Please respond to  
"Geri" <geri@1800luggage.com>

To <Jackie Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject real estate tax rate

Dear Ms Henderson, Please relay the following message to the 7 city council members and the city manager and add our comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (public hearing 4-16-05 docket #13. We strongly believe that the proposed property tax increases need to be modified and that the city expense structure needs to be re-evaluated big time. Therefore we are supporting the 3% compromise.

Geraldine Bronfin 309 Yoakum Pkwy #1707 Alex. Va 22304  
Kevin Bronfin 203 Yoakum Pkwy. #1518 Alex. Va 22304



"Sherry Truhlar"  
<srtruhlar@hotmail.com>

05/02/2005 12:31 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Alexandria homeowner urges 3% compromise

Please ensure the Board members are given this email prior to tonight's tax vote:

Council:

I'm writing to urge the city council to vote for the 3% compromise tonight.

How is it possible that the council believes it necessary to dramatically increase taxes?

Construction is at a high in Alexandria. The city has approved more single family and townhomes to be built into ever-smaller acreage areas. Yet despite more homes (i.e. tax payers) now in the city, the Council believes it is necessary to STILL increase property taxes on everyone? So the city is not only enjoying a wider tax base from all the new development, but it believes it necessary to increase taxes?

It's a shame that we even have to write to encourage a 3% compromise.

Regards,  
Sherry Truhlar  
1670 Fitzgerald Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22302



"Rechsteiner, Vera"  
<VeraRechsteiner@andrewskur  
th.com>

05/02/2005 12:22 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject FW: URGENT - Final 2 Steps On Lowering Your Property Taxes

Dear Ms. Henderson:

Please relay this message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager AND add these comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

My husband and I are property owners in Oldtown, having recently moved there from Manhattan. We are both very involved in the business world -- I as a business lawyer and my husband as a business manager with years of experience managing very large companies and turning them around. From everything that we have learned and reviewed (to the extent of publicly available information) it is fairly clear that little attention has been paid to the expense side of the city's budget, particularly the operating expenses for schools. Our experience is that there is always reticence to manage conservatively and focus on the bottom line unless one is forced to be accountable. We do not believe that a school which has less enrollment such as the Alexandria school should have the significant budgetary increases which have been proposed for administrative expenses (e.g., the creation of a new position for the outgoing school principal, etc.) It is irresponsible to propose these increases but the minute an inquiry is raised as to whether all of these expenses are necessary, to trot out teachers and students, alleging that cutting expenses will generally impact these teachers and the students. Smart money management and accountability should be required of the city managers, as it is required in private enterprise and indeed in our family budgets; if people are left to think that taxpayer funding is the pot of gold, then their natural inclination will be to do the easy thing -- raise the tax rate -- instead of manage to the bottom line and focus on ways of doing so effectively.

We support the initiative described below and urge the Mayor and the Council members to listen.

Vera Rechsteiner  
Tom Royal  
106 South Lee Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314 [home address]

LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg,  
and Councilwoman Woodson,

On behalf of 5,000 Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise and (hopefully without being presumptuous) more than a dozen Civic Associations -- representing 1000s more Alexandrians -- which have approved a similar 3% Resolution, we ask for your vote on May 2nd for a 3% Compromise - a 3%-to-3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

We urge City Council, on or before May 2nd, to direct the city staff (who have been working on the budget since last fall) to provide City Council with an FY'06 Revised Budget that recommends how they would allocate a 3.5% spending increase or \$18.4 million more over last year, totaling \$539.2 million. We realize that there is sufficient time to undertake this effort since you and city staff have ample time before staff sends out the property tax notices in June for the second half of

FY 2005 and secondly, the statutory deadline of June 27 (City Charter Section 6.12) to complete the budget.

We respectfully request you to vote for a property tax rate of 86 cents that allows for the 3.5% spending increase. We are pleased to see signs that you are moving in that direction; but urge you

not to stop until you get to the 86-cent tax rate. We want to thank:

- Mayor Euille who told a neighborhood group that he would try to get the property tax rate down to 88.5 cents "if possible."
- Vice Mayor Pepper for clearly sensing how so many of us feel when she said "Such tax increases have spurred an organized anti-tax effort that is unprecedented in recent memory...We are paying attention."
- Councilman Gaines for requesting city staff to examine a tax rate reduction in the range of 8 cents to 16 cents (or 91.5 cents to 83.5 cents).
- Councilmen Krupicka and Smedberg for having proposed another 1-cent reduction in the property rate, taking it down to 90.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value; and
- Councilman Macdonald for being sympathetic to the idea of determining a cap on our residential property tax bills.

Our apologies to Councilwoman Woodson if she has made overtures toward our 86-cent rate of which we are not aware.

On March 22nd, City Council said that you would "consider" lowering the property tax rate below 91.5 cents. We urge you to do so.

On a personal note, I hope you have appreciated the positive tone in all of my remarks to you. However, I would be remiss if I did not inform you of real anger in a vast number of Alexandrians over the city's large automatic spending increases that result in 10%-to-40% increases in our individual property tax bills each year.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have put into this issue and so many others for our city.

Lou Cordia

Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise



<cmsmith88@aol.com>

05/02/2005 12:57 PM

Please respond to  
<cmsmith88@aol.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,  
<council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,  
<council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Mayor,  
Vice-Mayor and Council Members (alexvamayor@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, council@joycewoodson.net,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
macdonaldcouncil@msn.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
jackie.henderson@ci.alexandria.va.us,  
tom.raycroft@ci.alexandria.va.us)**

Time: [Mon May 02, 2005 12:57:35] IP Address: [152.163.100.9]

Response requested:

First Name: Carl  
Last Name: Smith  
Street Address: 1316 Bishop Lane  
City: Alexandria  
State: VA  
Zip: 22302  
Phone: 7033702811  
Email Address: cmsmith88@aol.com

Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, and Council  
Members:

I am writing in support of the "3% Solution" that  
would temporarily halt the unsustainable growth in  
our city's budget. It is unfair to expect the property  
owner's to continue to underwrite the city's  
spending binge. Double-digit property tax  
increases over the past 5 years are forcing  
homeowners throughout the city to sell their  
homes and move elsewhere. This has to stop.

**Comments:**

A 3% annual increase in city spending--rather than the 8.4% rate that the city has maintained over the past 5 years--is reasonable and achievable. I urge you to limit the 2006 budget increase to no more than 3%. As legislators, you have a duty that extends to ALL Alexandrians, not just to those who are seeking large increases in various city-funded programs.

Thank you.

Carl Smith



"John Loomis"  
<JLoomis@NationalTheatre.org>

05/02/2005 12:12 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject official city record on the property tax issue

Dear Ms. Henderson,

Please relay to each City Council member and the City Manager my desire that they vote for a 3% Compromise on the City budget - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Please also enter my comments into the official city record on the property tax issue.

Sincerely,

John Loomis  
2414 Taylor Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22302-3306



"Apperson, Jay"  
<Jay.Apperson@mail.house.gov  
>

05/02/2005 12:35 PM

To "Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov"  
<Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Support 3% Compromise

I write in my personal capacity as a resident and taxpayer of the City of Alexandria.

I ask the city council to vote FOR the proposed 3% Compromise consisting of a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in the city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Jay Apperson  
545 East Braddock Road, #704  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Jay Apperson, Chief Counsel  
Subcommittee on Crime,  
Terrorism, and Homeland Security  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3926  
FAX: 202-225-3737



"Missy Jenkins"  
<mjenkins@pcmanet.org>

05/02/2005 01:05 PM

<Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>,  
To <AlexVAMayor@aol.com>, <DelPepper@aol.com>,  
<CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, <Rob@Krupicka.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject

Ellen Jenkins at 1 West Oak Street in Alexandria

asks that each Council Member please vote for our 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value."



Thomas Shimkin  
<tshimkin@yahoo.com>

05/02/2005 01:14 PM

Please respond to  
<tshimkin@yahoo.com>

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject 3% Compromise

Ms. Jackie Henderson  
Alexandria City Clerk

Dear Ms. Henderson:

Please add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

I urge each city council member to stop the out of control increases in city spending. As a stop-gap measure, I urge each council member to approve the 3% compromise, which will limit the harm to Alexandria's residents in the coming fiscal year, while giving residents time to seek General Assembly approval for property tax limits, and to organize and field candidates for the May 2006 city election who support fiscal responsibility.

Thomas Shimkin  
2205 Ivor Lane  
Alexandria 22304-1016

Thomas K. E. Shimkin

---

Do You Yahoo!?

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<http://mail.yahoo.com>



**Jeremy Grant**  
<jgrant@bbn.com>  
05/02/2005 02:17 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Please Forward to All City Council Members

Mrs. Jackie Henderson,

Please relay my message below to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager AND add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg, and Councilwoman Woodson,

I ask each Council Member to \_vote for a 3% Compromise\_ - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise  
Jeremy Grant  
Alexandria City Resident, Taxpayer, and Voter



"Mandolia, Charles"  
<UCMB@amtrak.com>

05/02/2005 01:35 PM

To "Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov"  
<Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Alexandria 3% Compromise

I fully support the desperately needed effort to hold down city property tax increases to 3%. There is no reason to increase them at a faster rate. We will drive good citizens from their homes. Please relay my views to the Council members and the Mayor.



"Joyce Gates"  
<JoyceGates@comcast.net>

05/02/2005 02:03 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

Jackie –

Please urge each City Council Member to vote for the 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Please relay my message to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager AND please add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13). Thank you!

Joyce H. Gates

4135 Seminary Road

Alexandria, VA 22304

703-751-9224



"Stephen, Christopher T."  
<chris.stephen@nreca.coop>

05/02/2005 01:53 PM

To <Council@JoyceWoodson.net>, <PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>,  
<MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>, <Rob@Krupicka.com>,  
<CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, <DelPepper@aol.com>,  
cc <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

bcc

Subject URGE SUPPORT OF 3% Compromise

Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council:

My name is Chris Stephen from 723B Massey Lane.

It appears that our citizens' best bet to be able to stay in the City and to attract more neighbors and business to it is to enact a so-called "3% Compromise" - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

That being said, however, I wish to have it noted for the record that, in fact, the City Council should follow the lead of all Alexandria citizens and of the Federal Government - times are tough, and each and every family and business is learning to do more with the same, or worse, with less. I urge all of you to consider this, and to learn how to do more with the same, when increasing spending on discretionary programs.

If all property owners are expected to take a hit, those that utilize city dollars should share in this responsibility - do more with the same. I do NOT support any effective tax increase whatsoever in property taxes for FY 2006, but if you vote to do it, it should be no more than the "3% Compromise" detailed above.

Ms. Henderson - Please relay this to all seven City Council Members and the City Manager, AND add these comments to the official city record on the property tax issue (Public Hearing, April 16, 2005 Docket #13).

Thank you.

Chris Stephen  
723B Massey Lane  
703-519-7161

Christopher T. Stephen, Esq.  
Director & Counsel, Employee Benefits Policy  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc.  
4301 Wilson Boulevard  
Mail Code: IFS7-301  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Phone: 703-907-6026  
Fax: 703-907-6126



"Semmes, Kathy"  
<Kathy.Semmes@marriott.com>  
>

05/02/2005 02:16 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject 3% Property Tax Compromise

Ms. Jackie Henderson  
City Clerk of Alexandria  
5/2/05

Please add my comments to the official city record on the property tax issue from the public hearing on 4/16/05, Docket #13.

Please support the proposed 3% Compromise, which would result in a 3.5% spending increase and a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Thanks! Kathy Semmes  
623 Beverley Drive  
City of Alexandria

*Kathy Semmes*  
*Senior Account Executive*  
*Renaissance Chicago Hotel*  
*Direct Phone: 703-836-6123*  
*Direct Fax: 703-836-6124*  
*Email: [kathy.semmes@marriott.com](mailto:kathy.semmes@marriott.com)*  
*Hotel Website: [www.renaissancechicagodowntown.com](http://www.renaissancechicagodowntown.com)*



"ALANNA DUCKETT"  
<secop99@hotmail.com>

05/02/2005 02:22 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

Please relay to the Mayor and all City Council members, my strong support for the 3% compromise. I am a long time resident and property owner in Alexandria and feel this is a fair and equitable means to handle the needs of the City as a whole, as well as the individual needs of all the members of our community.

Thank you for your attention.

Alanna Duckett  
5500 Holmes Run Parkway  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

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"Judith Jones"  
<jkjones@deggegroup.com>  
05/02/2005 02:49 PM

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
<AlexVAMayor@aol.com>, <DelPepper@aol.com>,  
cc <CouncilmanGaines@aol.com>, <Rob@Krupicka.com>,  
<MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>, <PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>,  
bcc  
Subject Support for the 3% compromise

All,

I am writing to ask each Council Member to vote for our 3% Compromise - a 3.5% spending increase resulting in a 3% increase in our city-wide property tax bill at a property tax rate of 86 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

I also endorse the requests of Lou Cordia in the letter to the council, attached below.

Judith K. Jones, MD

400 Madison St. #1801, Alexandria

---

Attachment: Lou Cordia's letter:

#### LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, Councilmen Gaines, Krupicka, Macdonald and Smedberg,  
and Councilwoman Woodson,

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over the city’s large automatic spending increases that result in 10%-to-40% increases in our individual property tax bills each year.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have put into this issue and so many others for our city.

Lou Cordia

Alexandrians For A 3% Compromise