



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY'S FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET

PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
STUART PITTMAN**



Learn More By Visiting:
AACounty.Org/Budget

"Our job - the job of our county agencies, our elected officials, our nonprofit partners - is to protect our people - to protect them from harm."

Protecting Our Future Generations

- Provides a record \$52 million increase in direct funding to support AACPS - the biggest increase in county history.
- Fully funds Superintendent Dr. Bedell's compensation request with a step increase for all eligible employees and a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for all AACPS employees.
- Invests in 28 new Special Education positions, 14 new Community School Program Managers, 11 new Social/Emotional Learning positions, 10 new English Language Arts teachers, and 2 new Bilingual Facilitators.
- Provides funding to meet all the Maryland Blueprint for Education requirements.
- Funds \$120 million in major capital projects for the final three schools in the Old Mill Master Plan.
- Funds a new library in Millersville as part of a new YMCA facility.
- Increases county aid to Anne Arundel Community College by \$1.165 million.
- Adds a new Child Enrichment Center site at Van Bokkelen Elementary, and expands all Child Enrichment Center hours by half an hour.



As we crafted this year's budget, we were in a defensive posture. Direct and cruel attacks are being launched every day by the federal government. Those attacks target our workers, our businesses, our retirees, our judges, our men and women in uniform, our schools, our immigrants, our colleges and universities, and our environment.

In Anne Arundel County, we will protect our people, and the foundation of that protection is financial.

That fiscal foundation is strong in Anne Arundel County. It's strong because we made it that way.

We grew our economy, budgeted responsibly, taxed progressively, and now find ourselves able to protect our people from the worst of the federal impacts while keeping our taxes the lowest in central Maryland.

This summary of the FY26 proposed budget is just a sampling. Please get more detail at aacounty.org/Budget.



Steuart Pittman
County Executive



Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Residents

- Provides \$1.5 million in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank to combat food insecurity.
- Deploys funds from the Housing Trust Fund to support eviction prevention, assist families struggling with homelessness, and support the creation of more affordable housing developments.
- Creates a position to manage the county's new Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program.
- Provides recurring funding for the Health Ambassadors and the Healthy Communities Programs to continue connecting residents to health services and improving health equity.
- Increases funding for programs offering shelter and services, prioritizing capacity during colder months.
- Funds two new positions to expand operations for the Nonprofit Center at 41 Community Place.



- Funds community-led violence interruption work in Eastport and Severn.
- Sets aside \$10 million to backfill cuts to the county's most essential federal grant funding.
- Creates a Family Protection Initiative to support children who lose a parent or guardian to deportation and provide legal defense services for low-income residents.
- Adds a full-time Career Coach for the Ordinance Road Correctional Center Re-Entry Hub and funds the Turnaround Thursday program to continue supporting incarcerated individuals as they reenter the workforce.

Protecting Our Communities

- Funds five new positions to fully staff an additional shift for the new Real-Time Information Center.
- Adds five new positions to staff the Fire Training Academy and funds summer staffing enhancements for the county's new fire boats.
- Provides funding to construct a new Northern District Police Station.
- Continues funding for the construction of new Fire Stations in Jessup, Waugh Chapel, and Arundel.
- Adds two Sheriff's Communication Operators to free up Sheriff's Deputies to protect our courtrooms.
- Funds hiring bonuses for detention officers to continue to reduce vacancies.
- Funds a non-invasive weapons detection system pilot program for two AACPS schools.
- Installs a secure lock box at all public schools to allow county police officers quick entry during emergency situations.



Protecting Our Environment

- Invests \$3.3 million in the county's Agricultural and Woodland Preservation Program.
- Funds construction for the Edgewater Recreation and Community Center to transform a vacant property into a hub for recreation, education, and environmental resilience.
- Funds the design of the new Marley Creek Regional Park, the expansion of Severn Danza Park, and renovations at four other county parks.
- Supports the reimagining of Annapolis City Dock by contributing \$2 million towards the new resilient welcome center.
- Creates Resilient and Ready Anne Arundel, the region's first integrated portfolio of climate infrastructure and renewable energy projects.
- Provides one-time bridge funding that will strengthen the Resilience Authority's competitiveness for grants.

Protecting Government Services

- Funds a step or merit increase, along with a competitive cost-of-living increase for union and non-represented employees to grow the county's competitive advantage in hiring.
- Fully funds the request for positions needed to adequately staff the new Department of Animal Services.
- Invests in software and applications to improve operations and safeguard infrastructure and supports the transition to a new financial system.

Protecting Our Taxpayers

- Maintains Anne Arundel County's triple-A ratings from all three major bond rating agencies for the third year in a row.
- Keeps income tax rates unchanged. Anne Arundel's income tax rates are the lowest in Central Maryland, and include a progressive structure to protect the lowest income earners.
- Lowers property tax rates from 98.3 cents to 97.7 cents for every \$100 of assessed property.
- The county's Homestead Credit ensures that increases in your assessed value above 2% per year will not be taxed.

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| AAA Exceptionally Strong | Aaa Exceptional | AAA Exceptionally Strong |
| Fitch | Moody's | Standard & Poor's |

The full proposed FY26 budget is available online at AACounty.Org/Budget