

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

Date	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-05-08 10:41	Liam	Spargo	Friendship	Maryland	20758	Yes		<p>Good morning, County council</p> <p>I am Liam Spargo, a student of Southern High school and an active FFA member of Southern FFA.</p> <p>I am a junior in high school and would comment on how the school should improve, with latest arguments and comments, there have been complaints about our greenhouse and school sports.</p> <p>First the greenhouse control system has been out of date, windows are unable to be opened and closed. The automatic control syatem is broken and it is hard to maintain ideal temperatures.</p> <p>Second the school's locker rooms have had many complaints from my peers that are in sports, our solution would be a second gym/ locker room due to regular sports players complaining about the locker rooms constantly. The Women's basketball and volleyball team do not access to a locker room for their season. They go to other schools in our county and are greeted with a extra locker room. We want to be able to have that like other schools. It is not fair that our women's team doesn't have a locker room and the men's do. We should be equal to other schools in our county.</p> <p>After I had found out about the money for the school being taken out of the budget for these improvements I feel anxious. These change are needed, these improvements will help students like me to succeed.</p>	
2026-05-11 15:54	Pia	Morrison	Gaithersburg	MD	20879	No	SEIU Local 500	Please see attached testimony	pia-morrison-seiu-local-500-aacc-fy-2027-operating-budget-testimony.pdf
2026-05-11 15:54	Travis	Simon	Gaithersburg	MD	20879	No	SEIU Local 500	See attached testimony	travis-b-simon-seiu-local-500-aacc-fy-2027-operating-budget-testimony.pdf
2026-05-12 13:00	Rev. Lauren	Bloom	Annapolis	Maryland	21403	No	St Luke's Episcopal Church, Eastport		testimony-of-rev-lauren-bloom-for-anne-arundel-county-fy-2027-budget-hearing.docx

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-12 14:51	Rebekka	Barker	Severn	MD	21144	Yes	<p>My name is Rebekka Barker and I have been a county resident for a little over a year and have worked at AACPL for over the year.</p> <p>I am writing today in support for the Performance Measures and Data Analyst position at AACPL. The library system brings both resources and joy to our community through the hard work of staff in 16 branches and countless partnerships with other county agencies and community organizations. We play an integral role in making AAC the best place for all and to continue this work effectively, we need to be data driven.</p> <p>We all know that data-driven decision-making helps government run more efficiently and effectively, as the county demonstrates through its Arundel Stat program. Without a dedicated Performance Measures and Data Analyst position to manage, analyze, and report information accurately and in real time, our libraries and its staff cannot fully gauge the effectiveness of its public funding. While there have always been pockets of data competency within our system, much of the data that exists within our system is on paper in a branch filing cabinet or deep in an email chain. This is not a failure; it is staff doing the most with what they have. Analyst positions in public libraries have become seen as critical in Maryland and across the country, as they and their funders adapt to the dual pressures of increasing community needs and tightening budgets.</p> <p>In order to make data reliably accessible to library staff, infrastructure needs to be built, which requires a high level of expertise and time. This role would create that infrastructure, allowing staff to focus on serving the community while supporting transparent, well-informed decision-making that benefits everyone and aligns the library with the county's commitment to using data to improve outcomes.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my support for the Performance Measures and Data Analyst position at AACPL. I hope you grant this request to support our libraries in supporting our community.</p>	
------------------	---------	--------	--------	----	-------	-----	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-12 16:01 Rachel	Frisch	Severna Park	MD		21146 Yes		<p>My name is Rachel Frisch, and I have been the Assistant Branch Manager of the Severna Park Library for almost 4 years.</p> <p>I am writing today in support for the Performance Measures and Data Analyst position at AACPL. The library system brings both resources and joy to our community through the hard work of staff in 16 branches and countless partnerships with other county agencies and community organizations. We play an integral role in making Anne Arundel County the best place for all and to continue this work effectively, we need to be data driven.</p> <p>We all know that data-driven decision-making helps government run more efficiently and effectively, as the county demonstrates through its Arundel Stat program. Without a dedicated Performance Measures and Data Analyst position to manage, analyze, and report information accurately and in real time, our libraries and its staff cannot fully gauge the effectiveness of its public funding. While there have always been pockets of data competency within our system, much of the data that exists within our system is on paper in a branch filing cabinet or deep in an email chain. This is not a failure; it is staff doing the most with what they have. Analyst positions in public libraries have become seen as critical in Maryland and across the country, as they and their funders adapt to the dual pressures of increasing community needs and tightening budgets.</p> <p>In order to make data reliably accessible to library staff, infrastructure needs to be built, which requires a high level of expertise and time. This role would create that infrastructure, allowing staff to focus on serving the community while supporting transparent, well-informed decision-making that benefits everyone and aligns the library with the county's commitment to using data to improve outcomes.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my support for the Performance Measures and Data Analyst position at AACPL. I hope you grant this request to support our libraries in supporting our community.</p>	
-------------------------	--------	--------------	----	--	-----------	--	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-12 17:21	Diane	Benner	Arnold	MD	21012	Yes	<p>My name is Diane Benner. I am the branch manager at the Busch Annapolis Public Library and an Anne Arundel County Resident for 20 years.</p> <p>I am writing today in support for the Performance Measures and Data Analyst position at AACPL. The library system brings both resources and joy to our community through the hard work of staff in 16 branches and countless partnerships with other county agencies and community organizations. We play an integral role in making AAC the best place for all and to continue this work effectively, we need to be data driven.</p> <p>We all know that data-driven decision-making helps the government run more efficiently and effectively, as the county demonstrates through its Arundel Stat program. Without a dedicated Performance Measures and Data Analyst position to manage, analyze, and report information accurately and in real time, our libraries and its staff cannot fully gauge the effectiveness of its public funding. While there have always been pockets of data competency within our system, much of the data that exists within our system is on paper in a branch filing cabinet or deep in an email chain. This is not a failure; it is staff doing the most with what they have. Analyst positions in public libraries have become seen as critical in Maryland and across the country, as they and their funders adapt to the dual pressures of increasing community needs and tightening budgets.</p> <p>In order to make data reliably accessible to library staff, infrastructure needs to be built, which requires a high level of expertise and time. This role would create that infrastructure, allowing staff to focus on serving the community while supporting transparent, well-informed decision-making that benefits everyone and aligns the library with the county's commitment to using data to improve outcomes.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my support for the Performance Measures and Data Analyst position at AACPL. I hope you grant this request to support our libraries in supporting our community.</p>	
2026-05-12 17:41	Milly B	Welsh	Davidsonville	MD	21035	Yes	<p>I urge you to restore the \$25,000 for the Southern High School's greenhouse upgrade. It is essential for the children in the agricultural curriculum to have a working greenhouse.</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-12 18:4	Liz	Glass	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.</p> <p>My name is Liz Glass, and I am a member of the Jewish Federation of Annapolis and the Chesapeake as well as a board member at Temple Beth Shalom. I raised my children here in Anne Arundel County, and I am here tonight to ask the Council to support the creation of a county security grant program for faith-based organizations and small nonprofits facing heightened risk of hate crimes.</p> <p>For me, this issue is deeply personal.</p> <p>Just a few weeks after the shooting at the Tree of Life Congregation, my family was preparing for my daughter's bat mitzvah. Instead of focusing only on what should have been a joyful milestone, we were suddenly having conversations about armed security, safety plans, and how to protect our guests. We paid for security because, at that point, it no longer felt optional.</p> <p>No family should have to think that way when celebrating a religious milestone. No congregation should have to divert enormous portions of its budget simply so people can gather to pray, learn, celebrate, or mourn safely.</p> <p>At Temple Beth Shalom and other synagogues in Anne Arundel County, security costs have become unsustainable. Congregations are spending between \$80,000 and \$140,000 every year on security measures, including armed guards for Shabbat services, holidays, schools, daycare programs, and community events. Some congregations have even had to add separate security fees on top of membership dues just so families can safely participate in communal life.</p> <p>And unfortunately, these concerns are not theoretical or distant. Recently, we have seen anti-Israel graffiti and vandalism appear here in Anne Arundel County. Whether directed at Jews, another faith community, or any vulnerable group, this kind of targeted messaging sends a chilling message that hate has found its way into our own neighborhoods. It is a reminder that we cannot assume "it won't happen here."</p> <p>While I am speaking tonight from the perspective of the Jewish community, this proposal is intended to help protect all vulnerable communities. The pilot program we are proposing would make grants available to faith-based organizations and small nonprofits across Anne Arundel County facing elevated risks related to hate, bias, or targeted threats.</p> <p>We understand the County is facing fiscal challenges, which is why we are asking for a modest pilot program: a countywide pool of \$250,000 with grants of up to \$15,000. Compared to neighboring jurisdictions, this is a relatively small investment, but one that could make a meaningful, and potentially life-saving, difference.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County has always been a community that values inclusion, safety, and belonging. I hope you will consider taking this important step to help ensure that all residents can gather without fear.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
-----------------	-----	-------	-----------	----	-------	-----	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 9:58:	Jennifer	Finn	Edgewater	Maryland	21037	Yes	<p>I am a resident of Homeport Farms neighborhood and the Homeport Farms Park Liaison. During prior budget cycles, the County Executive explored expanding Homeport Farm Park to include rowing facilities. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind returning council members, and inform new members, that rowing is expressly prohibited at Homeport Farms Park under the terms of the deed restriction. I'm attaching our legal opinion on this matter for your reference.</p> <p>Over the years, the rowing community has repeatedly urged various County Executives to pursue rowing at Homeport Farms Park. Each time, the result has been a contentious and costly process that ultimately arrives at the same conclusion: it cannot legally be done. The rowing clubs' own 2016 study expressly concluded that Homeport Farm Park is not a viable location for their purposes.</p> <p>Given the county's many competing priorities, it would save substantial time, money, and public conflict to recognize those past outcomes and focus future rowing discussions on alternative locations better suited for that use.</p>	2022.06.01-ltr-to-aaco-council-re-fy23-proposed-budget.pdf
2026-05-13 10:01:	Dr. Hiram	Larew	Churchton	MD	20733	Yes	<p>Hunger haunts our County. As you can, I urge you to support the full budget request for our County's Food Bank. Thanks.</p>	
2026-05-13 10:01:	Melissa	Mekhail	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. I have seen firsthand how the AACFB has made an impact on supporting me and my community in the time mass layoffs and SNAP benefits getting GUTTED!!!!</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Melissa Mekhail</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 10:11	Jonathan	Shurtleff	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p>
2026-05-13 10:11	irene	hantman	Edgewater	MD	21037	Yes	<p>Please, please, please, fully fund the budget allocation for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in FY 2027. With the federal government abandoning the social safety net we need to do more to protect the vulnerable in our community. There for the grace of God go I.</p>
2026-05-13 10:11	Angel	Woodall	Glen Burnie MD	MD	21032	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the \$2,727,097 in funding allocated to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>As a life-long resident of Anne Arundel County and an employee of AACFB who works closely with our pantry partners and Mobile Pantry program, I witness every day the critical role food assistance plays in the lives of our neighbors. Through conversations with pantry leaders, volunteers, and the individuals and families we serve, I see the very real impact this support has throughout our community.</p> <p>Food insecurity continues to affect more than 66,000 residents in Anne Arundel County. Currently, AACFB resources help provide food assistance to an average of more than 51,000 neighbors each month. These are not just statistics, they represent seniors living on fixed incomes, families with children, caregivers, and hardworking individuals who are struggling to keep up with increasing costs and reduced federal support programs.</p> <p>County funding is essential in helping AACFB respond to the growing need for food assistance. This investment allows the organization to continue supplying nutritious food to vulnerable residents and strengthening the network of pantry partners that so many people rely on.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to preserve the full \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. Supporting AACFB is a direct investment in the health and well-being of our community and helps ensure that no neighbor has to face hunger alone. As a proud Anne Arundel County resident, I deeply value the County's commitment to helping all residents thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 10:11 Sarah	Weller-Bentivegn Hanover	MD		21076	Yes							<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>As a public school teacher in AACPS for 24 years, I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our students and neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>
------------------------	--------------------------	----	--	-------	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 10:2	Clare	Carhart	Odenton	MD	21113	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I see first hand how there is great need in the Odenton area. I volunteer at the CAP food pantry and see an increasing number of neighbors who need help with feeding their families. I also help deliver for Backpack Buddies and see the increase in numbers served. In addition, I help stock the Little Free Pantry at Trinity UMC and see that that is pretty much emptied daily.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Clare Carhart</p>	
2026-05-13 10:2	Lois	Kelberman	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity through my volunteer work with the Annapolis Office of Emergency Management's Food Fridays program. Each week we pack 250 to 300 boxes of food from the AAC Food Bank and deliver them to food insecure families. We must take care of our most vulnerable families and this volunteer supported and governmentally run program is an example of government for and by the people.</p> <p>Let's keep it and all the other programs and people served by the AACFB working with this funding in FY27.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
2026-05-13 10:2	Kevin	Hurley	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Please fully fund the Food Bank for the coming year. They provide an invaluable service that isn't being duplicated in the County.</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 10:21	Jarad	Carter	Severna Park	MD	21146-1528	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Jarad Carter</p>
2026-05-13 10:21	Tamara	Casey	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>I personally donate to this organization and feel that it is an essential service in these troubled times, which are only going to get worse over the coming year.</p>
2026-05-13 10:21	Alan	Levy	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Please fully fund the budget allocation for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in FY 2027</p>
2026-05-13 10:31	John	Beasley	Severna Park	Maryland	21146	Yes	<p>Keep budget for Maryland Food Bank.</p>

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 10:4	Dori	Jaffe	Hanover	maryland	21076	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of fully funding the \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget. My family frequently makes monetary donations to the food bank and participates in the holiday sharing program. I also work for a non-profit and see the difficult choices families have to make every month due to high electricity and gas costs, costs which are not likely to decrease in the near future. And those choices tend to lead to food insecurity.</p> <p>It is my understanding that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents, a shocking number. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Nobody should go hungry, therefore I urge you to preserve the full \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. I'm sure there are other budget cuts that can be made that don't require your residents and constituents to go hungry, a basic human right.</p> <p>Thank you for your putting the health and well-being of your residents above all else, Dori Jaffe</p>	
-----------------	------	-------	---------	----------	-------	-----	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 11:0	Ryan	Frantz	Arnold	MD	21012	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>It should be the least controversial act to feed our neighbors. For those of us privileged enough to do so, we eat _at least_ 3 times a day. As a child I had local programs help me and my family eat regularly until we were in a more stable environment to provide for ourselves. There is nothing that unites a community like sharing a meal. Let's not let anyone go without.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Ryan</p>	
2026-05-13 11:0	Bryan	Levy	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 11:04	Stacey	McCoy	Davidsonville	MD	21035	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of maintaining the \$2,727,097 funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work, support their mission and understand the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Stacey McCoy</p>	
------------------	--------	-------	---------------	----	-------	-----	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 11:0	Katherine	Kincade	Odenton	MD	21113	Yes		<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I saw firsthand how much AACFB makes a difference in the Anne Arundel community last year. Not only did I unfortunately witness increased food insecurity, but I also saw just how many people are willing to help their neighbors in need. AACFB gave those who want to assist an avenue to do so, which would not be possible without their existing funding. Further, with the cost of living only increasing without wages equally increasing, I strongly believe that AACFB needs this funding to continue meeting the growing demand for food assistance.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
2026-05-13 11:1	Jennifer	Bell	Baltimore	MD	21225-2754	Yes		<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>I live in AA county and see the need for help in the Brooklyn Park area. I also donate to AA county foodbank with every paycheck automatically. I am doing my part, please do yours!!</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 11:3	Dennis	Frey	Odenton	MD	21113	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>I personally do my part by contributing to the Food Bank monthly because I am aware of the needs of many of our citizens.</p> <p>Please don't let the less fortunate of AA county go hungry</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>
2026-05-13 11:4	kari	Alperovitz-Bichel	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>Please save the safety net for our county residents! we need to fully fund the food bank!</p>
2026-05-13 11:5	Carrie	Waters	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council, I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>As a volunteer with AACFB, as well as a donor, I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Please keep funding intact for the AACFB. Thank you.</p>
2026-05-13 11:5	Stuart	Cohen	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>For over 10 years I have been a volunteer driver for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. During that time I have seen firsthand the explosion of food insecurity and need within our County. I believe it is essential to fully fund the County Executive's funding proposal for the Food Bank. Please rest assured, I have witnessed an extremely well managed organization dedicated to helping our most needy fellow residents. Thanks for your anticipated support.</p>

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 11:51	Lauren	Aragon	Glen Burnie	MD	21060-8338	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>
2026-05-13 12:21	Rose	Jacobius	Gambrills	MD	21054	Yes	<p>I am contacting you to urge full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>As someone who donates as much as I can to the Food Bank, I am familiar with how they not only help those who are struggling to provide themselves or their families with regular, nutritious meals, but also build community. They raise awareness of the disparities between those who have more than enough and those who have too little; they provide opportunities for members of the community to participate in the work of providing food and related aid; they partner with local businesses and farms, forming relationships that not only feed those who lack resources but also prevent food waste and associated costs.</p> <p>And the Food Bank is administered by mission-focused people who make the most of every dollar and every connection and don't waste time or resources.</p> <p>Please do your part to bolster this successful effort to enrich our community in so many ways and to sustain those who would suffer greatly without this help.</p>
2026-05-13 12:21	Ellen	Murphy	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes	<p>Please restore the full budget to the Annapolis food bank. Food insecurity is a current problem that does not seem to diminish.</p>
2026-05-13 12:31	Jerod	Aragon	Glen Burnie	MD	21060-8338	Yes	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 12:51	Victoria	Commins	CROWNSVILLE	MD	21032-1747	Yes		<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget. The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Victoria M Commins</p>
2026-05-13 12:51	Mary	Brown	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes		<p>Please fully fund the county's contribution to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. The \$2.7 million is taxpayer money well spent on an organization that does so much to feed our neighbors. Given what has happened to federal food programs, funding is much more important now, and demonstrates the county's commitment to those who need help.</p>
2026-05-13 12:51	Laura	Brown	Odenton	Maryland	21113	Yes		<p>The need for food in Anne Arundel County is critical, especially with the rising cost of groceries. Please do not decrease the county contribution to the Anne Arundel Food Bank.</p>
2026-05-13 13:4	John	Sybert	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes		<p>Folks are hurting in high tax Blue states like MD. Don't decrease funding to AA County Food Bank.</p>
2026-05-13 13:51	Vanessa	Carter	Odenton	MD	21113	No	Anne Arundel County F	<p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>As a board member for the past two years, I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>AACFB resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 neighbors each month of the estimated 66,000 count residents in need—real people, real families, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month. Most recently, it means providing boxes of food to TSA employees at BWI-Marshall airport worked without being paid.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Vanessa S. Carter AACFB Board Member</p>
2026-05-13 14:21	William	Shepard	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	Yes		

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 14:51	VICKI	JORDAN	gambrills, md	MD	21054	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Vicki Jordan</p>
2026-05-13 14:51	mike	mullins	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p>
2026-05-13 15:11	Marie	Kerr	Davidsonville	Maryland	21035	Yes	
2026-05-13 16:00	Brenda	Desjardins	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes	<p>Tomorrow it could be you or me.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>
2026-05-13 16:21	Alexandra	Fotos	Annapolis	Md	21401	Yes	<p>Please fully fund the allocation for the AA Cty Food Bank for 2027. These times are very trying for many folks but especially for those truly in need. Thank you.</p>

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 16:51	Linda	Wilk	Davidsonville	MD	21035	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Linda Wilk</p>
2026-05-13 17:11	Beverly	McFarland	Severna Park	MD	21146	Yes	<p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for Anne Arundel Cty. Food Bank currently included in FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with their work and the huge difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>I have made the food bank my place to donate when I can because no one in a country like ours should go hungry!</p> <p>With the politics in our country today we are seeing more and more need for food banks!</p> <p>Please keep the funding intact!!</p>
2026-05-13 17:41	Norma	Farrell	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>The local government must come to the aid of our fellow citizens.</p>
2026-05-13 21:01	Elizabeth	Brito	Millersville	MD	21108	Yes	<p>Please fully fund the Food Bank. People need to see that government is still working for them! This is not the time to cut funding that helps those in need. People need to believe in good government again.</p>

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 22:01 Kevin	Kayton	Shady Side	MD	20764	Yes		<p>Hello, my name is Kevin Kayton, and I am a senior at Southern High School and currently serve as the President of the Southern FFA Chapter for the 2025-2026 school year.</p> <p>The Southern High School greenhouse is a key hands on learning space where students connect classroom science to real plant production. It supports instruction in horticulture, biology, and environmental science by allowing students to grow and manage plants in a controlled environment. Students don't just learn theory, they directly see how light, water, temperature, and soil conditions affect living systems. It also supports FFA and agricultural education by building responsibility, leadership, and real-world career skills.</p> <p>Right now, the greenhouse is limited by a major structural issue. The entire left side panel is not functioning properly, which disrupts ventilation, temperature control, and light balance. In a greenhouse, even small inconsistencies can significantly affect plant health. As a result, growing conditions are uneven, leading to reduced success rates and wasted materials.</p> <p>This problem also increases long term costs. When plants fail due to unstable conditions, supplies like seeds, soil, and nutrients are repeatedly lost and must be replaced. Continued use of a damaged structure also risks further deterioration, which could lead to more expensive repairs in the future.</p> <p>The importance of this issue has already been recognized at the county level. The Board of Education unanimously approved \$25,000 to repair and restore the greenhouse, showing clear support for maintaining this learning space.</p> <p>Renovating the greenhouse will restore stable growing conditions, improve student learning outcomes, and reduce waste of resources. It ensures that Southern's agriculture program continues to provide meaningful, hands on education that prepares students for future careers in science and agriculture.</p>	
------------------------	--------	------------	----	-------	-----	--	--	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-13 22:01	Nancy	Rohan	Churchton	Maryland	20733	Yes	<p>Hello, my name is Nancy Rohan, and I am a senior at Southern High School and play as a varsity volleyball athlete.</p> <p>Southern High School's athletic facilities are no longer keeping up with the needs of its students. A second gym and expanded team rooms would make a major difference in how athletes train, prepare, and build team culture.</p> <p>Right now, multiple teams are forced to share limited gym space, which leads to split practices, shortened training time, and constant scheduling conflicts. A second gym would allow programs to run full practices at the same time, improving consistency, focus, and overall performance.</p> <p>The current team rooms are also overcrowded and undersized. Athletes often have very little personal space to change, store gear, or meet as a team. In some cases, poor ventilation and tight conditions create discomfort that makes it harder to focus before practice or competition. As a volleyball player, sharing a cramped space limits both preparation and the sense of belonging that comes with being part of a team.</p> <p>Team rooms are meant to build connection, strategy, and identity, but when space is limited, that purpose is weakened. Instead of being a place to grow as a unit, it becomes a rushed and crowded environment.</p> <p>A second gym and expanded team rooms would improve safety, increase practice quality, and strengthen team culture. More space means better training, better communication, and a stronger overall athletic experience for students at Southern High School.</p>
2026-05-13 22:31	Joan	Bell	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>With high inflation, especially for groceries, it's critical to fully fund the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. It's crucial to fully support the Food Bank's role of feeding hungry residents of our county. Sincerely, Joan Bell</p>
2026-05-14 6:51	Devin	Mack	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p>
2026-05-14 6:59	Peter	Summers	Annapolis	Md	21403	Yes	
2026-05-14 7:28	Hanna	Buford	Gambrills	MD	21054	Yes	
2026-05-14 8:24	Andy	Dukes	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity as I am aa volunteer and see it first hand!</p>

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-14 10:1	Tristan	Kastronis	West river	Maryland	20778	Yes	Dear County Council Members, My name is Tristan Kastronis and I am a student at Southern High School in Harwood. I am reaching out to bring thought into our schools facilities that require funding into them to better the education and athletic quality of our school and community. For starters I am an active member of FFA at my school and have been in the agriculture program since my freshman year. Our school greenhouse needs upgrading for our control systems that are able to control things like opening windows at certain times or controlling air temperature throughout the day. This would significantly improve our learning ability and FFA projects that go on inside of our greenhouse. Another issue I see in our school is the lack of women's athletic locker rooms. More specifically they don't have a locker room, only the physical education classes have a locker room. They have a small cramped closet sized room with only a few lockers and 4 girls assigned to each locker. On the other hand the boys have 2 full sized locker rooms with their own locker or a shared locker with one other person. If we had the funding to fix these issues it would not only improve our education and athletic facilities it would improve the morale of our students that participate in FFA and our sports teams. Sincerely, Tristan Kastronis
2026-05-14 10:1	marc	schlossman	anna	md	21409	Yes	No one in this country should go hungry. Support the AACo food bank
2026-05-14 10:1	James	Jacobs	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes	Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council, I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget. I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-14 11:11	Meredith	Clay	Deale	MD	20751	Yes	<p>Dear Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,</p> <p>My name is Meredith Clay, and I am a proud 2019 graduate of Southern High School and Southern FFA alumna. I am writing to respectfully urge the County to restore the \$25,000 in funding for the mechanical upgrade to the greenhouse control system at Southern High School.</p> <p>Southern High School FFA played a major role in developing my drive, passion, and career path in agriculture. The work I did through FFA, especially in the greenhouse, gave me hands-on experience in controlled environment agriculture and helped me understand the real-world value of plant science, agricultural education, and applied learning. Those experiences were not just meaningful at the time; they directly shaped the path I am still pursuing today.</p> <p>After graduating from Southern High School in 2019, I went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University with a double major in Horticultural Science and Plant and Environmental Soil Science, with an emphasis in crops, and a minor in Plant Breeding. I am now pursuing a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding at Texas A&M University. I can say with full confidence that I would not be where I am today without Southern High School FFA and the opportunities I had through the agriculture program and greenhouse.</p> <p>The greenhouse is a critical part of agricultural education at Southern High School. It gives students practical experience in plant propagation, hydroponics and aquaponics, greenhouse management, agricultural sales, and career skills. These are the kinds of experiences that help students discover their interests, build confidence, and develop skills that can lead to meaningful careers in agriculture, science, natural resources, business, and education.</p> <p>The Anne Arundel County Board of Education adopted its FY2027 budget request, which included \$25,000 specifically for the mechanical upgrade to the greenhouse control system at Southern High School. Unfortunately, that funding is not currently included in the County budget. Without a fully operational greenhouse, students lose access to one of the most valuable hands-on learning tools available through the Career and Agricultural Science Education and FFA program.</p> <p>The Anne Arundel County Agriculture Commission has expressed strong support for the expansion of the Southern High School Agriculture and Natural Resource Program and has emphasized the importance of maintaining a fully operational greenhouse to sustain and grow these efforts. The broader agriculture community has also supported the expansion of agriculture education in the county, including the County Council's approval last year of a \$70,000 line item specifically for agriculture programs.</p> <p>As AACPS continues expanding agriculture programs to other schools, it is essential that Southern High School has the resources needed to support this growth. Agriculture is the number one industry in Maryland, and educating students in agriculture is an investment in the future of this vital industry.</p> <p>As someone whose academic and professional path was directly influenced by Southern High School FFA, I respectfully ask that the County restore the \$25,000 in funding for the Southern High School greenhouse control system upgrade. This investment will ensure that current and future students have access to the same hands-on agricultural education opportunities that helped shape my future.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Meredith Clay Southern High School Class of 2019 Southern FFA Alumna Ph.D. Student in Plant Breeding, Texas A&M University</p>	
------------------	----------	------	-------	----	-------	-----	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-14 12:31	Elena	Johnson	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. As the Chapter Coordinator for the Project Linus Annapolis MD Chapter, I've worked directly with the Food Bank in providing blankets for baby pantries as well as the Backpack Buddy Blankets for students receiving the backpacks of food during the school year. The need for resources is only increasing with current events and maintaining the full funding for the AACFB is essential in helping meet these needs. Please keep the funding as is if not increasing it. Start taxing corporations and billionaires appropriately to make up any shortfalls. If we are going back in time socially, then we at least need to tax corporations and the wealthy the same rates as the 1950s, preferably more. Thank you.</p>
2026-05-14 15:31	Deidra	Abbott	Severna Park	MD	21146	Yes	<p>I work at the Odenton library and see first hand the importance of the library to the broader community. Reduced funding would severely impact the community.</p>
2026-05-14 16:31	Neil	Moore	Severna Park	Maryland	21146	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>Ideally it should be increased based on the needs of the community. We should explore other options as well to fight systemic food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-14 17:11	George	Dinwiddie	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes		<p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>Times are indeed hard, but let's not take it out of the mouths of the most needy. No one in our country should be going hungry.</p>	
2026-05-14 17:41	Stephanie	Evans	Pasadena	Maryland	21122	No	Harvest Resources in	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council, We are writing you in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget. I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. We are one of the largest food pantries in Anne Arundel County that serves the entire county. We would not be able to serve over 20,000 people each year without their continued help.</p>	
2026-05-14 21:51	Jennifer	Mizrahi	Annapolis	MD	21403	No	Jewish Federation of A	<p>I will speak off the cuff but have 3 important documents to share. This first one is the letter from the Jewish Federation of Annapolis & the Chesapeake to the Council. I don't see how to upload the other documents in this same field so I will fill out other forms.</p>	testimony-for-aac-council-on-security-grants.pdf
2026-05-14 21:51	Jennifer	Mizrahi	Annapolis	MD	21403	No	Anti Defamation Leagu	<p>This is the letter that was sent to the Council earlier from the Anti-Defamation League.</p>	npsg-funding-letter-fy27-aac.pdf-adl-letter-endorsing-security-grants-in-aac.pdf
2026-05-14 21:51	Jennifer	Mizrahi	Annapolis	MD	21403	No	Kol Shalom and severa	<p>This is testimony from Kol Shalom Congregations and several Jewish individuals from AAC</p>	letters-of-support-for-security-grants-in-aac-002-docx-appendix-for-council-testimony.pdf

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-14 23:2'	Joann	Vaughan	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>I have seen this first hand as a volunteer and board member at AACFB. Their work is critical to our community. Whether it is supplying food pantries throughout the county, taking to mobile pantry to underserved areas or preparing boxes of shelf stable food for unpaid federal workers at Ft Meade and BWI, AACFB is the front line against food insecurity in Anne Arundel County. And we cannot work to meet this need without this funding.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Best</p> <p>Joann Vaughan</p>	
------------------	-------	---------	-----------	----	-------	-----	--	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-15 8:57	Kimberly	Richer	Annapolis	MD	21403-2301	Yes	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>I have seen this firsthand as a community member and volunteer with local nonprofits in Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Kimberly Richer</p>	
2026-05-15 15:5	Jonathan	Goldsmith	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes	<p>In reference to Security Grants for all faith and non-profit institutions at risk of hate crimes: You've heard me and others testify, you'll hear from more, you've received many written comments. I just want to point out that CE Pittman said this was not worth doing because it would not make a difference: WRONG! Even a \$15K grant to an institution makes a big difference (equivalent to \$15K!). He also didn't want to do it because matching grants are difficult to run: SO WHAT? Just make it a straight grant program. This is not rocket science, but common sense! JDG, President of Jewish Federation of Annapolis & the Chesapeake</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-15 17:21	Drew	Griffin	Galesville	Maryland	20765	Yes	<p>Good evening, Chairman and members of the County Council. My name is Drew Griffin. I have lived in South County for over 12 years, and I married into a family that has called this community home for over 35 years. I am here tonight as a father with two children currently in the Southern High School pipeline. I am asking the Council to sponsor a budget amendment restoring the \$5.5 million capital project for the Southern High School auxiliary gym and team room. My greatest life lessons growing up were learned within the walls of a gym and on the grass of a sports field. Athletics teach our children accountability, resilience, and teamwork. By stripping this Board of Education-approved project from the budget, the county is actively robbing South County kids of those exact opportunities. Look at the geographic reality of this budget. Southern High is the only high school in Anne Arundel County restricted to a single gym. Yet, this draft budget manages to prioritize and preserve multi-million dollar athletic facility upgrades for schools already flush with county infrastructure north of Highway 214. South County families pay the same taxes and have built this community for generations, but our students are being treated as an afterthought. A single gym is entirely inadequate to balance physical education, overlapping team practices, and community youth leagues. Councilmember Leadbetter, my family and our neighbors are counting on you to champion District 7. To the entire Council: please reallocate funds from less essential areas and restore this \$5.5 million line item. Give our children the same basic athletic foundation that every other student north of Central Avenue already receives. Thank you</p>	
2026-05-16 15:21	Mike	Kane	Crofton	MD	2114	Yes	<p>Please support the Anne Arundel County Food Bank's 2027 Budget Request.</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-17 7:04: Michael	Norton	Annapolis	MD	21409	Yes		<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing in support of keeping intact the \$2,727,097 in funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) currently included in the FY 2027 budget.</p> <p>I am well acquainted with the AACFB's work and the profound difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. This is an issue of personal importance to me, and I believe defeating food insecurity is an all-hands effort. For this reason, I personally focus my charity, both time and treasure, towards AACFB. Volunteering in their warehouse makes it pretty clear to me that personal charity alone can not meet the need.</p> <p>The most recent estimate is that food insecurity affects more than 66,000 county residents. Anne Arundel County Food Bank resources are currently reaching, on average, more than 51,000 of those neighbors each month. That number reflects real families in our community, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>Many of these families are navigating rising costs and the loss of federal assistance programs they rely on to make ends meet. The County's funding support enables AACFB to meet the growing demand for food assistance, ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have the food they need to thrive.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve full funding of \$2,727,097 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank in the FY 2027 budget. This investment in our community is one of the most direct ways the County can ensure that no neighbor goes without food. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I am proud to support an organization that reflects a community committed to seeing all its members thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Michael Norton</p>	
2026-05-17 7:34: Cherry	Miloe	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes		<p>Please help by keeping the budget for the AACnty Food Bank at \$2,727,097 in FY 2027.</p> <p>I ask each year for the funding to be kept at whatever amount they need.</p> <p>Thank you ALL for what you do for each resident in AACnty!! Hugs to ALL!!</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-17 13:4	Sheri	Berberian	Arnold	MD	21012	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing as a Speech-Language Pathologist with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and as someone who has served AACPS students for the past 16 years. During that time, I have worked across the elementary and middle school levels, serving students with complex communication needs and a high volume of required IEP meetings and related responsibilities.</p> <p>While I am grateful that the County Executive's proposed budget includes funding for four new SLP positions, I respectfully urge the County Council to amend the budget to provide additional positions for school-based SLPs serving students with IEPs in the general education setting.</p> <p>Currently, AACPS needs 28 additional SLPs in order to reduce caseloads to levels that allow us to effectively meet student needs and comply with service requirements. Of the four positions funded in the proposed budget, three are designated for birth-to-five services and one supports the alt-ed framework classroom expansion. None of these positions directly address the growing workload of SLPs working daily with students accessing the general education curriculum.</p> <p>As an SLP split between two middle schools, I experience firsthand the challenge of balancing direct therapy services with the many additional responsibilities required of our role. In addition to providing speech and language services, we are responsible for evaluations, documentation, consultations, case management duties, and frequent IEP meetings. At schools with students who have complex needs, these responsibilities are extensive and significantly reduce the time available to provide direct student services.</p> <p>Our students deserve consistent, high-quality support, and school-based SLPs want to provide that support to the fullest extent possible. However, current staffing levels make that increasingly difficult.</p> <p>AACPS originally requested eight new SLP positions in this budget. I strongly encourage the County Council to support funding for the additional four positions so we can better serve students, support compliance with IEP requirements, and ensure students receive the communication services they need to succeed academically and socially.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, your support of public education, and your consideration of this important issue.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Sheri Berberian, M.S., CCC-SLP Speech-Language Pathologist Anne Arundel County Public Schools</p>	
2026-05-17 14:3	Karen	Whaley	Edgewater	MD	21037	Yes		<p>I am a resident of Wilelinor Estates. In previous budget years the prospect of a rowing facility at Homeport Farm Park has been discussed. There has been robust opposition to this and the deed for the park prohibits this use. In addition, there are now herons roosting in the trees there, which precludes increased traffic at the waters edge. Please do not consider any funding for rowing or any increased activity at the park. It is my understanding that there will be a legal battle if you do, which will be costly and time consuming. Any increased traffic will endanger the protected herony. Thank you.</p>	
2026-05-17 20:3	Jay	McCleave	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes			

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-18 7:47: Sierra	Criste	Deale	Maryland	20751	Yes	<p>I am writing to respectfully ask for the restoration of the \$25,000 funding request for the Southern High School greenhouse mechanical control system upgrade to the FY2027 Anne Arundel County budget.</p> <p>As an alumnus of the Southern High School Agriculture program and current supporter, I can personally attest to the tremendous impact this program has had on my life academically, morally, and civically. The agricultural education opportunities provided through Southern High School helped shape my work ethic, leadership abilities, sense of responsibility, and passion for agriculture.</p> <p>This funding is critical to support hands-on agricultural education through the school's Career and Agricultural Science Education (CASE) and FFA programs. The greenhouse provides students with practical learning opportunities in plant propagation, hydroponics and aquaponics systems, greenhouse management, sales, and career readiness skills that prepare students for careers in agriculture and related industries.</p> <p>The Anne Arundel County Agriculture Commission has expressed strong support for the expansion of the Southern High School Agriculture and Natural Resource Program and has stressed the urgency of ensuring the program has a fully operational greenhouse to sustain and grow these efforts.</p> <p>The broader agricultural community has also strongly supported the program's expansion. Last year, the County Council approved a \$70,000 line item specifically for agricultural programs within the county. This year, AACPS is expanding agricultural programming to additional schools across Anne Arundel County. However, Southern High School must have a fully operational greenhouse to continue serving as a cornerstone of that growth and educational expansion.</p> <p>Agriculture remains the number one industry in Maryland, and Anne Arundel County must recognize the importance of educating our youth in agriculture to ensure the future success and sustainability of this vital industry.</p> <p>I respectfully ask for the restoration of this funding request and investing in the future of agricultural education in Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	
-------------------------	--------	-------	----------	-------	-----	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-18 9:08; Erika	Hall	Lothian	MD	20711	Yes		<p>Good morning, My name is Erika Hall, and I am a parent of three young children and an active member of the South County community. While I'm unable to attend in person this evening, I wanted to submit my strong support for funding a second gym at Southern High School. Quite simply, South County is at a disadvantage today. Southern High School is the only comprehensive high school in Anne Arundel County without a second gym. At the same time, its current gym is not comparable to others in the county, it is outdated, undersized, and not reflective of the standard our students and community should expect.</p> <p>This has a very real impact. Limited gym space restricts athletic programming, reduces access for students, and places strain on community organizations like SCYA that rely on these facilities to serve families. I am already seeing the ripple effects at the youth level, and this will only become more challenging as my children, and others in our community, grow into high school programs. From a planning and equity standpoint, this is a necessary investment. As the county continues to grow and new schools are built, it is critical that South County is not left behind. Families in our region deserve the same level of access, experience, and opportunity as those in other parts of the county.</p> <p>Delaying this investment not only prolongs an existing inequity, it risks creating greater capacity challenges and higher costs in the future as demand continues to increase.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that funding for the second gym at Southern High School be reinstated in the FY27 budget. This is an investment not only in current students, but in the families and future generations who will rely on these facilities for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to serving all communities across Anne Arundel County.</p>	
2026-05-18 11:4; Evelyn	Schramm	Catonsville	Maryland	21228	Yes		<p>Before moving to a retirement community fourteen years ago, I lived on an Anne Arundel County family farm for 66 years. A good part of our family income came from the flowering plants we raised in our six greenhouses. The rest of our income came from vegetables and turkeys raised outdoors.</p> <p>More and more vegetables are now being grown in the greenhouses that provide better control over pests and disease as well as better nutrient management. We need to provide our future farmers with the education to succeed in all new areas of farming including aquaculture. They need to know how to select the right type of greenhouse for their crops as well as the best varieties of those crops for their area and customer base. Anne Arundel County needs up-to-date greenhouse equipment.</p>	

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-18 13:4; Mark	Clay	Deale	MD	20751	Yes		<p>Dear Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,</p> <p>My name is Mark Clay, and I am the proud parent of Meredith Clay, a 2019 graduate of Southern High School and Southern FFA alumna. I am writing to respectfully ask the County to restore the \$25,000 in funding for the mechanical upgrade to the greenhouse control system at Southern High School.</p> <p>As a parent, I saw firsthand how much Southern High School FFA influenced my daughter's passion for agriculture. The program gave her hands-on learning experiences that helped shape her confidence, work ethic, and career goals. In particular, her time working in the greenhouse introduced her to controlled environment agriculture and gave her practical experience that became an important foundation for her future.</p> <p>After graduating from Southern High School, Meredith went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University with a double major in Horticultural Science and Plant and Environmental Soil Science, with an emphasis in crops, and a minor in Plant Breeding. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding at Texas A&M University.</p> <p>I firmly believe that Meredith would not be where she is today without Southern High School FFA and the experiences she gained through the agriculture program and greenhouse. That program helped turn her interest in agriculture into a lifelong academic and professional path.</p> <p>The greenhouse is essential to the success of the Southern High School Agriculture Education Program. It gives students hands-on experience in plant propagation, greenhouse management, hydroponics, aquaponics, agricultural sales, and career readiness. These are the kinds of opportunities that help students discover their passions and prepare for meaningful futures in agriculture and related fields.</p> <p>The Anne Arundel County Board of Education included \$25,000 in its FY2027 budget request for this greenhouse control system upgrade, but that funding is not currently included in the County budget. I respectfully urge the County to restore this funding so that Southern High School can continue providing students with valuable hands-on agricultural education.</p> <p>Agriculture is the number one industry in Maryland, and supporting agricultural education means supporting the future of that industry. As a parent of a Southern FFA alumna whose future was directly shaped by this program, I ask you to please support this investment.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mark Clay Parent of Meredith Clay Southern High School Class of 2019 / Southern FFA Alumna</p>	
-----------------------	------	-------	----	-------	-----	--	--	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-18 13:4	Colleen	Clay	Deale	MD	20751	Yes	<p>Dear Members of the Anne Arundel County Council,</p> <p>My name is Colleen Clay, and I am a proud parent of Meredith Clay, a 2019 graduate of Southern High School and Southern FFA alumna. I am writing to respectfully urge the County to restore the \$25,000 in funding for the mechanical upgrade to the greenhouse control system at Southern High School.</p> <p>As a parent, I witnessed firsthand the impact that Southern High School FFA and the Agriculture Education Program had on our daughter. Her time in FFA helped develop her drive, confidence, and passion for agriculture. The hands-on experience she gained in the greenhouse gave her meaningful exposure to plant science, greenhouse production, and controlled environment agriculture. Those experiences helped shape not only her education, but also her future career path.</p> <p>After graduating from Southern High School in 2019, Meredith went on to attend Texas A&M University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Horticultural Science and Plant and Environmental Soil Science, with an emphasis in crops, and a minor in Plant Breeding. She is now pursuing a Ph. D. in Plant Breeding at Texas A&M University.</p> <p>I truly believe that Meredith would not be where she is today without the foundation she received through Southern High School FFA and the agriculture program. The greenhouse was not simply an extracurricular space; it was a hands-on learning environment that allowed students like our daughter to discover their interests, develop practical skills, and see a future for themselves in agriculture.</p> <p>The greenhouse remains a critical resource for current and future students. It supports hands-on instruction in plant propagation, hydroponics and aquaponics, greenhouse management, agricultural sales, and career readiness. These opportunities are essential for students interested in agriculture, natural resources, environmental science, plant science, business, and many other career paths.</p> <p>The Anne Arundel County Board of Education adopted its FY2027 budget request, which included \$25,000 specifically for the mechanical upgrade to the greenhouse control system at Southern High School. Unfortunately, that funding is not currently included in the County budget. Without a fully operational greenhouse, students lose access to one of the most valuable learning tools within the CASE and FFA program.</p> <p>The Anne Arundel County Agriculture Commission has expressed strong support for the expansion of the Southern High School Agriculture and Natural Resource Program and has emphasized the importance of maintaining a fully operational greenhouse. As AACPS continues expanding agriculture education to other schools, Southern High School must have the proper resources to support and sustain this growth.</p> <p>Agriculture is the number one industry in Maryland, and investing in agricultural education is an investment in students, workforce development, and the future of the agriculture industry. As a parent of a Southern FFA alumna whose life and career path were directly shaped by this program, I respectfully ask that the County restore the \$25,000 in funding for the Southern High School greenhouse control system upgrade. This investment will give current and future students the same meaningful opportunities that helped shape my daughter's future.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Colleen Clay Parent of Meredith Clay Southern High School Class of 2019 / Southern FFA Alumna</p>	
-----------------	---------	------	-------	----	-------	-----	--	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-18 14:31	Katie	Kenny	Millersville	Maryland	21108	Yes	<p>I am writing as a citizen and school nurse in the Anne Arundel County School Health Program to bring forward a concern that directly impacts student health and safety across our schools.</p> <p>As you review and finalize the current budget, I want to highlight the growing challenge of retaining and recruiting qualified school nurses under the current compensation and benefits structure.</p> <p>At present, no adjustments to salary, benefits, or additional support for school nurses were included in the proposed budget submitted for this cycle. School nurses are not compensated during school breaks or closures, which creates financial strain and instability compared to other nursing roles with year-round pay. Additionally, we do not receive any paid bereavement leave, nor can we carry any leave over between school year to school year. We aren't given the chance to participate in disability or life insurance programs.</p> <p>Our paid leave is distributed in 4-day increments twice a year. This structure means that nurses are, at most, eight days away from being without income if a life event happens. We aren't allowed to become seriously ill. Our children can't become seriously ill and require our care and attention. Again, we cannot accrue leave year-to-year and cannot participate in disability programs.</p> <p>School nurses serve as the primary medical professionals within school buildings. We are responsible for managing student health needs, responding to emergencies, supporting chronic conditions, and overseeing the work of health assistants who operate under our professional licenses. This places significant clinical responsibility and liability on school nurses each day.</p> <p>In addition to these responsibilities, school nurses regularly respond to high-acuity medical situations and emergencies, often serving as the sole healthcare professional in the building. This work can be both clinically and emotionally demanding, contributing to increased burnout over time. Without adequate compensation and support, this further impacts the ability to retain experienced nurses in these roles.</p> <p>I respectfully ask the Council to consider addressing this issue as part of the current budget process by exploring options such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Retention or recruitment incentives for school nurses •Salary adjustments or supplemental compensation where feasible •Additional support measures to help sustain and stabilize this workforce <p>Investing in school nurses is an investment in student safety, attendance, and overall well-being. Ensuring that schools are staffed with qualified medical professionals is essential to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to the health and safety of Anne Arundel County students.</p>	
------------------	-------	-------	--------------	----------	-------	-----	---	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-18 15:4	Sarah	McGroarty	Severn	Maryland	21144	Yes	<p>Dear Anne Arundel County Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Sarah McGroarty, and I am both an Anne Arundel County resident and a School Nurse serving within Anne Arundel County Public Schools at a Community School. I am submitting this testimony regarding the FY27 proposed budget and the direct impact current budget decisions are having on school health services, workforce retention, and student safety.</p> <p>School nurses in Anne Arundel County have recently been informed that there will be no recommended salary increases for the 2026–2027 school year. At the same time, some nurses, including myself, are being notified of reductions in work hours due to budget constraints, directly impacting income and financial stability. These decisions send a concerning message to a workforce already facing high levels of responsibility, stress, and burnout.</p> <p>Anne Arundel County continues to experience significant turnover among school nurses, and budget-related employment limitations are a major contributing factor. In addition to stagnant wages, school nurses are not compensated during many scheduled school closures, including school breaks and other non-working closure periods, creating inconsistent and unpredictable income throughout the year. School nurses should also be offered benefits that reflect the nature and demands of their work, including access to life insurance and disability insurance. The absence of these protections further limits the competitiveness and sustainability of these positions and may discourage retention of qualified healthcare professionals.</p> <p>The impact of budget constraints extends beyond compensation and directly affects school operations and safety. School nurses are routinely limited in what supplies and equipment can be ordered for health rooms due to strict budget restrictions. In practice, this means nurses are often expected to respond to emergencies, injuries, illnesses, and traumatic situations without the supplies or functional equipment necessary to safely and effectively manage these incidents.</p> <p>As the primary medical provider in a high school serving over 2,000 students and approximately 200 staff members, my role extends far beyond routine first aid or medication administration. I respond to medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, acute illnesses, and staff health concerns on a regular basis. Despite these responsibilities, I have had to personally purchase equipment because the equipment provided does not consistently meet real-world needs during student and staff medical scenarios, and replacements are often denied due to budget limitations.</p> <p>School nurses are often the first line of medical response within school buildings. Underfunding school health services does not simply affect staff morale—it directly impacts the health, safety, and emergency readiness of our schools.</p> <p>I respectfully urge the County Council to prioritize funding for school health services in the FY27 budget by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting competitive compensation and salary increases for school nurses - Reviewing employee leave policies, including paid bereavement leave and expanded paid leave options - Evaluating compensation practices for scheduled school closures and breaks - Expanding employee benefits, including access to life insurance and disability insurance - Increasing budgets for school health supplies, medical equipment, and operational needs <p>Continued underinvestment in school nursing is unsustainable and places unnecessary strain on an already essential workforce responsible for the safety and wellbeing of Anne Arundel County students and staff.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to supporting safe and healthy school communities.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah McGroarty, RN Anne Arundel County Resident School Nurse, Anne Arundel County Public Schools</p>	
-----------------	-------	-----------	--------	----------	-------	-----	--	--

FY27 Budget Testimony as of 5/19

2026-05-19 12:21	Kurt	Svendsen	ARNOLD	MD	21012	Yes		See attached PDF file with my one-page written testimony.	fy-2027-proposed-budget-hearing-2026-05-19.pdf
2026-05-19 12:51	Brendan	Maltese	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes		<p>I'm writing today to urge you to preserve funding for the Jumpers Hole Rd project. The project is currently in the 60% design phase, and is relying on ROW acquisitions to move further into construction. Improvements to this road are long overdue, and have fallen victim to delay after delay. Last year, this council shifted funding into the out-years due to those delays. If an amendment to do so comes before you again, please resist doing so and seek solutions for moving faster.</p> <p>My community started asking for this project years before my son was born. He just turned 5, and has recently mastered riding a bike. We've been riding around our neighborhood, but the streets are busy enough that keeping him safe requires intense supervision. If the Jumpers project had been completed by now, we would have a safe route directly from our home to the B&A trail, which is less than half a mile away. Getting there right now requires loading the bikes in the car and driving half a mile on the already congested Jumpers Hole Rd to the trail. It's ridiculous. This is a simple connection that will benefit so many people. Please do everything you can to expedite it.</p>	image.jpg



Testimony - In Support
Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Operating Budget - AACC
Pia Morrison
President, SEIU Local 500
May 13, 2026

Council Chair Hummer and members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

I am proud to serve as President of SEIU Local 500, representing tens of thousands of educational workers including the part-time and adjunct faculty at Anne Arundel Community College.

I urge you to fully fund the budget request by County Executive Pittman for Anne Arundel Community College.

Community colleges are not luxuries. They are economic engines. They provide pathways to good jobs, workforce training, continuing education, and affordable higher education for working families across Anne Arundel County. At a time when families are already struggling with rising housing costs, healthcare expenses, and economic uncertainty, cutting or underfunding the college budget would move opportunity further out of reach for the very people this institution was created to serve.

But this is also about workers.

The academic workers who support students every day —whether administrative employees, maintenance workers, food service workers, technology staff, frontline support professionals, or faculty — all are being asked to do more with less. Chronic understaffing and budget pressure leads to burnout, vacancies, and reduced student support. When workers are stretched thin, students feel the impact immediately.

Fully funding the college budget means protecting educational quality, maintaining critical student services, and respecting the workers who make this institution function. It means investing in the future workforce of this county and ensuring that higher education remains accessible, affordable, and strong.

On behalf of the members of SEIU Local 500, I again urge the Council to stand with students, workers, and families by fully funding the Anne Arundel Community College budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Testimony - In Support
Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Operating Budget - AACC
Travis B. Simon
Executive Director, SEIU Local 500
May 13, 2026

Council Chair Hummer and members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

My name is Travis B. Simon, and I serve as the Executive Director of SEIU Local 500. I strongly urge you to fully fund County Executive Steuart Pittman's budget request for Anne Arundel Community College.

Our union represents adjunct faculty at AACC — educators who are on the front lines of higher education and who teach thousands of students across this county every semester. These instructors are not supplemental to the mission of the college. They are an integral part of the mission. They teach core classes, workforce certification programs, transfer courses, and career education that students rely on to build better futures.

Yet too many adjunct faculty continue to face economic instability despite the essential role they play. Many juggle multiple jobs, lack adequate compensation, and work semester to semester without the security or support that reflects their contribution to the institution. When colleges are underfunded, adjunct faculty are often the first to absorb the consequences through larger workloads, fewer resources, and continued inequities.

Fully funding AACC's budget is about protecting educational access and quality, but it is also about valuing the educators who make that access possible. Students deserve instructors who are supported, respected, and able to focus on teaching instead of worrying about whether resources will be cut again next year.

Investing in AACC is an investment in working families, in workforce development, and in the economic future of Anne Arundel County. We urge this Council to fully fund the college's budget request and demonstrate that this county values both students and the educators who serve them every day. Thank you for your time.

Testimony of the Reverend Lauren M. Bloom re:
Anne Arundel County's FY 2027 Budget

As the Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Eastport, Annapolis (St. Luke's), I offer this testimony in support of full funding for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) in the County's FY 2027 budget. For over twenty years, St. Luke's has operated a weekly food pantry to provide healthy food to our neighbors in need. We are a certified Food Pantry of AACFB that serves up to one hundred households each week. The majority of our guests live in Eastport and Annapolis. Many reside in Local Authority Housing and are without private transportation. This restriction, along with high poverty levels, reduced government food benefits, and rising grocery prices, limits their ability to otherwise obtain essential food items that St. Luke's provides.

AACFB has designated St. Luke's as a "pantry of special needs" because we serve so many children who live in poverty. Demand for our services has grown rapidly over the course of the past year, and we have learned that our neighbors' needs can spike unexpectedly. For example, when SNAP benefits were cut off by the federal government shutdown, we saw a 30% jump in the number of households that came to us for food. That number has decreased somewhat with the restoration of SNAP benefits, but we anticipate that the need in our community will continue to grow as federal funding cuts continue.

St. Luke's depends heavily on AACFB for most of the food we provide. AACFB gives us a monthly delivery of non-perishable and frozen items, along with a weekly pick up of fresh produce as available. We supplement those essential supplies with surplus inventory donated by two local supermarkets and purchases funded by private contributions. We are grateful for these donations, but they are nowhere near sufficient to keep our neighbors adequately fed. Without the food we receive from AACFB, we would be unable to meet the growing needs of those who depend on St. Luke's to feed themselves and their families.

St. Luke's is not the only food resource provider that depends on AACFB for essential supplies. We understand that AACFB provided more than three million meals to Anne Arundel County residents through food pantries like ours last year. Supporting AACFB in the 2027 budget will make it possible for St. Luke's and other providers to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable people in Anne Arundel County. Without adequate funding, AACFB may be forced to reduce the I'm looking resources it provides to its network of partners. Such a reduction would be catastrophic for the at-risk children, seniors and other neighbors we serve who are already heavily burdened by rising consumer costs and funding cuts to the social programs they depend upon to make ends meet.

For St. Luke's, feeding the hungry is an essential faith ministry, but one need not be Christian to recognize that fundamental human decency insists upon protecting our most vulnerable citizens from starvation. I respectfully ask you to include full funding for AACFB in the County's FY 2027 budget so that AACFB's network of supplemental food resource providers can continue to distribute life-sustaining support to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your compassionate consideration.

THE LAW OFFICE OF
ANTHONY G. GORSKI LLC
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

2661 RIVA ROAD
BUILDING 300, 1ST FLOOR
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
(443) 837-3504 - TELEPHONE
(410) 267-5901 – FACSIMILE
AGG@AGGORSKI.COM

June 1, 2022

Via Hand Delivery & First-Class Mail

The Honorable County Council for Anne Arundel County, Maryland
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Public Testimony on Proposed FY23 Budget
Department of Recreation & Parks - Homeport Farm Park

Dear Council Members:

This law firm represents the Homeport Farms Homeowners' Association, Inc. ("Homeport"). In recent months, Homeport learned that Anne Arundel County's Department of Recreation & Parks ("R&P") is again considering construction of new amenities to accommodate the rowing community of Anne Arundel County at Homeport Farm Park ("HFP") in Edgewater. Homeport is submitting this written testimony during the FY23 proposed budget review process in order to reach all parties involved and ensure all aspects of this on-again-off-again proposal are openly discussed. Initiatives designed to commit the County to a course of action that will require substantial future resources need to be identified in the budget for discussion – before the commitments are made. Open communication is the only way to prevent future disputes and legal challenges over the use of HFP. Timely disclosure to all interested parties will avoid inefficient use of funds and unnecessary dedication of resources, and allow proper focus on the proposed budget.

Whether the County chooses to expend funds on a specific sport is not the point. Homeport supports efforts to improve water access availability, whether by creating new access locations or through ensuring safe and ADA compliant access that allows more members of the community to enjoy existing water access locations. Homeport's concerns at HFP include compliance with all applicable deed restrictions (just as the HOA requires of its homeowners), the adequacy and safety of ingress and egress at Route 2 for community members and park users, protecting the environment in the Critical Area and Church Creek and ensuring HFP remains available for everyone to enjoy.

Deed Restrictions:

Based upon recent public statements, it seems to be common knowledge that there are perpetual restrictions on the future uses of HFP in the deed conveying the parcel to the County

(the “County Deed”).¹ Additional restrictions were recorded during the subdivision approval process (the “Conservation Restrictions”).² Both restrict the County’s use and development of projects and amenities at HFP. Further, the entire HFP parcel is designated resource conservation (“RCA”) under the Critical Area Program in the County Code.

The 2003 Conservation Restrictions have not been widely discussed. The Conservation Restrictions were recorded as part of the growth allocation and the subdivision approval. The Conservation Restrictions encumber all properties that comprised the proposed subdivision and designate “Conservation Property” areas throughout, including the entire HFP shoreline.³ On the HFP parcel, the Conservation Property areas encompass approximately eight (8±) acres, reducing the acreage available to construct amenities to less than seventeen (17±) acres.⁴ Of the remaining area, nearly two (2±) more acres are restricted as “Archaeologically Sensitive,” making the actual unforested meadow area less than fifteen (15±) acres.⁵

The Conservation Property areas are restricted as follows:

1. No construction or alteration of residential, commercial, industrial, or other structures of any kind will be placed or erected upon the Conservation Property or any use in connection therewith shall be made of the Conservation Property, except for water dependent structures approved by the County.
2. No cutting or removing of vegetation or grading, filling or other activities shall be permitted upon the Conservation Property except for those activities necessary for construction of water dependent facilities and approved by the County. Any and all activities upon the Conservation Property shall only be permitted under either, as applicable, a Buffer Management Plan as required by the Critical Area Act and approved by the County or a Forest Management Plan as required by the Forest Act and approved by the County.
3. The general topography of the landscape of the Conservation Property shall be maintained in its present condition and no excavation or topographic changes shall be made.⁶

These deed restrictions addressing physical/structural changes at HFP are a clear obstacle to developing a rowing facility. Such a facility will also violate the use restrictions contained in the deeds. The County Deed encumbers HFP with a

perpetual restriction that the property shall be used only for parkland, nature preservation and restoration, open space and *low-impact recreational uses* including, but not limited to, nature study, bicycling, walking and running trails, fishing, crabbing, the storage, docking and launching of *non-motorized watercraft*, gardening, environmental research and conservation and similar uses and activities. The property *shall not be developed or used for intensive recreational purposes* including ball fields or basketball courts, equestrian activities, motorized recreation of any type, concerts and/or *similar intensive or noise generating activities or uses*. The property *shall not be developed or used for commercial or industrial purposes*.⁷

¹ Deed (March 27, 2004), recorded in the Official Land Records of Anne Arundel County at *Libre 16265, folio 13*. Exhibit 1.

² Declaration Of Covenants, Conditions And Restrictions (October 22, 2003), recorded in the Official Land Records of Anne Arundel County at *Libre 13957, folio 87*. Exhibit 2.

³ See, Exhibit 2 at *folio 87 & 108*.

⁴ See, Exhibit 2 at *folio 108-112*.

⁵ Homeport Farms Subdivision Plat at Plat 7, recorded in the Official Land Records of Anne Arundel County at Plat Book 258, page 1 (2003). Exhibit 3.

⁶ Exhibit 2 at *folio 88*.

⁷ Exhibit 1 at *folio 14* (emphasis added).

While a solitary rower is typically depicted quietly enjoying the earliest moments of dawn, that depiction does not capture the nature of a rowing facility, the activity of a rowing team at practice or the reality of rowing competitions. Rowing is a team sport and an intensive recreational use with a daily schedule of activities and invitational competitions that draw large numbers of participants. The publicly available scheduling information of local rowing clubs reveals use of their current locations from 4:30 am to 9:00 pm, 365 days per year. This is not in keeping with the low-impact recreational use restrictions in force at HFP.

Establishing rowing at HFP requires that specialized facilities be constructed in the RCA designated Critical Area. It will require tree clearing on Conservation Property areas. Rowing will have more impact on HFP than any other activity to date. It presents a high demand, intensive use, increased disturbance of the shoreline and the use of motorized vessels. This includes private lessons for members and guests, summer camps and membership meetings. The stated purpose of a rowing facility at HFP is to attract more rowers, grow local participation in the sport and grow club membership. This type of intensive use is well beyond what the deed restrictions allow. A County facility built for private clubs and used by them to generate revenue may also violate the restrictions against commercial use and development at HFP.

Finally, Anne Arundel County is not the sole arbiter of whether its plans or actions comply with the HFP deed restrictions. The County Deed reserved for the Grantor the right to enforce the deed restrictions.⁸ In 2011, the Grantor assigned all retained rights under the County Deed to Homeport.⁹ Homeport will continue to participate and speak on this issue during any public forum and may exercise any administrative or judicial review remedies and litigation rights that exist. Beyond those rights, Homeport also holds the right to take affirmative action, at law or in equity, to enforce the recorded restrictions on the uses and development of amenities at HFP.¹⁰

Rowing Facility Needs In Light Of HFP Deed Restrictions:

The evaluation of rowing amenities at other County parks, the County's prior feasibility studies and the litany of "essential facility components" itemized by the Annapolis Rowing Club and provided to R&P, have detailed the basics needed to establish a usable rowing facility. R&P used this information in late 2021 or early 2022 and, with "existing funds" from other budgeted items, commissioned its third

feasibility study, including three alternate concept plans and preliminary cost estimates, for a boat ramp, associated piers and docks, boat storage areas, boat house, and ancillary utilities for kayak and canoe type boats *along the Church Creek shoreline of Homeport Park*.¹¹

This was done despite the fact that the FY22 budget (like the current FY23 proposed budget) did not reference or include development of a rowing facility or rowing amenities at HFP. During that

⁸ Exhibit 1 at *folio* 14.

⁹ Assignment (December 28, 2011), recorded in the Official Land Records of Anne Arundel County at *Libre* 24165, *folio* 34. Exhibit 4.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Email correspondence from J. Leys, Director of R&P (January 24, 2022)(emphasis added). Exhibit 5.

same timeframe, Homeport residents were advised by the County that there was no ongoing consideration of HFP for any use related to rowing. It was also Homeport's understanding in January 2022 that at least one member of the County Council had also been told that HFP was not being considered for rowing amenities.

As described in R&P's presentation on the Harness Creek rowing facility proposal for Quiet Waters Park, the "key parameters" needed for a rowing facility location - *just to accommodate the rowing amenities* - include:

- Parking for at least 50 vehicles;
- ADA accessible;
- Short distance (< 100 yds) to water's edge for transporting vessels;
- Minimal elevation change to facilitate carrying of vessels;
- Area should have access to calm water;
- Waterside area should have space for waiting if multiple vessels docking simultaneously;
- Waterside area should be sheltered with a minimum entrance width of 30 feet.¹²

An extensive system of timber piers, floating docks and launch platforms are also necessary.¹³ The R&P Quiet Waters presentation actually downplayed the rowing community's "requirements" for a rowing facility. Noticeably absent from the Quiet Waters presentation is any acknowledgment that rowing clubs depend upon motorized launches for safety and other purposes during practice and competitions. Nonetheless, docking for a motorized launch and fuel storage were specifically included in "the basic essential facility components unique to support the sport of rowing" at HFP.¹⁴

Quiet Waters Park is comprised of 340± acres with miles of shoreline, including protected coves. Regardless of the specific reason(s) for the County's rejection of the proposal for a rowing facility at Quiet Waters Park, it is incomprehensible that anyone involved would think the 15± acres available at HFP and the 20' wide soft launch area would be able to accommodate a rowing facility.

There is no open area along the shoreline at HFP and such a configuration of piers, docks and platforms would extend hundreds of feet into Church Creek, obstructing navigation for upstream users. Of the itemized parameters, the only one found at HFP is calm water; however, there is no access sufficient to accommodate the activities described. The other parameters do not exist and cannot be achieved in compliance with the HFP deed restrictions:

- The County will have to triple the impervious surfaces at HFP to go from the current 25±

¹² Harness Creek Paddling and Rowing Facility Public Meeting Presentation (February 2, 2021). Exhibit 6, p. 8.

¹³ *Id.* at p. 9.

¹⁴ Other "essential facility components" necessary at HFP include enclosed, secure areas for "boat repair and general equipment storage," air-conditioned areas for "crew meetings/assembly" and "off water conditioning" with "free weights and rowing machines" as well as access to all amenities from 4:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., 7 days per week, 365 days per year. See, "Final DRAFT, Annapolis Rowing Club, Facility Requirements Document, Home Port [*sic*] Farms, *Just add Water and Row.*" Exhibit 7.

- parking spaces to the required 75;¹⁵
- The current parking is over 450' (150 yards) from the water's edge;¹⁶
- The only path is ~8' wide, leading from the parking, through the forested Conservation Property area, to the shoreline of Church Creek;¹⁷
- The elevation falls nearly 40' from the parking area to the water's edge, with the slope of the 8' wide path varying from 6% to as steep as 12% along the way;¹⁸
- The landing at the water's edge is ~20' wide and, immediately to the north and south of the landing, the banks of Church Creek change to steep slopes that rise as high as 30' and are unusable for reaching the water's edge;¹⁹
- There is no open space at the water's edge;
- Docking or launching motorized boats is prohibited by deed restrictions.

Gaining closer proximity to the water will require clearing trees on the Conservation Property areas for parking, or, at a minimum, to allow the vehicle/trailer combinations that transport rowing vessels closer access to the water for unloading and launching.²⁰ Trees will also need to be cleared to widen the path to Church Creek and to provide waterside open space.²¹ A boathouse, secure vessel storage, fixed timber piers, floating piers and launch platforms will further violate the deed restrictions, particularly the prohibition against excavation and topographic changes.²²

Access to Route 2:

A significant concern for Homeport is the safety of its residents and those visiting HFP. Vehicles entering from Route 2N immediately encounter a rotary (round-a-bout) which is not exceptionally large. The community has seen instances where larger vehicles have encountered problems negotiating the tight radius, causing damage to Homeport's property. The vessels involved in rowing range from roughly 27' to 62'. Needless to say, transporting vessels of this length requires some of the longest vehicle/trailer combinations allowed on Maryland roadways. Such vehicle/trailer combinations will have difficulty navigating through the small rotary.

The rotary entering Homeport has trees and vegetation in the center. While there is an inside truck apron, it is not extensive and it does not provide a route through the center, which is

¹⁵ The expressed intent to use the meadow areas for overflow parking and larger vehicle/trailer combinations will likewise compact those areas, adding more impervious surfaces at HFP.

¹⁶ As depicted on the County's Soft Launch construction specifications from 2016. Exhibit 8.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ See, Maryland Shoreline Stabilization Mapper @ <https://cmap2.vims.edu/MSSMTool/>.

²⁰ See, Exhibit 7.

²¹ The January 24, 2022 email referenced *supra* indicates that the recently requested feasibility study was done under the mistaken impression that "there is a reforestation bank on-site that can be used as needed." Exhibit 5. This is not correct. The HFP parcel does not include any "reforestation bank" areas to offset trees removed for constructing a rowing facility. See, Exhibit 2 at *folio* 108-112.

²² See, Exhibits 1 & 2. Homeport has also been advised that a scaled back version with just some rowing amenities could be added at HFP. The reality is that once the funds are expended and components are added, there will be no stopping incremental additions and construction of a full rowing facility at HFP.

often necessary for long vehicle/trailer combinations. The rotary was designed and built for a neighborhood of thirty-one (31) homes, not for regular use by vehicle/trailer combinations of the size needed to transport rowing vessels. HFP visitors often miss the park's entrance and continue down Homeport Drive, a narrow street with a landscaped median. Turning around to go back to the park entrance requires navigating an equally small cul-de-sac. The cul-de-sac has no apron, and is also landscaped in the center. The cul-de-sac also has an odd approach angle/configuration, making it extremely difficult for trailers to turn around without damaging Homeport's property.

The proposals and feasibility studies provided to date have not mentioned evaluating the safety of having large vehicle/trailer combinations transporting rowing vessels to and from HFP through the intersection at Route 2N and the rotary. The Route 2 intersection is a "right-in-right-out" access point, not a full, lighted intersection. The narrow size of Homeport Drive, coupled with the small turn lane for cars exiting Route 2N creates a back up risk on the shoulder of Route 2N. These types of back-ups occur now, so the addition of traffic attempting to reach or leave HFP, particularly surges of traffic between scheduled practices or for other team activities and the large vehicle/trailer combinations required to take rowing vessels to and from HFP, will exacerbate the problem.

The information to-date also has not addressed the fact that those transporting rowing vessels to HFP on Route 2S, coming from the north, need to proceed past Homeport Drive, locate a place to safely turn around and then travel along Route 2N to reach the park. Given the narrow median of Route 2, there are no intersections south of Homeport Drive that can accommodate a "u-turn" for a 65' vehicle/trailer combination.²³ Similarly, those leaving HFP who need to travel south on Route 2S, are forced to proceed north to find either another route or a safe place to reverse direction.

Currently, everyone leaving Homeport must wait for a safe entry point into Route 2N traffic (the posted speed limit is 50 mph). There are regular traffic backups for those leaving Homeport, and it also backs up at the next intersection to the north, Admiral Cochran Drive. Scheduled start and stop times for team sports at HFP will create surges of traffic from park visitors arriving as others are departing from rowing practice activities or competition events. This will increase the frequency and duration of backups within the neighborhood making it even more difficult for homeowners to exit.²⁴

Despite these traffic concerns, Homeport is not aware of any effort to involve the Maryland State Highway Administration. Homeport does not know whether the entrance configuration is safe for such traffic, or how SHA will assess the traffic increase for the intersection of Homeport Drive and Route 2N. These are questions that must be addressed before committing any further County resources.

²³ Knowing human nature, many will try such a maneuver. This creates an added complication and safety risk.

²⁴ These traffic jams often will completely obstruct access for the homeowner at 1 Homeport Drive.

Character of and Planning for HFP:

Going beyond the physical limitations, establishing this intense recreational use at HFP will alter the true nature and prescribed purpose of the park. The County Deed calls for HFP to be used as parkland.²⁵ Anne Arundel County appointed a Homeport Farms Park Advisory Committee (the “HFP Committee”) to assess the types of use appropriate for HFP. The Homeport Farm Park Conceptual Plan (the “Master Plan”) was finalized in 2009.²⁶ The HFP Master Plan was carefully developed and based upon agreement of the County and community stakeholders.

During development of the Master Plan, the rowing community proposed a rowing facility at HFP. Multiple concerns about the impact on the park were raised and discussed at length. After these discussions, and a review of the applicable deed restrictions, the HFP Committee determined that rowing was not compatible with HFP’s purpose or the deed restrictions. A rowing facility at HFP will violate the deed restrictions and is a breach of the 2009 HFP Master Plan. The HFP Committee worked diligently and relied upon extensive community input to develop a framework for establishing passive uses that comply with the deed restrictions. The Master Plan calls for these elements:

- the boat launch to remain as the natural shoreline to protect the shoreline;
- the area available for launching, fishing and crabbing is restricted to minimize shoreline disturbance;
- minimize conflicts between boaters, anglers and crabbers and accommodate a variety of ‘cartop’ boats;
- a small playground, community gardens and meadow reforestation to provide more native habitat for ecological improvement;
- parking for up to 30 vehicles along the roadway.²⁷

Similarly, the If developed as a rowing facility, most, if not all, of the open meadow parkland space will be used to create parking areas and construct the boathouse and other rowing amenities. It is clear from the “the basic essential facility components unique to support the sport of rowing” provided to R&P by the rowing community that the rowing uses they envision for HFP will encompass every area and occupy every structure.²⁸

Anne Arundel County is the steward of the County’s substantial Critical Areas acreage, as required by State law. HFP is RCA and designated as a shoreline area with unique features and high banks which are easily impacted by intense upland uses.²⁹ Its mature forest areas are also identified as significant riparian forest habitat key to biodiversity and conservation of Forest Interior Dwelling Species (“FIDS”), which require interior forest habitat for optimal reproduction and survival.³⁰

²⁵ See, Exhibit 1 at *folio* 14.

²⁶ Homeport Farm Park Conceptual Plan (April 2, 2009). Exhibit 9.

²⁷ The 2016 Soft Launch design uses adhered to the Master Plan. Exhibit 8 & 9.

²⁸ See, Exhibit 7, particularly Details 6,7 & 17.

²⁹ See, Maryland Shoreline Stabilization Mapper @ <https://cmap2.vims.edu/MSSMTool/>.

³⁰ Maryland Biodiversity Conservation Network. See, <https://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/MERLIN/index.html>.

The County's continued efforts to press for a rowing facility at HFP are directly contrary to the enforceable deed restrictions on the HFP parcel. Ignoring these restrictions to pursue a rowing facility will undermine the integrity of the County's Critical Area Program and jeopardize the willingness of landowners to enter into agreements to convey land for parks to the County. Restrictions such as those in the County Deed and the Conservation Restrictions also serve to improve the value of the subdivisions that dedicate land to the County. Features that preserve natural areas and open space are part of the homebuyers' consideration in purchasing within any subdivision. If the County insists on straining the interpretations of such deed restrictions, it increases the likelihood that, instead of a public park, areas such as HFP will remain privately owned. Necessary deed restrictions will simply preserve land areas for the subdivision's homeowners.

Homeport Farm Park is Not Suitable For a Rowing Facility:

Prior feasibility studies produced by the County, and the 2016 study commissioned by Annapolis Rowing Club and Annapolis Junior Rowing, concluded that HFP is not a suitable location for a rowing facility.³¹ The R&P Director's January 24, 2022 email revealed that the Homeport community had been misled on the County's intentions for HFP. Further, the full gamut of rowing amenities R&P included in this third feasibility study casts doubt on recent County statements about scaling back or not pursuing rowing amenities at HFP.³² The facts brought to light over the past few months validate Homeport's frustration and distrust over this issue. The County selectively chose who could review and comment on the third study, while representing to Homeport residents that HFP was not being considered for rowing amenities. This creates division among community groups and fosters even greater distrust in the County's government and leadership.

The County Budget:

The reason this topic is being discussed in testimony on the FY23 proposed budget is to voice concern over recent efforts to press forward with rowing amenities at HFP. Claims that the absence of budget language identifying a rowing facility at HFP shows this is not under consideration mean nothing, as they were not in the FY22 budget when the County diverted "existing funds" to support a third feasibility study.³³ County resources should not be dedicated to advancing plans for substantial changes to or impacts on the public parks and open space unless fully disclosed in advance. Homeport is asking the County Council to act and require that funding to study or pursue substantial changes to public parks and open space be identified and itemized in the County budget. Advancing changes, such as the rowing facility at HFP, results in a commitment of future resources. The manner in which this HFP issue has arisen, and the time it has consumed in public hearings before the Council on consideration FY23 proposed budget, unquestionably demonstrates the need to do make this a requirement. The entire "rowing at HFP" discussion would not have occurred, as no one would have been left wondering about the County's intentions if such efforts were required to be identified in the budget before being initiated.

³¹ 2016 Row America Report. Exhibit 10.

³² See, Exhibits 5 & 7.

³³ *Id.*

The Honorable Anne Arundel County Council

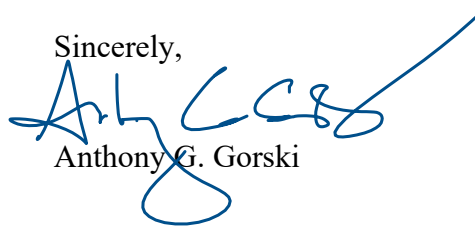
May 5, 2021

Page 9

The recent not-so-subtle implication that Homeport, as a neighbor of a public park, is opposed to “improvements that might increase park use” is simply untrue. The residents of Homeport are incredibly pleased to see the increase in park visitors utilizing this beautiful space. The families coming to enjoy the open meadow and forest areas, launching canoes and kayaks, running, hiking, fishing and picnicking show that the Master Plan for HFP is allowing more people to realize its beauty and tranquility.

Homeport simply wants the County to adhere to the recorded use and development restrictions that apply to HFP. It is also interested in finding some way to ensure open discussions about plans for all County parks and open spaces, so interested parties all have current and accurate information in time to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony G. Gorski', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Anthony G. Gorski

Enclosures

cc: State Senator Sarah K. Elfreth
State Delegates Shaneka Henson & Dana Jones



Anne Arundel Council

44 Calvert Street, First Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Councilmembers:

I am following up on our earlier letters on behalf of the [Jewish Federation of Annapolis & the Chesapeake \(JFedA-C\)](#). As you know, we have been among those strongly advocating for Anne Arundel County to establish and fund a security grant program for faith organizations and nonprofit institutions at high risk of hate crimes and bias-motivated violence. You may have seen coverage of the serious threats facing targeted communities such as ours in [The Capital](#), [Fox45](#), [The Banner](#) or other media.

There are four buildings in Anne Arundel County that host Jewish organizations: Congregation [Kneseth Israel](#), Congregation [Kol Shalom](#), [Temple Beth Shalom](#), and [Chabad](#) of Anne Arundel County. Three of those congregation's host childcare programs for toddlers and children from a variety of backgrounds and faiths.

We would welcome the opportunity to give you a tour of any of these facilities so you can see firsthand the extensive measures we have already gone to in order to protect people who gather, worship, learn, and celebrate there. These costs include security cameras, bollards, reinforced glass, and security guards. **One of the greatest ongoing expenses is providing guards for the toddlers in our nursery school programs.** While these early childhood programs serve families of all backgrounds, they remain at elevated risk because they are housed within Jewish institutions.

We were disappointed that County Executive Pittman did not include security grants in his proposed budget after much public urging. We recognize that current fiscal constraints are significant. In light of those realities, we are narrowing our original proposal. While we initially sought matching grants of up to \$40,000 — and while several neighboring jurisdictions operate larger programs and none of them have matching requirements — **we are now suggesting a pilot program providing grants of up to \$15,000 for faith-based and nonprofit organizations at heightened risk of hate crimes. A countywide pool of \$250,000 could be life-saving to a wide variety of groups at high risk.**

Our small Jewish community has long absorbed substantial security costs that strain budgets and divert resources from mission-critical services. In Anne Arundel County, synagogues spend between \$80,000 and \$140,000 annually on security measures, including armed guards for weekly services, holidays, schools, daycare programs, and community events. Many

congregations have been forced to impose separate security fees on members, in addition to annual dues, simply to ensure safe participation in communal life. These are fundamentally public safety costs that nonprofits are bearing alone.

Anne Arundel County has a proud tradition of welcoming diversity and protecting civic life. By establishing a county-level security grant program for communities at heightened security risk, Anne Arundel can join other Maryland jurisdictions in safeguarding faith communities and nonprofits from the rising tide of hate and bias — ensuring that places of worship and community gathering remain safe, accessible, and free from fear.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and relevant departments to help design and implement a thoughtful, equitable, and effective security grant program. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this important step to protect vulnerable communities across our county.

Sincerely,

Jonathan “Jody” Goldsmith
President, Jewish Federation of Annapolis & the Chesapeake

Programs in jurisdictions already demonstrate the value and feasibility of such investments:

- **Montgomery County** has committed [\\$1.2 million in security grants](#) to nonprofits and faith-based organizations determined to be at high risk of hate crimes, allowing them to hire security personnel, conduct security planning and training, and upgrade security systems. Eligible organizations can request up to **\$15,000 per facility** per year under its FY25 and FY26 Nonprofit Security Grant Programs. It recently added an additional \$500,000 in funding.
- **Howard County** administers its own \$250,000 [Nonprofit and Faith-Based Security Grant Program](#), allocating funds to support both security personnel and infrastructure for eligible organizations at risk of hate crimes, with awards ranging up to \$15,000 (and up to \$25,000 in some cases).
- [Prince George’s County’s Enhanced Security Grant Program](#) provides funding for physical and cybersecurity enhancements to qualified nonprofits at risk of extremist attacks or hate crimes.
- The **District of Columbia** has also funded up to \$1 million security assistance through programs like the [Safe and Secure DC Nonprofit Fund](#), supporting enhanced safety measures at nonprofits, including several Jewish community organizations. (This includes funding for Jewish centers, synagogues, and other at-risk facilities.)



The Honorable Steuart Pittman, Jr.

Anne Arundel County Executive
44 Calvert Street, Suite 250
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear County Executive Pittman and County Council Members:

My name is Allison Kahn-Pauli and I am the Senior Associate Regional Director for the ADL's ([Anti-Defamation League](#)) D.C. Region, which serves our communities in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. I am pleased to write in support of the Jewish Federation of Annapolis & the Chesapeake's request that Anne Arundel County establish and fund a **security grant program for diverse faith organizations and nonprofit institutions at high risk of hate crimes and bias motivated violence**. Non-profit security grants address critical security needs, particularly in light of increased threats to the Jewish community.

As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization founded in 1913 with a mission to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of antisemitism and bias, using innovation and partnerships to drive impact. A global leader in combating antisemitism, countering extremism and battling bigotry wherever and whenever it happens, ADL works to ensure a just and inclusive society for all.

Last year, less than an hour away from Anne Arundel County, a young couple attending a Jewish community event was murdered outside of the Capital Jewish Museum. Less than two weeks later, peaceful marchers in Boulder, Colorado were firebombed as they gathered to express solidarity for hostages being held captive by Hamas terrorists. Further, incidents at synagogues have increased substantially in recent years, with a rise in bomb threats, harassment, assaults and protests. The most recent protests in NYC in front of several synagogues and the attack on Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi, are part of a broader context in which the Jewish community is continuing to face an unprecedentedly high threat environment in the U.S. and across the world.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued an alert of [elevated threat](#) to Jewish (and Israeli) communities in the United States, noting that “the ongoing Israel-HAMAS conflict may motivate other violent extremists and hate crime perpetrators with similar grievances to conduct violence against Jewish and Israeli communities and their supporters. Foreign terrorist organizations also may try to exploit narratives related to the conflict to inspire attacks in the United States.”

The Jewish community has experienced an unprecedented rise in antisemitism since the October 7th massacre in Israel. However, this historic rise did not originate with October 7th – in fact, 2024 was the fourth consecutive year that antisemitic incidents have increased, breaking previous all-time highs since ADL started [tracking](#) this data in 1979.

According to ADL's annual [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents](#) for 2024, there were 9,354 incidents of antisemitic assault, harassment, and vandalism across the country. This total represents a 5 percent increase from 2023, a 344 percent increase over the past five years, and a 926 percent increase over the past 10 years, reaching the highest level recorded by ADL. The 12-month total for 2024 averaged more than 25 targeted anti-Jewish incidents in the U.S. per day, more than one an hour.

In Maryland, 356 antisemitic incidents were reported in 2024 – the 6th highest number reported in the country. This included 195 incidents of harassment, 154 incidents of vandalism, and 7 cases of assault. Jewish institutions in Maryland were targeted with 65 incidents in 2024; including antisemitic mailings, bomb threats, vandalism, theft, graffiti, assault, and suspected arson.

This alarming level of antisemitism should never be accepted, yet it has become a persistent and grim reality for Jewish individuals and families in Maryland – whose increasing fears have been furthered since the horrific murders outside the Capital Jewish Museum, so close to home.

Yet it is not only the Jewish community who faces threats and violence. The faith community, at large, has found itself increasingly under the threat of violent attacks in the U.S. and around the world. In recent years, we witnessed the single deadliest anti-Jewish attack in U.S. history at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018, the murder of nine members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston in 2015, and the murder of six members of the Sikh Temple in Oak

Creek, Wisconsin in 2012. Also in 2012, in Maryland, two individuals were shot and killed at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Although not a deadly attack, the hostage situation at the synagogue in Colleyville, Texas in 2022, serves as another stark reminder of the threats faith communities face.

Hate crime incidents across the country have also reached record highs – with 11,862 incidents in 2023 [reported by the FBI](#). Between 2022 to 2023, anti-Black reported hate crimes comprised the majority of incidents and Latino, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ populations all experienced increases. Further, despite making up only [2 percent](#) of the U.S. population, reported single-bias anti-Jewish hate crimes comprised 15 percent of all hate crimes and 68 percent of all reported religion-based hate crimes.

This data highlights the vital need for funding to protect communities in Anne Arundel County who are at risk for hate crimes. Security measures generally fall into three categories: training, hardening of facilities, and security staffing. In a time of increased hate and antisemitism, security precautions are critical. However, they are also often cost-prohibitive.

The need for additional funding to support critical security costs is evident. We join Jewish Federation of Annapolis & the Chesapeake in urging Anne Arundel County to establish a security grant program which provides matching grants of up to \$40,000 per nonprofit or faith organization for safety infrastructure (cyber and physical), threat planning and management, crisis training, and security personnel, including off-duty law enforcement.

Enhancing the safety and security of faith institutions and nonprofit organizations improves overall public safety when these places are less vulnerable to a deadly attack. Together we can ensure that both the Jewish community and all communities at risk of hate crimes are protected.

Sincerely,

Allison Kahn-Pauli
Senior Associate Regional Director
ADL Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pittman:

I am writing you as the President of Congregation Kol Shalom at 1909 Hidden Meadow Lane, Annapolis, MD 21401. We have approximately 130 families in our congregation with 36 children enrolled in our religious school and 48 children enrolled in our preschool.

Our faith institutions--synagogues, churches, mosques, gathering places for families, centers for community service and sanctuaries of hope and compassion—are more than buildings. They are gathering places for families, centers for community service and education and sanctuaries of hope and compassion. Whether offering food and shelter for those in need, youth programs or simply a place for prayer, these institutions serve as a pillar of our community.

However, recent years have shown that all too often these sacred institutions can become targets of vandalism, threats or worse. No community should have to live with fear of violence while attending worship or participating in vital community activities. Our faith communities deserve to feel safe. As part of our yearly budget, Congregation Kol Shalom allocates \$80,000 to have security personnel on premises while worshippers, students and staff are in our building. That amount is a significant part of our budget. We have received 1 security grant in the past 4 years and have been rejected 3 other times.

Security grant funding would provide crucial resources for enhanced protective measures—such as trained security personnel, emergency planning, and active shooter preparedness training. Many of our faith institutions operate on limited budgets and cannot afford the financial requirements to protect their congregations, students, volunteers and visitors on their own. By providing grant support, Anne Arundel County would be helping our faith institutions, without diverting funds from the essential services they provide. This isn't just about alarms, cameras, or security personnel—this is about ensuring safety, preserving peace of mind, and upholding the right for every resident of Anne Arundel County to worship without fear.

The federal and state grant process is very bureaucratic given the size and scope of their grant programs. However, threats do not wait. Counties have local purview and local and immediate awareness of threats, incidences and vulnerabilities.

I respectfully urge the County council to support allocate funding for this important security initiative.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Howard Salob
President
Congregation Kol Shalom
1909 Hidden Meadow Lane
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-703-2150**

From: Francine McMahon <francinecapitolimage@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 9:09 AM
To: Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi <jlm@laszlostrategies.com>
Subject: Sample letter: Support for County Security Matching Grants

I am writing to urge Anne Arundel County to move forward with establishing and funding a county-level security grant program for **faith-based institutions and community nonprofits** at risk of hate crimes and bias-motivated violence.

Although federal and state security grants exist, they are **not meeting current demand**. Federal programs heavily favor first-time applicants, making it difficult for organizations with ongoing, documented threats to receive continued support. State grants are consistently oversubscribed, resulting in many high-risk institutions receiving reduced funding or no funding at all. These gaps leave real vulnerabilities unaddressed.

This is precisely why surrounding jurisdictions—including Montgomery, Howard, and Prince George’s Counties, as well as Washington, DC—have implemented county-funded security grant programs to supplement state and federal resources. These counties have recognized that the threat environment is ongoing and that local governments have an important role to play.

Threats against faith-based institutions and community nonprofits—Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and others—are not theoretical, nor are they limited by county lines. As upcoming budget and legislative decisions are considered, I respectfully urge the County to act now to create a security grant program that helps protect people, property, and public safety across Anne Arundel County.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Francine McMahon

CEO and Founder
FrancineCapitolImage@gmail.com
Capitol Image Counsel
301 717 3726

From: Allison F <a.fistere@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:28 PM
Subject: Support for a County Security Grant Program for At-Risk Institutions

Dear members of the county delegation,

I am writing to express my strong support for creating a county-level security grant program for religious and nonprofit institutions at high risk of hate crimes and bias-motivated violence. While federal and state grants are helpful, they are insufficient to meet the actual need, particularly for congregations facing ongoing security costs such as guards needed for extended coverage for nursery schools and educational programs. Nearby jurisdictions recognize that physical security is a normal and necessary government function and have stepped in where higher-level funding falls short. In Anne Arundel County, the absence of a county program leaves many places of worship dealing with unsustainable costs to keep their communities safe. I respectfully urge you to support the creation of a county security grant program to help protect our diverse faith and nonprofit institutions and the people they serve.

Sincerely,
A district 33 constituent
Allison Fistere

I, too, speak on the need for a county faith-based/non-profit security grant program. Good evening Mr. Pittman and Councilmember Rodvien. My name is Steve Sutton, and I represent Congregation Kneseth Israel and Post 380, Jewish War Veterans of the USA. I also speak with the support of the Greek Church (across Riva Road from the High School). Last night Governor Moore said that Maryland's fight against hate in all forms is a fight for Maryland's soul. I ask you to expand the **county's fight against hate**.

We appreciate your administration's attention to hate and all the departments. that show their concern for the safety of faith-based and nonprofit communities in Anne Arundel County.

Our Jewish Community, like other communities, must protect our members and facilities from harm.

I reiterate the statement from Jack Schmerling, the first speaker of the evening that federal and state grants have proved valuable, but they have risks that could minimize our chances of receiving new awards.

Threats do not wait. Counties are best positioned to respond quickly to local incidents, intelligence, and emerging vulnerabilities.

Antisemitism has not declined. Attacks against Jewish communities continue, fueled in part by antisemitic rhetoric amplified by social media, public figures, and increasingly by AI platforms. Maryland Jews experience antisemitic incidents daily; our county is not immune.

The four Jewish houses of worship in the county remain in need of future funding. We need a secure environment where families can gather safely.

We know that other threatened groups like the Greek Church have security needs. They need protection as well.

Neighboring counties have acted. We ask you to do the same.

Protecting against hate crimes is a moral imperative, a fight for the county's soul.

Erin Miller:

From: Erin Miller <erinmichelle099@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 1:15 PM

Testimony

Good evening. My name is Erin miller and I'm a resident of Anne Arundel County, a parent, and a member of our local Jewish community.

Im here tonight with a clear and urgent request - I am asking Anne Arundel County to establish and fund a County-level security grant program for faith-based and nonprofit institutions.

While Anne Arundel County is a wonderful place to live, our own crime statistics reflect a troubling trend: Our county recorded 117 hate bias incidents last year, the highest number since reporting began and with antisemitism on the rise, we must be more proactive.

Mr Pittman, even you have bravely said that "hate and bias incidents threaten the safety and wellbeing of our community." I couldn't agree more—but acknowledgement isn't action.

No parent should be reluctant and fearful to drop their child off at a synagogue, Hebrew school or community center because it lacks proper security. It should be a joyful moment — a chance to connect with their community, learn, and grow. But in reality they are still soft targets, severely unprepared and unprotected.

The current climate requires our synagogues, churches, mosques, and temples— especially those with schools, large events, and children's programs to enhance security in all areas including emergency communication tools and trained personnel and while these changes are expensive they are not luxuries and are no longer optional.

Nearby jurisdictions recognize this importance and provide County-level security grants while Anne Arundel County still does not.

I'll leave you with this.....According to the ADL, Maryland ranked 6th in the nation for antisemitic incidents in 2024, with dozens targeting Jewish institutions directly. And history has shown us this threat never stops with one community.

I'm asking you — our elected leaders — to recognize the urgency of this moment, and to commit to funding meaningful, accessible, and equitable security support for all faith-based communities in Anne Arundel County.

We cannot wait for another incident.

We cannot wait for another headline.

Thank you for taking this issue seriously. Our children and community are counting on you.

On Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 7:09 PM <sjsutton.243@comcast.net> wrote:

Councilmember:

My wife and I write to you, not as Crofton Colony homeowners, but as members of the Jewish Community in Anne Arundel County. We also have direct involvement with the newly formed Jewish Federation of Annapolis and the Chesapeake (<https://www.jfeda-c.org/>) through our membership in Congregation Kneseth Israel in Annapolis (celebrating its 120th anniversary this year), Laura's membership in Jewish Women International, and Steve's membership in Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

We are most concerned about the rise of antisemitism which continues unabated. Anne Arundel County is not immune from this increase in hate toward Jews and its institutions. Nor is it immune from hate toward the African American and Islamic communities. However, Jews seem to experience the most instances of hate and violence in the United States and Maryland (see attached statistics from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)). Though we don't live in your district, we do spend significant time in Annapolis especially at Kneseth Israel, and hate and extremism have no boundaries.

We can thwart antisemitism with education and verifiable facts, but in the meantime, we must protect our Jewish institutions from attack, harassment, and threat. As members of Congregation Kneseth Israel in Annapolis, our congregation has applied for and received awards of federal and state grants

to close vulnerability gaps in our physical infrastructure and to hire security guards.

From the state we've had Hate Crimes Grants from the Maryland Center for School Safety and Protect Against Hate Crimes grants from the Governor's Office for Crime Prevention and Policy. These grants helped improve the security posture for our pre-school and our entire campus. Unfortunately, our small congregation, mostly retirees, has more to do to continue to remove vulnerabilities and lacks the resources to do that without jeopardizing our services to our members. Grants that we received over the last five years have allowed us to improve our infrastructure and hire security guards. Our members feel safer knowing that we have protections and security guards when they come to our building.

However, the need for these grants continues to rise as more faith-based institutions apply but the funds available stays flat causing institutions to not receive a grant or receiving significantly less funds than requested. We ask that you support the establishment of a faith-based security grant program similar to those in place in Montgomery, Howard, and Prince Georges Counties. Washington, DC also has a program. These investment programs are summarized here:

- Montgomery County has committed \$1.2 million in security grants to nonprofits and faith based organizations determined to be at high risk of hate crimes, allowing them to hire security personnel, conduct security planning and training, and upgrade security systems. Eligible organizations can request up to \$15,000 per facility per year under its FY25 and FY26 Nonprofit Security Grant Programs.
- Howard County administers its own \$250,000 Nonprofit and Faith Based Security Grant Program, allocating funds to support both security personnel and infrastructure for eligible organizations at risk of hate crimes, with awards ranging up to \$15,000 (and up to \$25,000 in some cases).
- Prince George's County's Enhanced Security Grant Program provides funding for physical and cybersecurity enhancements to qualified nonprofits at risk of extremist attacks or hate crimes.

- The District of Columbia has also funded up to \$1 million security assistance through programs like the Safe and Secure DC Nonprofit Fund, supporting enhanced safety measures at nonprofits, including several Jewish community organizations. (This includes funding for Hebrew Congregation, Jewish centers, synagogues, and other at risk facilities.)

Individuals and the leaders of the Jewish Federation of Annapolis and the Chesapeake have made a request for a security grant program to Mr. Pittman. Your council colleagues may also receive similar emails as this.

We ask that you support the establishment of an Anne Arundel County faith-based security grant program that provides funds for physical infrastructure improvements, security response training for organizations, and security guards. Unfortunately, all faith-based organizations must upgrade their campuses to protect themselves from hate mongers who threaten their well-being.

Thank you for considering our request.

Regards,

Laura and Steve Sutton

2639 Salford Drive

Crofton, MD 21403

410.721.0679

FY2027 Proposed Budget Hearing

Something strange has been going on for the last five years. **The County has been generating HUGE year-end surpluses.** The year-end surplus used in the County Executive's first budget in FY20 was **\$53 million**. In this year's FY27 budget it's **\$216 million**. In the last 5 years these surpluses have totaled **\$983 million**. They've quadrupled in less than 10 years.

I worked in the County Budget Office for over twenty years, ten as the Assistant Budget Officer. I was very proud of the last budget I worked on... County Executive Pittman's first budget in FY20. Over the course of my career, I have regularly defended the fact that conservative budgeting practices, by definition, result in year-end surpluses.

But these past five years are out of bounds! At first, it was attributed to the unpredictable federal reimbursements related to COVID. But it just keeps on happening. It's as if this is being done ***"on purpose."***

But why? I offer two reasons:

First, we generally refer to the resulting Fund Balance as "one-time" revenue, and it's a good practice to limit the use of "one-time" revenue to "one-time" expenditures. So, historically, most of the prior year's surplus is used as "PayGo" funding for capital projects.

The County has a "debt affordability model" that helps constrain us from overextending ourselves in authorizing bonds. ***But we don't have a model to constrain our use of "PayGo".***

Over the past 5 years the County has authorized the use of **\$818 million of PayGo** and \$814 million of new Bond authority. **That's more PayGo than the total amount of Bond funding authorized in those 5 years!** That's unprecedented... and problematic:

- Growing the capital budget to add new facilities in such an unconstrained way has a big impact on future operating budgets in the form of ***new "non-discretionary" costs***. You need to staff and maintain those new facilities.
- But that's down the road... adding new facilities is ***great politics***.

Second, UNDER-stating revenue estimates also helps make the case for exceeding the County Charter's Property Tax Revenue Cap... which the FY27 Proposed Budget does.

- **This is historic... it's never been done before.**
- There's no ***"making up for previous years"*** rationale to be used anymore.
 - That card's been played.
- The \$6.1 million generated by exceeding the Cap may be a small amount in this budget but it is one hell of a "slippery slope" precedent.

The County Council has the authority to reduce the Property Tax rate to comply with the voter-approved Charter limit. In a budget sporting an annual increase of 7.3%, or \$176 million, the \$6.1 million in cuts required is not very hard to find. (Hint: PayGo... at least \$10 million of that **recurring "one-time"** revenue called Fund Balance should be seen as "recurring.")

Just because the State Legislature gave you permission to ***"thumb your nose" to the will of the people*** as set forth in the County Charter does NOT mean you should do it. The voters, not just those at the public hearings, are watching you.

Sincerely,
Kurt Svendsen

FY2027 Proposed Budget Hearing

Year-end Surpluses and Resulting PayGo Funding						
Fiscal Year	Fund Bal Avail for FY	Rev Reserve Starting Bal	PayGo to CIP	New Bonds for CIP	PayGo as % of Combined	
Detail						
FY2027	\$215,809,900	\$182,741,038	\$194,000,000	\$161,558,663	54.6%	} 5 FYs: 23-27
FY2026	\$176,119,000	\$173,123,862	\$137,500,000	\$154,576,434	47.1%	
FY2025	\$182,206,300	\$159,903,638	\$169,400,000	\$298,960,158	36.2%	
FY2024	\$146,822,900	\$131,993,560	\$112,000,000	\$196,520,140	36.3%	
FY2023	\$262,372,000	\$107,679,604	\$204,980,000	\$2,917,482	98.6%	
FY2022						Covid anomaly
FY2021						Covid anomaly
FY2020	\$53,014,500	\$72,728,896	\$35,000,000	\$145,731,700	19.4%	1st FY CE Pitman
FY2019	\$58,557,300	\$65,083,031	\$41,332,000	\$219,764,000	15.8%	} 5 FYs: 15-19
FY2018	\$54,143,800	\$60,417,457	\$26,700,000	\$193,919,788	12.1%	
FY2017	\$39,104,100	\$56,814,876	\$32,210,000	\$161,020,000	16.7%	
FY2016	\$37,558,100	\$47,483,320	\$20,000,000	\$146,175,756	12.0%	
FY2015	\$36,391,000	\$44,650,203	\$24,000,000	\$137,761,000	14.8%	
Summary						
FY2027	\$215,809,900	\$182,741,038	\$194,000,000	\$161,558,663	54.6%	
5 FYs: 23-27	\$983,330,100	Not Applicable	\$817,880,000	\$814,532,877	50.1%	
Compared to:						
FY2020	\$53,014,500	\$72,728,896	\$35,000,000	\$145,731,700	19.4%	
5 FYs: 15-19	\$225,754,300	Not Applicable	\$144,242,000	\$858,640,544	14.4%	

Data taken from Proposed and Approved Budget Books. Two schedules:

- “Summary of Changes in Budgetary Fund Balances – All Funds”
- “Bonds & PayGo Affordability Compared with Use of Bonds and Paygo...”

FY2027 Proposed Budget Hearing

Kurt Svendsen, Arnold, MD

The year-end surplus used in the County Executive's first budget in FY20 was **\$53 million**. In this year's FY27 budget it's **\$216 million**. In the last 5 years these surpluses have totaled **\$983 million**. They've **quadrupled** in less than 10 years.

It's as if this is being done on purpose. **But why?**... I offer two reasons:

First: Prior year surpluses are historically used as "PayGo" funding for capital projects. In the last 5 years, **\$818 million** of PayGo has been authorized. **That's more than the total amount of Bond funding authorized in those 5 years!** That's *unprecedented*... and problematic:

Growing the capital budget to add new facilities in such an unconstrained way has a big impact on future operating budgets in the form of new "non-discretionary" costs. But it's *great politics*.

Second: UNDER-stating revenue estimates also helps make the case for **EXCEEDING** the County Charter's Property Tax Revenue Cap... which the FY27 Proposal does.

- **This is historic... it's never been done before.**
- There's no "*making up for previous years*" rationale to be used.
 - That card's been played.
- The \$6.1 million generated by exceeding the Cap is small, but it is one hell of a "slippery slope" precedent.

The County Council has the authority to reduce the Property Tax rate to **comply with** the voter-approved Charter limit.

Just because the State Legislature gave you permission to "*thumb your nose*" to *the will of the people* does NOT mean you should do it.

The voters, not just those in this room, are watching you.