

FOR WEB FY27 Proposed Budget Written Submissions FINAL

Timestamp	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 10:48:21	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First the greenhouse control system has been out of date, windows are unable to be opened and closed.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 system 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 15:53:54	Pia	Morrison	Gaithersburg	MD	20879	No	SEIU Local 500	Please see attached testimony	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/93377/pia-morrison-seiu-local-500-aacc-fy-2027-operating-budget-testimony.pdf
2026-05-11 15:54:57	Travis	Simon	Gaithersburg	MD	20879	No	SEIU Local 500	See attached testimony	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/93378/travis-simon-seiu-local-500-aacc-fy-2027-operating-budget-testimony.pdf
2026-05-12 13:04:22	Rev. Lauren	Bloom	Annapolis	Maryland	21403	No	St Luke's Episcopal Church, Eastport		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/93470/testimony-of-rev-lauren-bloom-for-anne-arundel-county-fy-2027-budget-hearing.docx

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2026-05-12 14:59:11	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>	
2026-05-12 16:00:24	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>	

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2026-05-12 17:20:53	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 17:49:32	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>	

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2026-05-12 18:47:40	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>	
2026-05-13 9:58:27	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>	<p>https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/93549/2022_06_01-ltr-to-aaco-council-re-ly23-proposed-budget.pdf</p>

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2026-05-13 10:06:04	Dr. Hiram	Larew	Churchton	MD	20733	Yes		Hunger haunts our County. As you can, I urge you to support the full budget request for our County's Food Bank. Thanks.	
2026-05-13 10:09:04	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>	
2026-05-13 10:10:06	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 10:11:54	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>	

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2026-05-13 10:12:58	Angel	Woodall	Glen Burnie MD	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council, 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. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	
2026-05-13 10:19:10	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>	

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2026-05-13 10:21:59	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 10:22:20	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 10:22:46	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>	

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2026-05-13 10:26:49	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 10:26:59	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 10:28:58	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 10:30:39	John	Beasley	Severna Park	Maryland	21146	Yes		<p>Keep budget for Maryland Food Bank.</p>	

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2026-05-13 10:41:16	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>	
2026-05-13 11:01:14	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, Ryan</p>	
2026-05-13 11:03:08	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. 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>	

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2026-05-13 11:04:14	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>	
2026-05-13 11:07:10	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 11:17:24	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. 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>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-05-13 11:32:33	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 11:40:15	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 11:51:24	Carrie	Waters	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. 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 11:55:16	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>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-05-13 11:56:52	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 12:23:27	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 12:28:10	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 12:39:41	Jerod	Aragon	Glen Burnie	MD	21060-8338	Yes			

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2026-05-13 12:50:02	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 12:50:34	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 12:53:39	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 13:41:14	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 13:58:03	Vanessa	Carter	Odenton	MD	21113	No	Anne Arundel County Food Bank	<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 14:22:14	William	Shepard	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	Yes			

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2026-05-13 14:50:11	VICKI	JORDAN	gambrells, 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 14:57:29	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 15:16:18	Marie	Kerr	Davidsonville	Maryland	21035	Yes			
2026-05-13 16:01:55	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 16:23:48	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>	

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2026-05-13 16:56:56	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. 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 17:13:49	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 17:47:32	Norma	Farrell	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		The local government must come to the aid of our fellow citizens.	
2026-05-13 21:01:34	Elizabeth	Brito	Millersville	MD	21108	Yes		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.	

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2026-05-13 22:05:03	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>	
2026-05-13 22:09:41	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 22:39:22	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>	

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2026-05-14 6:51:52	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 6:59:12	Peter	Summers	Annapolis	Md	21403	Yes			
2026-05-14 7:28:18	Hanna	Buford	Gambrills	MD	21054	Yes			
2026-05-14 8:24:51	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>	
2026-05-14 10:11:12	Tristan	Kastronis	West river	Maryland	20778	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>My name is Tristan Kastronis and I am a student at Southern High School inHarwood. 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.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tristan Kastronis</p>	
2026-05-14 10:12:06	marc	schlossman	anna	md	21409	Yes		No one in this country should go hungry. Support the AACo food bank	
2026-05-14 10:15:18	James	Jacobs	Crownsville	MD	21032	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>	

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2026-05-14 11:17:09	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>	

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2026-05-14 12:30:46	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.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
2026-05-14 15:32:33	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 16:31:17	Neil	Moores	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>	
2026-05-14 17:13:45	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 17:46:44	Stephanie	Evans	Pasadena	Maryland	21122	No	Harvest Resources in Anne Arundel County Food Pantry	<p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>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.</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. 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>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-05-14 21:55:37	Jennifer	Mizrahi	Annapolis	MD	21403	No	Jewish Federation of Annapolis & the Chesapeake	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.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/93805/testimony-for-aac-council-on-security-grants.pdf
2026-05-14 21:57:24	Jennifer	Mizrahi	Annapolis	MD	21403	No	Anti Defamation League	This is the letter that was sent to the Council earlier from the Anti-Defamation League.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/93806/npsg-funding-letter-fy27-aac.pdf-adj-letter-endorsing-security-grants-in-aac.pdf
2026-05-14 21:59:00	Jennifer	Mizrahi	Annapolis	MD	21403	No	Kol Shalom and several constituents - multiple letters attached	This is testimony from Kol Shalom Congregations and several Jewish individuals from AAC	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/93808/letters-of-support-for-security-grants-in-aac-002-docx-appendix-for-council-testimony.pdf
2026-05-14 23:27:15	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>	

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2026-05-15 8:57:13	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 15:57:10	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>	
2026-05-15 17:29:53	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 15:20:39	Mike	Kane	Crofton	MD	2114	Yes		<p>Please support the Anne Arundel County Food Bank's 2027 Budget Request.</p>	

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2026-05-17 7:04:00	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 7:34:43	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>	

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2026-05-17 13:42:16	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 14:34:22	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 heronry. Thank you.</p>	
2026-05-17 20:30:33	Jay	McCleave	Annapolis	Maryland	21401	Yes			

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2026-05-18 7:47:09	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>	
2026-05-18 9:08:56	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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>	

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2026-05-18 11:47:39	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>	
2026-05-18 13:42:28	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>	

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2026-05-18 13:43:56	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.</p> <p>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>	

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2026-05-18 14:30:25	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>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-05-18 15:47:41	Sarah	McGroarty	Severn	Maryland	21144	Yes		<p>Dear Anne Arundel County Council Members, 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. 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. 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. 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>	
2026-05-19 12:26:20	Kurt	Svensden	ARNOLD	MD	21012	Yes		See attached PDF file with my one-page written testimony.	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/94238/fy-2027-proposed-budget-hearing-2026-05-19.pdf

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-05-19 12:52:23	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>	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/94245/image.jpg
2026-05-19 15:45:29	Erin	Miller	Severna Park	MD	21146	No	Jewish Federation of Annapolis and the Chesapeake		https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/94283/aacounty-council-budget-testimony-5-19-26.pdf
2026-05-19 16:20:48	Daniel	Came	Pasadena	MD	21122	Yes		We strongly urge the funding of the Jumpers Hole Rd project. We would very much appreciate easier access to the biking and walking trail that is across the highway from us.	
2026-05-22 14:52:37	Jo	Glancy	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. I see the food insecurity first hand when I pass out boxes of food to needy families every week in Annapolis.</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>Ac</p>	

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2026-05-22 15:18:00	Lindsay	Alemi	Crownsville	Maryland	21032	No	Anne Arundel County Food Bank	<p>May 22, 2025</p> <p>Attn: Anne Arundel County Council Attn: Honorable Julie Hummer, Chairwoman 44 Calvert Street Annapolis, MD 21401</p> <p>Dear Chairwoman Hummer and Distinguished Councilmembers:</p> <p>On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB), I respectfully request that you leave intact the \$2,727,097 in financial support for the Food Bank's work currently included in the County's proposed FY2027 budget.</p> <p>For forty years, AACFB has been a critical resource providing Anne Arundel County neighbors in need with food and essentials throughout the county. Last year, in collaboration with our 76 Network Partners, we distributed nearly 4.6 million pounds of food and non-food items at no cost to them, including over 1.2 million pounds of healthy produce.</p> <p>The latest data from Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap report, with a lag back to 2023, shows an estimated 66,310 people experiencing food insecurity in the county, or 11.2% of our County's population. We know these figures have continued to increase due to the rising cost of living and deep cuts to social programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. This fiscal year, the food bank has seen dramatic spikes in food assistance requests across our county, with an average of 1,300 more households receiving our services each month compared to the previous fiscal year.</p> <p>Furthermore, 60 percent of the food-insecure residents of Anne Arundel County earn too much to qualify for benefits such as SNAP. In our recent neighbor survey, only 30 percent of respondents reported participation in SNAP, while 34 percent reported being homeowners – demonstrating a population in need that defies common stereotypes.</p> <p>We believe food is a human right and we envision a county where all residents have consistent access to nourishing food. Despite rising numbers and the growing uncertainty surrounding safety net programs, we continue to believe in the attainability of food security for all and a food system that prioritizes equity and justice. With our many partners - individuals, businesses, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and county agencies - we will continue to advocate passionately for systems-level change that benefits our entire community. While we may be experiencing backward steps nationally on critical anti-poverty programs, our continued partnership with the County helps ensure we can provide essential resources to Anne Arundel County residents without disruption and offers stability in these uncertain times.</p> <p>We are grateful for the county government's previous support and your shared commitment to our mission. We urge you to include \$2,727,097 in the FY2027 budget to support the Anne Arundel County Food Bank's priority needs and the neighbors we serve. Your continued investment in alleviating food insecurity in Anne Arundel County will pay dividends in our community for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Leah Aiello Paley, LMSW Chief Executive Officer Anne Arundel County Food Bank</p> <p>CC: Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman</p>	<p>https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/94621/aacfb-fy27-aa-co-budget-request-for-support-letter-5.22.docx</p>

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2026-06-01 11:39:50	Denise	Bello	Tracys Landing	MD	20779	No	CANDLE (Community Action Network for Democracy, Liberties, and Equality)	See attached testimony	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/95359/candle-testimony_aa-budget_june_26.pdf
2026-06-03 10:32:49	Alexis	Tatem	Severna Park	MD	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 acquainted with the AACFB's work and the amazing difference that access to food makes for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. As the current president of Severna Park Womenade, I regularly see grant requests from families in AA County who are not making ends meet. Funding AACFB goes a long way to make sure people are getting food while faced with many other bills.</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, including seniors on fixed incomes, caregivers, children, and working adults, who depend on this support to get through the month.</p> <p>I attended the budget meeting at SPHS a few months ago and saw the tremendous support there for AACFB. 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, Alexis Tatem</p>	

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2026-06-09 5:52:30	GLENN	E POLLARD	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear Madam Chair and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>I submit this testimony not only as a resident of the Valentine Creek community, but also as someone who has spent the better part of the last year studying this proposal, attending public meetings, communicating with County officials, reviewing project materials, organizing community outreach, and speaking with hundreds of residents across Crownsville, Arden on the Severn, Herald Harbor, and the broader Severn River community.</p> <p>Throughout that process, one consistent theme has emerged: there are simply too many unanswered questions to justify moving forward with construction funding at this time.</p> <p>Residents have repeatedly raised concerns regarding traffic safety, pedestrian safety, environmental impacts, ADA accessibility, project utilization, long-term maintenance obligations, security and enforcement, and overall project feasibility. While these concerns have been acknowledged, many remain unresolved.</p> <p>The proposed site presents unique challenges. Visitors would be required to transport kayaks and paddleboards approximately 2,200 feet (i.e., +0.5 miles) from the parking area to the shoreline over terrain that includes significant elevation changes. The surrounding road network lacks sidewalks and presents known safety concerns. The project is located within environmentally sensitive Critical Area lands containing mature forest habitat that has remained largely undisturbed for decades.</p> <p>Equally important, the County has not demonstrated why alternative locations cannot achieve the same public access objectives with fewer impacts and lower costs. Brewers Pond, for example, is a County-owned property specifically identified in the County's own July 2025 Water Access Study as a viable access opportunity. Unlike Valentine Creek Woods, it already offers existing water access, ample land area, and opportunities for enhancement without requiring substantial forest clearing and disturbance.</p> <p>This testimony is not intended as opposition to public water access. I strongly support expanding responsible public access to our waterways. However, good public policy requires selecting the right project in the right location.</p> <p>At a time when County resources are limited and competing budget priorities are significant, it is appropriate to pause and reassess before committing taxpayer dollars to a project that continues to generate substantial public concern and lacks broad community support.</p> <p>Councilman Smith's amendment provides an opportunity to do exactly that. Supporting the amendment would not eliminate future public access opportunities. Rather, it would allow the County to take a step back, fully evaluate alternatives, answer outstanding questions, and ensure that future investments maximize public benefit while minimizing environmental and community impacts.</p> <p>I appreciate the Council's consideration of this issue and respectfully request your support for Councilman Smith's amendment.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Glenn and Julia Pollard Crownsville / Anne Arundel County Resident Valentine Creek Community Advocate</p>	

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2026-06-09 6:16:28	Kurt	Riefner	Crownsville	Maryland	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>The Valentine Creek Woods proposed project will occur on one of the few remaining old forest areas on the Severn River. The proposed project includes clearing many trees for a road, parking lot and disturbing environmentally sensitive lands. Constructing infrastructure in a location will present significant concerns for accessibility, neighborhood pedestrian and pet safety, as well as probable damage to Valentine Creek Drive by heavy construction equipment and overflow parking to lawns.</p> <p>Since the residents first heard of the proposal, we have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. Brewer Pond is a County-owned property that already provides the public water access at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Valentine Creek residents have voiced our concerns repeatedly at meetings and with electronic messages about traffic and pedestrian safety on Valentine Creek Drive and Old Herald Harbor Road. The environmental impacts to forest habitat, steep slopes, and Critical Area resources.</p> <p>Long-term maintenance, enforcement, security, and operational costs. There are accessibility challenges associated with transporting kayaks and paddle boards over significant distances and elevation changes.</p> <p>We prefer that the County Council pause the funding and take the time to reevaluate how public funds could be more effectively utilized to provide greater public water access to a larger number of County visitors. This project provides very limited access to the public, has some serious issues with compliance to the American with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>All of these issues and concerns will definitely increase the overall cost of the project's construction and long term maintenance costs.</p> <p>Councilman Smith's amendment does not eliminate future opportunities for public access. It just provides the County with an opportunity to pause, reevaluate alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I and the rest of the concerned citizens on Valentine Creek Drive and the residents in the surrounding communities, respectfully ask that you acknowledge the purpose for Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kurt Riefner and Caroline Thompson 1138 Valentine Creek Drive Crownsville Maryland 21032-1533 Ph# (443) 370-9983</p>	

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2026-06-09 6:20:12	Kenneth	Van Hooijdonk	Crownsville	Maryland	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kenneth Van Hooijdonk Crownsville, Herald harbor Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	
2026-06-09 6:30:33	Justyn	Juarez-Robertso	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Justyn Juarez Arden on the Severn Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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2026-06-09 7:00:39	Billie	Kristensen	Crownsville	Maryland	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is far more than an undeveloped parcel of land. It is one of the last remaining intact forested habitats along this portion of the Severn River and serves as a sanctuary for countless species of wildlife. Those of us who spend time there regularly witness deer, foxes, owls, hawks, songbirds, turtles, amphibians, pollinators, and many other animals that depend on this ecosystem for shelter, food, and survival.</p> <p>The beauty of Valentine Creek Woods lies in its natural state. It provides a rare opportunity for residents to experience a healthy forest ecosystem and enjoy the peace and environmental benefits that come with protected natural spaces. Once mature forest is cleared, habitat fragmented, and infrastructure installed, these losses cannot easily be reversed.</p> <p>The proposed project would require disturbing environmentally sensitive land, removing trees, and introducing increased human activity into an area that currently functions as an important refuge for wildlife. At a time when Anne Arundel County continues to face challenges related to habitat loss, declining biodiversity, stormwater runoff, and water quality, protecting remaining natural areas should be a priority.</p> <p>Residents have repeatedly asked the County to evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. Brewer Pond and other existing access points may offer opportunities to improve public water access without sacrificing one of the County's most valuable remaining natural habitats.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would allow the County to pause, carefully evaluate alternatives, and pursue solutions that balance recreation with environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and preservation of irreplaceable natural resources.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Future generations deserve the opportunity to experience Valentine Creek Woods as we do today—not as a developed access point, but as a thriving forest and wildlife habitat that has been protected for the benefit of both people and nature.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Billie Kristensen Harold Harbor resident Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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2026-06-09 7:05:51	Monica	Lawrence	ANNAPOLIS	Maryland	21401	Yes		<p>Subject: Support Councilman Pete Smith's Amendment to Remove FY27 Funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access Project</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Monica Lawrence Arden on the Severn/Section 4 Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	
2026-06-09 7:06:55	Guy	Merritt	Crownsville	MD	21032-1221	Yes		<p>Please put your decision off one year to truly gain better understanding of the available resources on the south side of the Severn river. The citizens of Anne Arundel County should have access to the river, but let's make the right choice.</p>	

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2026-06-09 7:12:29	Ian	Miles	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Can you guys copy and paste this into the link below:</p> <p>Subject: Support Councilman Pete Smith's Amendment to Remove FY27 Funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access Project</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ian Miles Arden on the Severn Crownsville, MD</p>	
2026-06-09 7:12:49	Sarah	Milam	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Milam Arden on the Severn Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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2026-06-09 7:29:54	Theresa Bunty	Lawrence	Annapolis	MD	21403	Yes		<p>Subject: Support Councilman Pete Smith's Amendment to Remove FY27 Funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access Project</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Theresa Lawrence Oyster harbor Neighborhood Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	
2026-06-09 7:36:19	Kimberly	Franklin	Crownsville	Maryland	21032	No	Arden Community Association	<p>I am representing the voice of many Arden residents on this subject. Over the past several years since this project was first proposed, concerns have been raised collectively through survey and submitted to the Department of Recreation & Parks without much impact. CE Pittman walked the property with some of us surrounding community members and after seeing the environmental impact and damage such a project at this location would cause to a delicate ecosystem near the headwaters of the Severn River, as well as and the cost vs. benefit, he promised we would see NO FUNDING for this project while he was in office. We understand the pressures of making good use of properties purchased with POS funding and the requirement to make these properties available to the public (which this one already is), but the County needs to reassess the purchasing process for land and stop putting the cart before the horse when these decisions are made. There are other options for public water access (which we are not opposed to) in areas where the environmental impact would not be so detrimental. We ask that the Council delay funding for this project, giving the opportunity for further evaluation by the next administration and review of the land purchasing process so that this type of highly opposed planning with little to no public input can be re-evaluated for better decision making and to be good stewards of our environment, especially in these types of critical areas. We also ask that this land at Valentine Creek be re-evaluated as an environmental preservation site for the public to enjoy, as opposed to opening this area to damaging recreation. One last ask is that the County include the idea of purchasing property listed for sale along the Severn River, already developed with little to no environmental impact for public water access. So many of these properties already exist. While these properties may be already developed, located within residential areas (as is Valentine Creek), there are much better candidates for public water access than destroying the delicate ecosystem existing in the Valentine Creek location and opening it up for even more damage by changing its use moving forward in the future. We appreciate your consideration of our request to delay funding, allow further review, and consider preservation vs. development of this land. Thank you.</p>	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/96179/valentine-creek-testimony-arden-on-the-severn.pdf

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2026-06-09 7:37:02	Alexander	Lopata	crownsville	md	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I do not see the need and expense for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>When the prior owners of this "Valentine Creek Drive" development attempted to get zoning approval for developing a low density housing on this plat, it was rejected, primarily on the basis that a road could not be built on that unlevel highly sloped parcel. Now, that restriction seems to be completely ignored.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Drive is a very narrow road so that if residents cars or pickup truck are parked on the roadway, there is not room for large vehicles to pass without driving on lawns. There are school children who need to walk down this road to get to the school bus pickup on Old Harold Harbour Road. There are no sidewalks and it puts them at danger. This known danger and potential accidents would be the sole responsibility of the county and the county council.</p> <p>The Valentine Creek Woods is a largely undisturbed forested areas on the shores of the Severn River and can NOT be recreated. Once it is gone, it is gone. It is habitat for pilated woodpeckers, bald eagles and all sorts of creatures that need such an undisturbed space of multiple acres to service. I live on Valentine Creek Drive with our own open space for 100+ yards behind the house. The very tall mature tulip poplars and gum trees have their own world in the top branches with flat headed slinks and various warblers that only live there. I think it would be foolish to destroy this type of natural world at great expense for little benefit</p> <p>There is no burning need to destroy the neighborhood and this unique piece of natural land for the benefit of a handful of kayackers who have many other places to access the Bay. A large worry is that this "parking lot" is just the "camel's nose in the tent" for future "improvements" over the near coming years. The parking lot and woodland trails will assuredly be replaced by paved walking paths, and then small vehicle paths and the roadways. The areas will be expended with picnic spots, access for trucks to porta potti and eventually bicycle and dirt bike trails.</p> <p>This parcel is already being used by country residents in a low impact fashion by local residents</p> <p>I am sure there are much better uses for the county's tax payer money. There are police needs, social support needs and budget deficit reductions which should be higher priorities.</p>	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 7:38:51	Maria	Johnson	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>In addition, many questions remain unanswered regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic and pedestrian safety on Valentine Creek Drive and Old Herald Harbor Road. (I'm a 70 year old retired Navy veteran. I have to cross OHH to walk on VCR and it's extremely dangerous already trying to walk across the street. We have in influx of young families with babies, toddlers and pre-K children that are at risk of getting hit by cars on VCR. In addition, with the fire department being moved to Sunrise Beach, we have the fire trucks coming through here often.) Environmental impacts to forest habitat, steep slopes, and Critical Area resources. (I am constantly having to help turtles crossing VCR and seeing the heartache of seeing some of them being killed is very emotional, especially having PTSD.) Long-term maintenance, enforcement, security, and operational costs. Accessibility challenges associated with transporting kayaks and paddleboards over significant distances and elevation changes. Whether public funds could be more effectively invested in alternative access locations that provide greater public benefit with fewer impacts. <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment does not eliminate future opportunities for public access. Rather, it provides the County with an opportunity to pause, reevaluate alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Maria "Sandra" Johnson Crownsville Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 7:54:15	Austin	Toland	Annapolis	MD	21401	Yes		<p>Can you guys copy and paste this into the link below:</p> <p>Subject: Support Councilman Pete Smith's Amendment to Remove FY27 Funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access Project</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Austin</p>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 8:00:19	Brian	Kovalski	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Subject: Support Councilman Smith's Amendment - Remove Valentine Creek Woods Funding from FY27 Budget</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Furthermore, if the County intends to invest in infrastructure for this community, those funds would be far more effectively used to address pressing local safety hazards. Specifically, there is a critical need for dedicated walking and biking paths along Sunrise Beach Road and Old Herald Harbor Road. Current speeding on these roads remains unaddressed by the County, making it incredibly dangerous for residents, pedestrians, and cyclists to travel safely. Investing in these paths would offer a tangible, daily safety benefit to the entire community—a much wiser investment than destroying a pristine environment to construct access to a small sliver of waterfront that few will utilize.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to the Valentine Creek Woods project. In addition to local roadway safety needs, properties like Brewer Pond—a County-owned site that already provides water access—could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance community safety, recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and local concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Brian T. Kovalski</p> <p>Stradford Hall Community Association</p> <p>Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 8:02:12	Matthew	Moran	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Matthew Moran Arden Resident</p>	
2026-06-09 8:38:59	Andrew	Newswanger	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>I strongly support the redirection of funds away from the development of the Valentine Creek water access project. As an Anne Arundel County resident and taxpayer, I do not believe the environmental impact and funding required is an appropriate trade off as the end result would be small access on very steep terrain. I strongly support the preservation of this wooded area and for Severn River water access to be explored on other parts of the river.</p>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 9:00:45	Jeanine	Lissauer	Crownsville	Maryland	21932	Yes		<p>Subject: Support Councilman Pete Smith's Amendment to Remove FY27 Funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access Project</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jeanine Lissauer</p>	

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2026-06-09 9:01:46	Andrew	Huppert	Crownsville	MD	21032-1114	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>One of the reasons I moved to Crownsville was because of the undeveloped aesthetic of the area. Over the course of the past 20 years, I've watched as development of the area seems to parallel an insulting disregard for infrastructure upgrades. It is in that light that I urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>This argument might seem counterintuitive as the project would appear to be an infrastructure upgrade as the project would allow access to the Severn River, but at what cost? One of the most disturbing aspects of living in this area is the seeming unwillingness of our government to make road upgrades that align with the traffic that they carry. You are proposing the addition of a park at the end of a (currently) cul-de-sac'd neighborhood with FOUR houses on it. Disregarding the destruction of environmentally sensitive land, you're talking about increasing traffic in a 100% residential neighborhood in addition to the roads servicing that area.</p> <p>Residents are simply asking the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. What is the harm in researching alternatives? Why is there a need to act quickly on this project? Whose interests are you serving by not fully investigating potentially better alternatives? What is the harm in supporting Councilman Smith's amendment to pause this project and address the multiple concerns of the residents it affects? These are the questions swirling in voters' minds and will affect their voting decisions moving forward.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Andrew W. Huppert Arden on the Severn</p>	
2026-06-09 9:04:40	Stephen	Ward	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Please support Councilman Smith</p>	<p>https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/96197/text-4.txt</p>

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2026-06-09 9:37:13	Tania	LaMaestra	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. During my short time residing in the area, I'd seen a variety of birds and other wildlife I haven't seen during my time residing all over the United States and abroad. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns. As a disabled veteran, I'd found a sense of wellness, since living surrounded by nature. Destroying the green areas in the county, won't do good to our health, and environment. The county has other parks with water access that are abandoned. Why not use the funding to enhance those facilities already built, and in a state of disrepair.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Tania LaMaestra Herald Harbor Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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2026-06-09 10:05:45	Jessica	Angle	Herald Harbor	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>Additionally, the people pushing this development are claiming that NIMBYs are shutting down this project selfishly, but this is not the case. The area is accessible and more enjoyable to the citizens of Anne Arundel County as is. There are parking spaces outside of trail access points in Harold Harbor, Arden section 4, and Valentine Creek. Therefore, that argument is not viable.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jessica Angle Harold Harbor MD Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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2026-06-09 10:29:18	Kirsten	McCulloh	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Subject: Support Councilman Pete Smith's Amendment to Remove FY27 Funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access Project</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kirsten & Patrick McCulloh Herald Harbor Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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2026-06-09 11:09:30	Mindy	Whisman	Crownsville	Maryland	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Furthermore, if the County intends to invest in infrastructure for this community, those funds would be far more effectively used to address pressing local safety hazards. Specifically, there is a critical need for dedicated walking and biking paths along Sunrise Beach Road and Old Herald Harbor Road. Current speeding on these roads remains unaddressed by the County, making it incredibly dangerous for residents, pedestrians, and cyclists to travel safely. Investing in these paths would offer a tangible, daily safety benefit to the entire community—a much wiser investment than destroying a pristine environment to construct access to a small sliver of waterfront that few will utilize.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to the Valentine Creek Woods project. In addition to local roadway safety needs, properties like Brewer Pond—a County-owned site that already provides water access—could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance community safety, recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and local concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mindy Whisman Resident, Stradford Hall</p>	

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2026-06-09 13:42:49	Debra	Clark	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Debra Clark Arden on the Severn</p>	
2026-06-09 14:29:45	Laura	Tucker	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Laura Tucker Herald Harbor Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

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2026-06-09 14:54:50	Sara	Prigodich	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed forested areas along this portion of the Severn River. The proposed project would require clearing forest, disturbing environmentally sensitive lands, and constructing infrastructure in a location that presents significant safety, environmental, operational, and accessibility concerns.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget. As someone who is a huge advocate for public access to water, it is clear to me that the physical logistics of this plan simply do not make sense. I have walked the area several times and the amount of damage that would be caused to the ecosystems and environment would be devastating, and the logistics for building/dredging would cause more harm than good.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Sara Prigodich Herald Harbor Resident Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_budget_testimony/96258/think-of-the-turtles.jpeg
2026-06-09 16:21:22	Chris	Graves	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes			
2026-06-09 16:32:48	David	Sterling	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear Council Members</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you please consider supporting Council Member Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>I do not see the wisdom in advancing such an expensive and environmentally destructive project for only minimal access to extremely shallow water. In addition to the concerns of local residents, who are unanimously opposed, I ask that you also consider the wildlife within the proposed project area as your constituents deserving of protection.</p> <p>I believe that it is incumbent on each of you to visit this beautiful natural habitat before approving a project that would permanently alter it.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the expenditure of taxpayer dollars on this project.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>David Sterling 443-848-2658</p>	

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2026-06-09 17:05:40	Jeanne	Pollard	Odenton	Maryland	21113	Yes		<p>Subject: Support Councilman Pete Smith's Amendment to Remove FY27 Funding for the Valentine Creek Woods Water Access Project</p> <p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>As a retired employee of the state parks service, I understand the importance of open areas for the public to access. The county park in question is not a reasonable investment for upgrades with county monies .</p> <p>I visit the area several times a week, "How many of the council members have taken time to visit the community at least one time? And walked the "natural" trails down to the water?" Only a few of you have.</p> <p>You would see that Old Herald Harbor Rd n Valentine Creek is a dangerous intersection, coming out of Valentine Creek , you cannot see cars coming up the hill, I've almost been hit several times.</p> <p>County residents tax monies would be much better used to make improvements to other county parks like "Brewers Pond" which is much easier for water access or other parks that you won't look into because their residents do not want the public to use county land in the neighborhood</p> <p>I listened to your June 9th meeting and half of the council apparently are not interested in listening to the people in this beautiful County , please try to keep open minds for everyone's interest</p> <p>Supporting Councilman Smith's amendment would provide the County an opportunity to pause, reassess alternatives, and pursue solutions that better balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community concerns.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of Councilman Smith's amendment and remove funding for the Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jeanne Pollard Piney Orchard Anne Arundel County</p>	
2026-06-09 18:02:45	Eileen	Trovato	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>I support the amendment introduced by Councilman Pete Smith to the FY27 Anne Arundel County Budget that would remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project and redirect those funds toward preserving and protecting this special natural area.</p>	
2026-06-09 18:16:44	Carol	Simmons	Crownsville	Md	21032	Yes		<p>I vote to delay funding the improvement project</p>	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 18:46:55	Julia	Pollard	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear Madam Chair and Members of the County Council,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to support Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget.</p> <p>As a Crownsville resident and someone who deeply values the natural resources that make Anne Arundel County such a special place to live, I believe Valentine Creek Woods should be preserved rather than developed.</p> <p>One of the reasons my family chose to live in this community was its unique connection to nature. Areas like Valentine Creek Woods provide important environmental benefits, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and opportunities for quiet enjoyment that become increasingly rare as our county continues to grow.</p> <p>While I support expanding public access to our waterways, I do not believe every natural area is the right location for a new access point. In this case, the proposed project would require clearing forest, constructing new infrastructure, and permanently altering a largely undisturbed natural area despite the existence of alternative locations that could potentially provide similar recreational benefits with far fewer impacts.</p> <p>Over the past several months, I have watched hundreds of residents from multiple communities come together to express concerns about this proposal and advocate for a more thoughtful approach. What has been most encouraging is that the conversation has not been about opposing public access—it has been about finding solutions that balance recreation, environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and community input.</p> <p>I often think about the legacy we leave for future generations. Once mature forests and natural habitats are disturbed, they cannot easily be restored. We have an opportunity to protect one of the County's remaining natural treasures while still pursuing public access opportunities elsewhere.</p> <p>Councilman Smith's amendment provides the County with an opportunity to pause, reconsider alternatives, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested in projects that deliver the greatest public benefit with the least environmental impact.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you support the amendment and preserve Valentine Creek Woods for future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Julia Pollard Valentine Creek / Crownsville / Anne Arundel County Resident</p>	

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 19:15:59	Sandra	Johnson	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to thank Councilman Pete Smith's amendment to remove funding for the proposed Valentine Creek Woods water access project from the FY27 budget and those who voted for it. It became glaringly obvious that people need to see the area to get a perspective of it instead of just being incorrectly judgemental of those who live here and of the area in general. I so much appreciated that Councilman Pete Smith took the time to visit and actually see what is going on here and it's sad our own councilperson appears like she did not. This should be a decision based on knowledge, logic and common sense instead of prejudicial bias without any basis.</p> <p>Valentine Creek Woods is a diverse, welcoming community, with a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds that doesn't deserve to be pigeonholed and discriminated against by our very own councilperson. She called us "blah, blah privilege" and I for one, I'm 41% Native American and the rest Hispanic. My family was extremely poor, but through hard work we managed go to school and make a decent living.</p> <p>I walk up and down VCR at least four times a day and see people who don't live here in cars with dogs arriving to go down the trail and everyone in the cars and on the street are very friendly. This has been going on since we moved here 23 years ago. There are NO signs letting anyone know that they are not welcomed. It's extremely obvious our councilperson has not been here and who knows how she got that information and everything else she said about the community. The only ones who are "racist, sexist, ableist, etc..."—quote from the councilwoman's Facebook post—are those who don't know the area. However, we have been told that this project is being pushed by the kayakers who don't live around here but donate a lot of money to those with the ability to push this project. I don't have first hand knowledge on that, just lots of talk. This is interesting because our councilwoman admitted on Facebook that her colleagues as well as her take in donations from developers.</p> <p>Someone said that other communities are spending millions for "restoration" of projects that didn't work out. The water has bacteria and is full of silt. What will happen to our community in the event that unforeseen damage is caused to the environment?</p> <p>Another point I wanted to make, since our councilperson was so adamant to pitch out over and over again, is that, as a whole, most of us were unaware of what was going on until this past year. We did hear about the large renovation/construction proposal a couple of years ago, but we were told that Pittman said no and it all had quieted down until this past year. So, councilwoman's Rodvien's repetitive claim is not very accurate. The revised construction was sprung on the community within this past year and we scrambled to do research. By we, I mean those in charge did the bulk of the work while the rest of us attended meetings and tried to give input based on what we saw and experienced—like the traffic and the dead endangered turtles on the street.</p> <p>Speaking of traffic, I would invite (I'll even provide chairs, water and soda) for those councilmembers to sit on our driveway during a Waze redirect of traffic when there is an accident on I-97, Generals Highway, or Veterans Highway. I would also invite all those who come to see the traffic to walk with me to the end of the road. It is exactly .5 of mile from Old Herald Harbor Rd to the area paved for those who don't live here to park and walk the trail. It is narrow and if someone leaves a car on the street it is very difficult to walk around it when one of the delivery trucks come through here. A vehicle with kayaks would be difficult to get through. These are a couple of the items we brought up that appear to get ignored.</p> <p>This week in Florida a woman was mauled to death by two pit bulls. The neighborhood had complained about the dogs many times and no one did anything about them. We have a growing population of small children who are just learning how to ride bikes. Is it going to take one of them getting killed by a kayaker speeding down the road before someone realizes this wasn't a good idea. I drove on VCR yesterday and 30 MPH is too fast for that street because of the curves and the hills.</p> <p>Over the past several months, residents have repeatedly asked the County to fully evaluate less impactful alternatives before committing public funds to this project. One such alternative is Brewer Pond, a County-owned property that already provides water access opportunities and could potentially be enhanced at a fraction of the cost and environmental impact.</p> <p>In addition, many questions remain unanswered regarding:</p>	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-09 19:57:46	Kara	Richmond	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		I support delaying funding for changes made to Valentine Creek for water access. I believe better suggestions for water access locations have been made and delaying this project will provide time to explore these alternate options more thoroughly. Thank you.	
2026-06-09 20:20:56	Charles	Johnson	Crownsville	Maryland	21032	Yes		<p>I attended the budget meeting of the County Council on June 9, 2026.</p> <p>Valentine Creek is a winding, hilly road up from Old Herald Harbor Road. The road itself is sufficient for vehicular traffic if the drivers are careful regarding speed and parked vehicles. If, however, there is a delivery truck from Amazon or FedEx, the vehicles coming from the opposite direction need to head over to the side driving on someone's property. There are no sidewalks. There are numerous children riding bikes, walkers with dogs, (me being one of them). A sometimes very busy community. How does that correspond with creating access for kayakers, fishermen, etc. The answer is; not very well. The folks have very small areas to bail out if a vehicle is heading down the road at 30 miles per hour.</p> <p>Kayakers - Really? Who in their right mind wants to drag a kayak down a 45° trail a minimum of a half mile, through the woods to access a section of dirty water? The trail is not built for traveling except hiking and exploring the territory. God help the person with any sort of disability trying to drag a kayak to the water and back up the trail.</p> <p>Fishing - Let's get real. My neighbor grabbed his rod and headed there. Then he discovered the water was about 2 to 3 feet deep, dirty and no fish. No self respecting fish would live there.</p> <p>Hopefully, no one with any kind of open sores, cuts, etc. will try getting in a potentially bacteria infested area like those in other areas in this region.</p> <p>Lest we forget the bald eagles that nest in this area.</p> <p>Someone mentioned "If you build it 'they' will come" and the "they" are kayak companies that will rent out the kayaks and cause complete destruction of the area and then the county will have to spend millions in restoration.</p> <p>In my opinion, the county has much better places to spend the huge amount they propose than Valentine Creek.</p>	
2026-06-09 20:31:28	Bryant	Smith	Crownsville	Md	21032	Yes		I dont agree with the placement of this park area. Leave it be woods please and thank you	
2026-06-09 22:52:50	Kathleen	Cooke	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<p>Dear County Council members,</p> <p>I am a resident of Herald Harbor and I live close to a trailhead to the Valentine Creek Woods. When I provided input to the 2040 Plan for Region 6, I saw widespread agreement that the Valentine Creek Woods should be conserved; it is a lovely area with mature hardwoods and numerous trails maintained by community members for walking, running and biking. It is ironic that the Dept of Rec and Parks wasn't aware of the findings from the 2040 Plan and has been considering disrupting the trails and destroying a large swath of the woods to put in a parking lot and paved trails to attempt to provide water access for kayaks. The Valentine Creek Woods is simply not a suitable location for this, as kayakers need a location that can provide parking close to the water access launch.</p> <p>I appreciate the amendment that Councilman Pete Smith provided for the budget to remove funding from the Valentine Creek Park proposal, allowing the existing woods to be preserved. This amendment will enable the County Council to determine a more suitable location for building a kayak launch than the Valentine Creek Woods and let the County apply the funds elsewhere.</p> <p>Thank you, Kathleen Cooke</p>	
2026 06 10 14 33 59	Michael	Brown	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		I am in favor of allocating the funds necessary to start and complete the project to create public access to the Severn River located on Valentine Creek . I am a resident of Arden on the Severn fully support this project !!	

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Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Remarks	File upload, optional
2026-06-10 21:52:59	Stacy	Henderson	Crownsville	MD	21032	Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The property was purchased to prevent development and preserve a large forested tract. * The land is already publicly owned. * Existing trails already allow people to enjoy the woods and reach the water. * Residents of Arden-on-the-Severn and Herald Harbor have used the property responsibly for years. * The proposal changes the character of the site from a passive natural area into a destination facility. * Once a paved access road, parking area, fishing pier, launch area, and restroom facilities are built, the change is permanent. * The county should evaluate locations that already have disturbed shoreline, parking, road access, or existing marine infrastructure before altering a largely forested waterfront tract. <p>Given limited county resources, why spend money constructing new water-access infrastructure in a preserved forest when alternative waterfront properties with existing roads, parking, and shoreline improvements could provide access with less environmental disturbance?</p>	

Family Protection Initiative -- Follow Up

1 message

Laura Willoughby [REDACTED]

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Cc: spittman@aacounty.org, ccschu24@aacounty.org

Dear County Council members,

I testified this evening on the Family Protection Initiative Funds and wanted to share a little bit more as you head into final budget approval.

As mentioned, the FPI funds have proved a vital resource for families forced into crisis mode by an ICE detainment. From accessing qualified legal counsel within 48 to 72 hours, to families being able to bridge rent or utility payments when a loved one is detained, the fund has helped support our neighbors, friends, and family as they consider next steps.

The county council showed true leadership, dedication and humanity last year when it voted in the initial FPI funding. To do so during a time when immigration has been politicized and propagandized shows your realization that despite the political rhetoric, you recognize that immigration laws and policies are complex, and that ultimately the local political action it calls for is community care.

I am eternally grateful for all that the FPI fund has enabled - the brief moments of respite it has brought to spouses and families and the access to legal counsel. The FPI fund makes me proud of Anne Arundel County and how it can still work across party lines to do the best thing for its residents.

I and other community members also appreciate the increased funding in the FY 2027 budget. However, 2026 ICE apprehensions in Anne Arundel County have already doubled year-over-year, after a year when ICE detentions more than tripled. It is not a question of IF the additional FPI funds run out, but WHEN.

Please continue showing your leadership by protecting the existing funding in the current FY 2027 budget but also by considering additional funding sources such as:

- Pulling from the **emergency assistance fund reserve** that has been set aside by the county;
- Tapping into the **budget surplus that exists**, as testified to by another resident this evening;
- **Increasing the funding outright by reducing the proposed tax reduction** of 0.9% to a lesser reduction, a move that would also enable funding of other equally important projects many people have testified to over the past two weeks, to include security fund for places of worship and additional school funding.

Thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring that all residents of the county have access to the basic necessities of life: shelter, food, and safety.

Sincerely,

Laura Willoughby

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[REDACTED]