

FY 2026 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
Friday, December 13, 2024	<p>I wanted to request that the budget to add a glass recycling drop off to better serve the Del Ray, Rosemont, and North Old Town neighborhoods. The city has recognized that glass recycling is an efficient solution, but existing sites are not convenient to our neighborhood. We hope that a new drop off would increase participation in the program enough to pay for itself within a few years.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this request.</p> <p>Aaron Goldsmith</p>
Wednesday, December 11, 2024	<p>Please budget to add a glass recycling drop off to better serve the Del Ray, Rosemont, and North Old Town neighborhoods. City materials emphasize that dropping off glass at drop off locations is the "Least expensive, most sustainable option." The existing sites are not convenient to our neighborhood. We hope that a new drop off would increase participation in the program enough to pay for itself within a few years.</p> <p>We propose considering a new drop off bin near where Main Line Boulevard dead ends. The Main Line Boulevard location is far closer to Del Ray and North Old Town than any existing drop off, but far enough from residences to avoid creating a nuisance for neighbors. I and my neighbors have developed this idea in close and deeply appreciated coordination with city staff and with the Rosemont Citizens Association's PELT committee. We are particularly thankful for Gary Hensley's work advising us and getting input from his colleagues at T&ES. City staff sound optimistic that the Main Line Boulevard location is feasible, as might be a second additional location near the Southern Towers.</p> <p>There is more about this request, including a map of existing and proposed drop off locations and photos of the potential locations at https://alx-glass.github.io</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robert Letzler</p>
Thursday, December 5, 2024	<p>This is an opportunity to review the city's expenditures closely. With "After seeing the healthiest growth in our real estate tax base in over 15 years, the last two years have shown slowing. For 2025, we are expecting a continuation of that trend" becoming the trend, it should not be assumed that we can continue to spend as we have in the past. The city's property tax revenue may be projected to grow at 1.5%, but many residents will see a substantially larger amount on next year's real estate tax bill, as we always do. That's the reality of living in the city. If the city's expenditures are projected to exceed the inflation rate, looking for new revenue sources to cover the delta should not be the first thing done to fix the problem. A careful and possibly painful scrub of where the money should go should be first. When the "good times" return, returning some excess funds to the taxpayers should also be part of the process. You should also consider incentivizing your department heads to accomplish the year's objectives without using all the funds available. I realize that zeroing out the budget is a government mantra; maybe Alexandria can become a trendsetter in how local governments can run more efficiently. All homeowners in the city have seen their tax bills rise more than the inflation rate over the last fifteen years. As you look at the budget, remember that the tax rate is not the focus of your constituents. The focus is on how much the check is written for, and the tax rate should be set to keep the property tax bill as close to the inflation rate as possible.</p> <p>Rene Rodriguez</p>