

FY 2027 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>As a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Alexandria should join its neighbors in Arlington and Fairfax counties to levy a commercial real estate tax. According to estimates contained in the City Manager's proposed budget, this tax would yield \$10.3 mil in additional revenues for FY2027, and would free up funds from the General Fund currently committed to transportation.</p> <p>This \$10.3 million should then be used for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund the \$5.6 million ACPS budget shortfall. 2. Revive and fund the small business resiliency grant program from 2024 to offset the impact for locally-owned businesses that contribute to placemaking goals detailed in the ALXForward plan. The amount and number of recipients should be based on an assessment by staff to determine need and impact. 3. Any remaining funds should be allocated to the Housing Trust Fund. <p>When there is a budget crunch, the City must ensure it is taking full advantage of all revenue opportunities authorized by the General Assembly. Levying a commercial real estate tax, as our neighboring jurisdictions do, will fully fund our schools while leaving enough leftover to offset the cost to the locally-owned small businesses that make our city a great place to live.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Peter Carlson</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of Council,</p> <p>Having previously served the City of Alexandria as Fire Chief, I understand firsthand the responsibility Council carries in balancing community priorities with sound fiscal leadership.</p> <p>As you consider the FY27 budget, I urge you to take a measured approach to additional school funding. Alexandria already spends among the highest amounts per student in Virginia, yet our academic outcomes and statewide rankings do not consistently reflect that level of investment.</p> <p>ACPS enrollment has remained relatively stable in recent years, while operating budgets have grown substantially over the past decade. In recent years, the budget process has also followed a familiar pattern in which the School Board proposes funding levels well above the City Manager's recommendation, and Council ultimately closes much, if not all, of the gap.</p> <p>During my tenure as Fire Chief, and as someone who managed a major city department budget, funding was tied directly to measurable performance and service outcomes. If I had returned year after year requesting increased funding while performance indicators moved in the wrong direction, Council would have rightly questioned both the request and the management of the department. Your recent vote to require category-based school appropriations, rather than a single lump-sum transfer, is a positive step toward improving oversight and public accountability.</p> <p>Alexandria residents strongly support public education, but continued investment must be accompanied by transparency, measurable improvement, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources. Council ultimately holds the responsibility for those resources, and this budget presents an important opportunity to reaffirm that principle.</p> <p>I respectfully encourage Council to ensure that future funding requests, and any increases, are tied to clear performance benchmarks and measurable academic progress.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Robert C. Dubé Resident and retired Fire Chief, City of Alexandria</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Please prioritize ACPS teachers in this year's city budget. I know there are many competing priorities and these are not easy decisions but please find a way to pay our teachers more.</p> <p>As a principle, teachers deserve pay equal to the enormous value they bring to our community. But investing in teachers makes sense from an economic and practical sense as well. Investing in recruitment and retention of exceptional teachers is the surest way to improve our schools. When schools improve, our tax base increases and children achieve greater educational, social and economic outcomes. This benefits not just parents but all of Alexandria. The long-term benefits may be further down the road but they far outweigh the costs.</p> <p>One idea for efficiency is to consider shared city/school services. Departments like human resources, facilities/groundskeeping, finance, or IT services could potentially be shared between the city and the school at potential cost-savings.</p> <p>Thank you your attention and your hard work for Alexandria.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Erin Miller Parent of an ACPS first grader</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>I understand that middle school sports are going to be cut for the next school year. I just want to say sports in school have a tremendous impact on student achievement, attendance and test scores. It is a motivating factor for many students who are not otherwise motivated to work hard. I encourage you to review the data and look at the impact the sports programs have had on student achievement, attendance and test scores. I'm positive that you will see growth, so imagine how much time and money you will have wasted if we quick now and image how many students will be impacted due to a lack of motivation. Just some food for thought!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins and Council Members:</p> <p>On behalf of the Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the budget process for the 2027 fiscal year. First, we want to register our appreciation for the strong support that the CSB has received from you over the past two years, particularly the additional funding approved by the Council to meet service needs and help address the high number of staff vacancies. While a very competitive job market continues to prevent us from reaching all our hiring and retention goals, the funding has enabled us to make substantial progress in filling needed positions and reducing the vacancy rates affecting services.</p> <p>We recognize that the City is in a difficult fiscal position this year and that City agencies have been asked to submit proposed budgets including spending cuts. DCHS staff have thoroughly analyzed the data on CSB's operations and discussed options with CSB members during this process. Based on this, DCHS staff have developed and submitted a proposed list of budget adjustments that we think will meet the need for cost savings while preserving our ability to provide high quality and essential services to the residents of Alexandria.</p> <p>We urgently request that you accept these proposals and keep the CSB's budget otherwise intact. In the current environment, the need for the behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services that the CSB provides is greater than ever.</p> <p>I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this matter. For additional information, please contact Kate Garvey, the Director of DCHS and Acting Executive Director of the CSB.</p>
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jesse, and I am the parent of a student at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy in Alexandria City Public Schools.</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully ask that City Council fully fund the School Board's FY2027 budget request. The proposed funding gap of approximately \$5.6 million may seem small within the overall city budget, but the potential impact on students is significant. As presented in recent discussions, closing this gap through reductions could lead to larger class sizes, fewer classroom teachers, and fewer student support services.</p> <p>As a parent, I want my child and every student in Alexandria to learn in classrooms where teachers have the resources and support they need to succeed. Adequate staffing, reasonable class sizes, and access to student support professionals such as counselors and social workers are critical to creating a healthy learning environment.</p> <p>Alexandria's students deserve stability and opportunity in their schools. Fully funding the School Board's request will help ensure that students continue to receive the high-quality education and support that our community values.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Alexandria's students and families.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jesse Alexandria Parent</p>
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	As a community member for 20 years I ask the city to reinvest funds from other institutions into housing programs for working class communities
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	This is a budgetary priority, even if it means increasing local taxes
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	<p>Please give the ACPS budget to the requested 3.5% increase in funding for next year. Without this the teacher in our district will not get the raises that they absolutely deserve.</p> <p>Our ACPS teachers play a vital role in shaping the future of city by educating the next generation. Competitive salaries not only attract and retain high-quality educators, but also recognize the significant time, effort, and dedication teachers invest in their students. Additionally, better compensation can help alleviate financial stress, allowing teachers to focus more on delivering effective instruction and supporting their students' academic and personal growth.</p>
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Teachers in American are the one of the most underappreciated professions. Seeing that Northern Virginia is one of the most expensive areas to live in America it would be only right to pay the teachers the right pay. This would help them be able to live in the city of Alexandria, many teachers have insane commutes ranging from two hour to three hours daily. I know multiple teachers who live in cheap rooms and have to have a house in the tidewater area of Virginia or even North Carolina. Its really insane teacher should not have to have multiple residences to save money or have to commute up to three hours daily just to reap the benefits of their pay. Many teachers work very hard and they should be paid more.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I believe that ACPS spends a significant amount of money on wasteful contracts with outside consultants (https://www.acps.k12.va.us/academics/prek-8-analysis) that could be better dedicated to priorities like increasing funding to classroom teachers and school social workers. I appreciate City Council's effort to help ACPS allocate it's funds most effectively.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I am a teacher within ACPS - we deserve a better salary. We shouldn't be struggling to live.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Please pay our teachers more!!! They do a very important job and need to be paid to reflect that, more than just COLA.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I highly encourage the City Manager and Council to increase the budget for teacher salaries. Our school district will not stay afloat with underpaid teachers who bend over backwards for families and children to make their school world better.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	We support raising teachers salaries! 1.5% is not enough to cover the cost of living or inflation adjustments; please revisit the city councils request to raise it by 3.5%. We need our teachers to feel supported by the administration in order to focus on education and our children's best interests. They cannot do this if they are concerned on how to pay for basic needs or have to commute from far away since they cannot afford to live near the school. The requested 3.5% is the minimum amount we should be giving them and I would argue should be higher.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	<p>I am an ACPS parent and volunteer. My step-daughter has attended ACPS schools since Kindergarten, and is now in 8th grade at Francis C. Hammond. We have largely had a great experience with ACPS so far. My step-daughter has had enormous personal and academic growth through the dual-language program, arts enrichments, school sponsored after school activities, and more. She personally has benefitted from a number of incredible teachers, nurses, and school social workers who heavily invested in her and supported her development.</p> <p>However, we have also seen the enormous stressors that the school district is under. Class sizes are too large in many cases, and schools are overcrowded. There are often no substitute teachers available when teachers are out, which forces even more students into each classroom when teachers have to provide coverage for other classes. There are enormous needs for students with special needs, English language learners, and recent immigrants who have experience significant hardships before entering ACPS, and yet resources to provide these extra supports are being proposed to be cut. Enrichment activities like after school sports that are offered by the schools for free are a gift to students whose families may not have the time or financial resources to provide them on their own, and these are also potentially on the chopping block. I hope that the city of Alexandria understands how much value our schools provide to local families and the community overall, and chooses to provide financial supports to one of our city's greatest assets: our schools.</p>

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Wednesday, March 11, 2026	<p>Hi, I would like to advocate for a 3.5% pay raise for teachers.</p> <p>Additionally, I'd like to advocate for removal of all virtual learning days in the event of inclement weather. If a school day is cancelled, it should be made up in person. I believe that many important learning opportunities were missed this year with the significant number of holidays and teacher work days. Please get back to basics and keep the days of education in the classroom maximized! COVID taught us the importance of face-to-face learning.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Best, Seth</p>
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	<p>Teachers have a HUGE responsibility in preparing our children for the future. Let's match that HUGE responsibility with a HUGE increase in pay. If anyone deserves a raise it should definitely be our ACPS teachers. Show them the MONEY!!!</p>
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	<p>This testimony is shared on behalf of ACT for Alexandria, our city's community foundation. At ACT, we amplify the work of the community by bringing people and resources together.</p> <p>I would like to start by thanking the City Manager, City staff, the Mayor, and members of City Council for listening to and incorporating feedback from nonprofit partners throughout this budget process. We are grateful to see many of these priorities reflected in the FY27 budget, including investments that recognize the critical role nonprofits play in supporting Alexandria residents and strengthening economic mobility and well-being as the City continues to invest in economic development and growth.</p> <p>Alexandria is feeling the effects of a changing landscape—from layoffs in the federal workforce to rising costs of living. At the same time, changes in federal policies may mean more residents become ineligible for programs like SNAP or face new work requirements tied to Medicaid. When that happens, the pressure on the local safety net increases.</p> <p>Alexandria's nonprofits are often the first-place neighbors turn when they need help with housing, food, childcare, healthcare, or navigating a difficult moment. They are on the front lines responding to these gaps, which is why maintaining a strong safety net is so important.</p> <p>We appreciate the City's investment in the nonprofit sector through the Alexandria Fund for Human Services and the proposed increase in funding for survival services. We also encourage continued attention to keeping these investments in line with inflation. As we shared previously, funding that was \$1.9 million several years ago would need to be about \$2.7 million today to have the same impact. Ensuring these resources keep pace with rising costs helps equip nonprofits to respond to evolving community needs.</p> <p>ACT is proud to partner with the City and with nonprofits across Alexandria to strengthen this ecosystem of care because we know investing in our city's residents is critical to Alexandria's growth and prosperity. We are grateful for your trust and investment in ACT, which allows us to mobilize additional philanthropic resources and support nonprofit organizations doing critical work every day in our community.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and continued partnership as we work together to ensure Alexandria is a just, vibrant, and equitable place where all who live and work here can thrive and feel they belong.</p>
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	<p>Homeowners need real estate tax relief!! It does not matter that the real estate tax rate did not go up. My home was assessed \$100k over last year which equates to a substantial tax increase. I see from the budget that real estate tax revenue is going up \$15 million. The budget should be reduced by \$15 million and homeowners should get relief if their tax assessment went up a certain amount. This is not sustainable for homeowners who probably receive the least in city services.</p>
Monday, March 9, 2026	<p>As a long-time Alexandria resident and caregiver for my adult son with schizophrenia, I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding for the TRAILS (Transitioning Adults into Living Successfully) program. It's operated by the Community Services Board and offers specialized, multidisciplinary care for residents aged 15–30 experiencing their first episode of psychosis. First-episode psychosis (FEP) in Virginia and nationwide typically affects individuals aged 15–25, with an estimated incidence of 86–107 per 100,000 in this age group.</p> <p>TRAILS provides critical, evidence-based psychiatry, therapy, and recovery support to enable continued participation in school, work and independent living. The positive support of TRAILS has resulted in my son taking his medication for over 1 1/2 yrs, with no hospitalizations since 2022. The ongoing services from TRAILS have helped him resume employment and recover from homelessness.</p> <p>The 2025 Inova Alexandria Community Health Assessment identified Mental Health and Substance Use as a top health issue with unmet needs. The services provided by TRAILS are essential to filling gaps in our current, often overloaded, mental health system. In 2025, TRAILS provided weekly intensive outpatient support to 42 clients with almost 20% of them achieving school enrollment. Early treatment significantly improves long-term health outcomes. Without continued funding, our young Alexandria adults with untreated psychosis are at high risk of suicide, incarceration, chronic homelessness, persistent unemployment, and drug use.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to continue funding TRAILS to ensure the sustained mental wellness of our community.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cynthia Webster</p>
Monday, March 9, 2026	<p>I am writing to urge the City Council to fully fund Alexandria City Public Schools in the upcoming city budget. Our public schools are a vital part of our community, and ensuring they are adequately funded demonstrates that we value our educators and are committed to supporting the success of the next generation of Alexandrians.</p> <p>It is essential that the budget fully supports teacher salaries and planned pay increases so that Alexandria City Public Schools can continue to attract highly qualified educators and retain the talented teachers already serving our students. Competitive compensation reflects the respect our educators deserve for the critical role they play in shaping our children's futures and helps ensure stability and continuity in our classrooms.</p> <p>Teacher compensation in neighboring school divisions is expected to increase between 4.5% and 7.5% in FY 2027, making it critical that Alexandria City Public Schools sustains competitive salaries to attract and retain high-quality educators in Alexandria.</p> <p>In recent years, I have observed a concerning trend of teachers leaving their positions at James K. Polk Elementary School and Hammond Middle School, often for neighboring school districts that offer more competitive pay. This pattern underscores the importance of investing in educator compensation to retain experienced teachers and maintain strong learning environments for our students.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to fully fund the Alexandria City Public Schools budget and demonstrate that Alexandria is committed to supporting its educators, strengthening its schools, and investing in the future of our entire community.</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>Saludos quisiera ver si pudiera tener apollo con arriendo atrasado Soy madre de tres hermanos niños y me encuentro sola.</p> <p>Agradecería bastante el apollo si se pudiera</p> <p>Greetings, I would like to see if I could get assistance with overdue rent. I am the mother of three young children and I am on my own. I would really appreciate the help if possible.</p>

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Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>The Alexandria Commission on Aging has supported the paratransit program for many years. The proposed budget does not appear to reflect the use of money from the contingency fund in FY26 to support the program. We urge that that amount of money be reflected in the FY27 Budget as well. Specifically,</p> <p>Page 13.41 includes the overall budget, including actuals from FY25, FY 26 Approved (which does not reflect the updated amount after council approved release of the contingency), and the FY 27 proposed (which is the same as the reduced amount from FY 26).</p> <p>Page 13.42 includes text about the budget amount and references the contingent reserve from FY26, which does not seem relevant to this year's budget, but nevertheless included.</p> <p>We would appreciate a clarification or a reconciliation of this discrepancy.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Michael Schuster Co-Chair, Commission on Aging</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>Please invest in short, medium, and long term housing solutions for Alexandria's housing crisis.</p> <p>The most vulnerable Alexandrians require immediate relief through rental assistance and a continued rental subsidy pilot program.</p> <p>Medium term, as debt becomes available, we should use our bonding authority strategically to unlock our pipeline of unfunded affordable housing.</p> <p>Long-term solutions require increased housing supply, which can be pursued by repealing wasteful parking mandates, allowing more housing near transit, and pursuing authority for a land value tax structure in Alexandria at the 2027 General Assembly.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Saturday, March 7, 2026	<p>Why has the city not enacted a Commercial and Industrial tax like our surrounding neighbors?</p>
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>hola por este medio les pido la ayuda</p> <p>Hello, through this means I am asking for help.</p>
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>Personally, I support an increased tax rate. Keeping the current rate amounts to an increase of just over \$40 per month for the average house owner - nothing compared to the equity gained by these properties in the last year, or to the rent increases faced by most Alexandrians.</p> <p>Most homeowners have a fixed rate mortgage, essentially rent control for people who could afford a down payment. With that built in stability, there should also be an expectation of contribution to the community through taxes that may increase over time.</p> <p>I understand that a rate increase is something to consider carefully and has impacts beyond personal & family budgets, and that increases are harder for homeowners on a fixed income. Fortunately we have relief programs for low income seniors. We should also continue encouraging flexible housing options so neighborhoods can evolve to meet changing needs, particularly given our aging population.</p> <p>The burden of rising costs should be shared, including by homeowners like me who tend to be wealthier Alexandrians. Restricting that burden to the vulnerable among us, by cutting services or staff pay and raising fees, without asking homeowners to do more goes against the city's stated values on equity.</p> <p>If money is available, with or without increased rates, I strongly support investments in local housing voucher programs that cannot be wielded against mixed status families in the way that federal programs are. Using the city's bonding authority to help unlock our pipeline of approved but unfunded affordable housing should also be a priority.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>As a long time community member, ask city council to invest more on housing programs that help working class communities stay housed in Alexandria.</p> <p>Emma Bruce St</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Si me gustaría. Nos apoyen con más presupuesto ya que tenemos todo super incrementado. Actualmente y nuestros sueldos son super bajos tenemos mucha necesidad con presupuesto para renta. Salud nuestra comunidad está sumamente afectada actualmente por esta amistrasion tenemos mucha necesidad en un. Recurso pa dentista en nuestra comunidades y. Salud. Espero nos apoyen pronto para que nuestras comunidad cuente con más recursos y. Mil gracias bendiciones para todos. Y recuerda pueblo. Unido jamás será vencido gracias espero nos apoyen</p> <p>Please support us with more budget since everything has become extremely expensive. Right now our salaries are very low, and we have a great need for funding for rent. Health in our community is extremely affected right now because of this administration. We have a great need for a dental resource in our communities and for health. I hope you support us soon so that our community can have more resources. Thank you very much, blessings to everyone. And remember: a united people will never be defeated. Thank you, I hope you support us."</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Si me gustaría. Nos apoyen con más presupuesto ya que tenemos todo super incrementado. Actualmente y nuestros sueldos son super bajos tenemos mucha necesidad con presupuesto para renta. Salud nuestra comunidad está sumamente afectada actualmente por esta amistrasion tenemos mucha necesidad en un. Recurso pa dentista en nuestra comunidades y. Salud. Espero nos apoyen pronto para que nuestras comunidad cuente con más recursos y. Mil gracias bendiciones para todos. Y recuerda pueblo. Unido jamás será vencido gracias espero nos apoyen</p>

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Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I am writing today to urge you to fully fund Alexandria City Public Schools in the city's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Our schools are a vital part of our community and every student should have access to a safe environment, quality instruction and any academic supports that are needed. Fully funding ACPS demonstrates that our children matter and their future as the next generation of Alexandrans are important to us as a community.</p> <p>In particular, it is critical that the budget fully supports teacher salaries and planned pay increases so Alexandria can attract quality educators and retain the great educators we have. Competitive compensation shows respect for the people who are instrumental in shaping our children's futures and helps ensure stability in our classrooms.</p> <p>I've noticed a troubling trend of teachers leaving Polk Elementary School the past few years, often for other school districts with more competitive pay. My daughter is in 3rd grade and not one of her prior teachers remains at the school. Her amazing first grade teacher left Northern Virginia entirely to teach in a less expensive area of the state because it was difficult for her to live off an ACPS teacher's salary.</p> <p>The one caveat to my support for full ACPS funding is my complete lack of confidence in ACPS management. I was troubled by the redistricting process, which gives no indication it will alleviate the crowding issues at the poorest schools in this district. A couple examples of current inequity, to illustrate my frustration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of 'community schools' in the redistricting process, yet the vast majority of students living on the western side of the city, who happen to be some of the poorest in the city, are not afforded that luxury and there are no conversations about new schools for these communities, despite the development on the west end on top of already crowded, large schools (700-900) that already do not provide the same experience to their students as smaller schools in other parts of this city. 2. Class sizes. It's gotten better, but this still remains an issue. For example, George Mason Elementary's average Kindergarten class is currently 11 students (34 total students) and 2nd grade is 15 (44 total students), while Patrick Henry Elementary's average Kindergarten class size is 24 (120 total students) and 2nd grade is 25 (124 total students) - 13 more students per K class and 9 more students per 2nd grade class at a school with 2x the poverty rate of the other. Patrick Henry has 1,000 students, with 80%+ of students coming from economically disadvantaged households - some from extreme poverty and/or unhoused - and as recent as a year or two ago, ACPS thought one social worker was sufficient to serve those 1,000 students. <p>Most recently, I was disturbed to read the superintendent's recent statement that without full funding, "23 teachers, social workers, psychologists" positions would be cut. Not one central office job title on that list, which says a lot to me. Teachers and professionals who directly support our students should be the LAST positions cut, not the first. I think that Alexandria government, as a major funder of ACPS, and the ACPS school board should demand some accountability for the amount of funding directed to central office and perhaps suggest the position cuts need to come from there, if anywhere.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>As a working-class constituent of Alexandria City, I would like for City Council to invest in more affordable housing programs and policies.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have been a resident of the City of Alexandria for 17 years. During that time, I have participated in many budget processes and have spoken with members of the Council several times when they visited our community in the West End.</p> <p>For many years, we have been having the same conversation about the need for deeply affordable housing and the importance of investing in programs that help working-class families stay stable in their homes. These investments are critical for families who are doing their best to work hard, support their children, and remain part of this community.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 10 years and during that time I have seen how much the cost of housing has increased for families like mine. Many working families are doing their best to keep up with rent, but it becomes harder every year as prices continue to rise while our incomes stay the same.</p> <p>Housing programs such as rental assistance and rental subsidies are very important because they help families stay in their homes and avoid displacement. These programs provide stability for parents and children who want to remain part of this community.</p> <p>I respectfully ask City Council to continue investing in housing programs that support working families and help keep Alexandria an affordable place to live.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 16 years. Like many working families, I struggle with the high cost of rent. Housing has become more expensive every year, and it is getting harder to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to continue investing in housing programs like rental assistance that help families stay stable in their homes. These programs are very important for residents who want to continue living in the community.</p> <p>Jose West End community member</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Programas de ayuda de renta programa de subsidio de vivienda fondo para los programas del departamento de servicios humanos</p> <p>Rental assistance programs, housing subsidy program, fund for the programs of the Department of Human Services</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Nely and I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 8 years. Like many working families in our community, the high cost of rent makes it very difficult to stay stable. Every year the rent continues to increase while our incomes do not grow at the same rate.</p> <p>I am asking City Council to invest more in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program. These programs help families like mine stay in our homes and avoid displacement. Our community needs more support so working families can continue living in the city.</p> <p>Nely West End resident</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Edson. I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 11 years. My wife and I both work and we have three children. Even though we work hard, the cost of rent keeps going up and it is becoming harder for families like ours to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to invest in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program so working families like mine can stay in the city and have stability.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Marvela. I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 8 years. Like many families in this city, the cost of rent keeps getting higher and it is becoming harder to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to invest in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program so families like mine can continue living in the city and have more stability.</p> <p>Marvela West End resident</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>Hola buenos días necesitamos que nos ayudes con su apoyo para poder para renta porque está muy cara la renta cada ves me pone peor la situacion bendiciones</p> <p>Hello, good morning. We need you to help us with support so we can pay the rent because the rent is very expensive. Every time the situation gets worse. Blessings.</p>

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Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>BENDICIONES , YO PIENSO , que en algún momento Dela vida todos tengamos a tener NESECIDAD , YA SEA POR DESEMPLEO ENFERMEDAD O ETC PIENSO Q LA IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDAD ES LO MEJOR PIENSO Q SI PEDIMOS AYUDA ES CUANDO EN VERDAD AUNQ Q QUISIÉRAMOS NO PODEMOS SOBRELLEVAR LA CITUACION EN MI OPINIÓN. DECEO DE CORAZON Q PUEDAN DARNOS A TODOS LOS Q APLICAMOS O PEDIMOS AYUDA PUEDAN DARNOS OPORTUNIDAD DE SER ESCUCHADOS BENDICIONES !</p> <p>Blessings, I believe that at some point in life we all experience need, whether because of unemployment, illness, or something else. I think that equal opportunity is the best. I believe that if we ask for help, it is because truly, even if we wish we could, we are not able to handle the situation. In my opinion, I sincerely hope that all of us who applied for or requested help can be given the opportunity to be heard. Blessings!</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>One question and one proposal</p> <p>QUESTION: The city manager's claim that he is not proposing a tax increase strikes me as disingenuous.</p> <p>As long as property appraisals increase, additional tax revenue will occur</p> <p>Consequently, I want to know if he is proposing more or less spending.</p> <p>And by how much.</p> <p>But if it's more, then how much more and why?</p> <p>PROPOSAL: Require each year the city manager identify candidate services that can be privatized and paid by their recipients rather than by all taxpayers.</p> <p>Rationale: Private service providers will be more attentive to citizen-client needs. Unlike unionized city employees, contract renewal s of private service providers depends on citizen-client satisfaction.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>If the city cares about youth success, it must care about housing stability. Stable homes help us succeed in school and in life. Please invest more in housing stability. 9th grade Minnie Howard</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>When families are struggling with rent, young people feel it too. We need leaders to show that youth matter by investing in housing stability in Alexandria City. David 7th grade GW middle school</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>Hi my name is Nicole and I'm in 7th also I attend George Washington middle school. Young people notice when families are stressed about money. It creates fear and anxiety. Please expand housing support so youth can feel safe and secure.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>My family works hard, but rent keeps going up. We need support so we can stay in our community. Héctor 7th gw</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>We talk about building a better future for youth, but that starts with stable housing. Without a safe home, it's hard to dream big. Franco 6th jefferson houston</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>I have live in this city for 26 years, rent increases affect working class like mine and have displaced many of us, please invest on housing programs to help families like mine stay in Alexandria city.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>As young people, we carry a lot of stress when our families struggle with rent. It's hard to focus on school when you don't know if you'll have to move. Please invest in housing programs that keep families stable 11th grade Alexandria City High School</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>Housing instability affects our grades, our mental health, and our future plans. We need leaders to make sure families can stay in their homes. It is bad to raise high prices of rent when the quality of our housing is bad. People can get sick from mold, infestations, and its hard when people do not have health insurance to be able to get healthy.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>We need more investment in housing programs that help working class familias stay in the city of alexandria, we received high rent increases but our salary is not increasing at the same rate.</p>
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>We need the school budget to be FULLY funded.</p> <p>I am very disappointed that the Alexandria City Manager ONLY put in a 1.5% budget increase for ACPS. This, DESPITE a 3.5% increase in revenue for the city due to property values going up. DESPITE all the data coming out of how Virginia has long underfunded schools and set them up to struggle. 1.5% DOES NOT cover a step increase and 1.5% increase (which is what city employees are getting). Also, this WILL NOT cover the collective bargaining agreement being negotiated.</p> <p>I care about our public schools. I have two children currently attending Alexandria City Public Schools. I need all of our city's children set up for success during their time in ACPS in order to ensure success post-graduation. I also need our veteran teachers to stay in our schools - teacher retention is a huge indicator of public school system health and directly impacts LEARNING. I need our class sizes to stay reasonable - In spite of the redistricting, we STILL have overcrowding across ACPS, continuously impacting historically disadvantaged communities the most. We ALL NEED our schools to be FULLY funded. Especially in light of the fact that Alexandria City receives only 68% of the per student in state Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding, marking the lowest per-pupil state funding amount of any school division in Virginia (Fairfax county received \$5,484 per student, state average was \$6,978/student). There is no reason why we shouldn't fund our schools adequately to provide commensurate compensation for teachers and student resources relative to Fairfax, Arlington, and other nearby localities. Strong successful schools grow community and ensure Alexandria remains vibrant.</p> <p>We need YOU to ensure that our city manager FULLY funds our schools!!</p>
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>Necesito alluda para mi eenta I need help with my rent</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>Im need helado to my rent</p> <p>I need help with my rent</p>
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>1: we need a rental assistance program .</p> <p>2:housing subsidy program .</p> <p>3:funding for the department of human services programs.</p>
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>1: we need a rental assistance program .</p> <p>2:housing subsidy program .</p> <p>3:funding for the department of human services programs.</p>
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	<p>Soy una persona con desempleo y deseo la ayuda</p> <p>"I am an unemployed person and I need assistance.</p>
Monday, March 2, 2026	<p>I have 2 boys at Samuel Tucker Elementary. This year the class sizes are so large that the teachers do not have enough time or bandwidth to pay attention to all the children in their classes. My first grader is very bright and reading above grade level. Because he isn't in a "crisis" he gets little to no attention unless it is for redirection and focus. This leaves him feeling like he is "always getting in trouble" even though he is bored because he completes his work before the other students around him. His teacher has too many students to be able to devote her attention to him until he is causing a disruption. He is not being challenged. This is being made more apparent by the fact that one of the first grade classes was dissolved 6 weeks into the school year adding 5 additional students to each of the first grade classes. Now my student falls through the cracks because he isn't a "problem."</p> <p>My 4th grader really struggled as a military transplant going into such a large class with kids that have been mostly together since Kindergarten. The school is unable to provide him the support that he needs because there are students with more significant needs than his, and he gets lost in the crowd because he isn't a "problem" but that doesn't mean he isn't struggling with understanding how things function and expectations even though his teacher does her absolute best. What can someone expect from a teacher trying to stay on top of over 25 students needs?</p>
Saturday, February 28, 2026	<p>I believe we should give ACPS all the money that it is asking for. I think it is absolutely essential that we fully fund our public schools. We cannot leave more than 14,000 youth underfunded, especially with the districts around us becoming more competitive. We cannot drive teachers away. We absolutely might fully fund public schools and I think it is ridiculous to even suggest a 1.5% increase when we know it will harm collective bargaining for ACPS staff, knowing well that city employees will be getting an increase in their pay.</p>
Saturday, February 28, 2026	<p>Dear Alexandria City Staff: Request to increase the frequency of the #32 bus service on Eisenhower Ave on weekends.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>I think the schools need a bigger budget increase. Especially in the West End, where there is already a lot of overcrowding and only getting worse.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for our public schools and to emphasize how deeply I care about the success of our students. I want our children to be set up for success after graduation. I also want our veteran teachers to remain in our schools. Their experience, dedication, and mentorship are invaluable to student achievement and to maintaining a stable, high-quality learning environment. Finally, maintaining reasonable class sizes is critical. Our students deserve individual attention and meaningful engagement in the classroom. I urge you to prioritize policies and funding that protect and strengthen our public schools.,</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Please fulfill the ACPS request of a 3.5% increase in budget. Our public schools are the foundation of our community. My two daughters benefit daily from the passionate educators in ACPS schools.</p> <p>A 1.5% increase does not even cover a step increase for our under compensated educators.</p> <p>I want veteran, highly qualified teachers to remain at ACPS like Ms. Goodlin, who inspired both my girls to greater academic achievement in the 7th grade English classes at Hammond, and Mr Fox who inspired both of them to do amazing history day projects.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Hello, With the city's revenue increase I would like to see more of that revenue go into our schools. Currently, the 1.5% increase won't cover salary increases and other needs to keep our classroom sizes small and retain experienced experts, including teachers. Teachers deserve the salary increase just like a city employee. In fact, teachers are critical to ensuring the city's children become strong contributors once they graduate. Please increase the budget for ACPS. If the city cannot afford it, I suggest they find creative ways to raise the funds, including gathering ideas from its citizens.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>As a resident and parent of an Alexandria Public Schools student, more money should be directed to educating our children.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Why do we treat our teachers like second class citizens? It has always amazed me that we under appreciate, under fund and under pay the very people that are shaping the lives of our future generations.</p> <p>Good teachers leave for for better pay in adjoining school systems for this very reason. Don't be apart of that drain. Fully fund the school and pay our teachers!!!</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Funding to support the middle school athletic programs should be prioritized. The positive impact athletics have reaches beyond just improved test scores, but social emotional development of this population. These programs are JUST gaining momentum and we should prioritize keeping that momentum going.</p>
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	<p>I am writing as a city resident and ACPS parent of 3, including one child at Hammond and two at Polk. As a resident of the city, I have come to understand and appreciate the many competing needs of the city that is struggling with limited funds. However, I nevertheless feel strongly that the city should do everything in its power to meet the proposed budget presented by ACPS to the extent possible.</p> <p>Public education is more important now than ever, and we risk losing our best educators and staff if we continue to ask them to do more with less. My children attend overcrowded schools with teacher-to-student ratios that make me want to cry. Moreover, an overwhelming number of students in the classroom require additional support, making the work of managing a class of 24 children feel twice as hard. We are faced with cutting invaluable language programs, and balancing the needs to of rebuilding crumbling schools with other schools that are far too overcrowded. At the same time, as a parent active in my children's schools, I see firsthand how hard the staff work every day to keep all of our students healthy and on track to be successful humans.</p> <p>And shouldn't the creation of successful humans be at the top of our priority list as a city? I recognize the many other funding needs the city faces but we will fail as a city in the long run if our future residents are not successful adults. I constantly hear that ACPS is viewed as "less than" neighboring schools systems and that this is why many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances did not consider moving here when it came time to buy a home and build a family. While I do not agree with this take on ACPS, I do not think we can ignore the fact that if we want to create a world-class city that attracts business and investment, we have to consider that the reputation of our schools, deserved or not, plays an important role in the process. We should be digging into ensuring that all Alexandria students receive an education that is considered to be on par with the surrounding districts. We must set the bar higher.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, February 24, 2026	<p>As a parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary, I am concerned that our schools do not have sufficient funding to support students effectively. Neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong educators have options. Large class sizes are also a concern.</p> <p>Where we put our money shows what we prioritize. If education is truly a priority, our budget should reflect that commitment.</p> <p>Will you commit to increasing funding for our schools so we can remain competitive and provide students with the support they deserve?</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>How much does it cost the city to administer the residential parking program? How much revenue does that program bring in?</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>This is what you get for electing democrats.</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I would love the city to explore a pedestrian signal at commonwealth from Ancell to Mount Vernon Ave. Many of us from Warwick Village use that as a key space to cross commonwealth and during rush hour, it can be impossible to get cars to stop (even with a stroller).</p> <p>Thanks, Kate</p> <p>Prior Submission:</p> <p>Your Comments: Hi! Would it be possible to install a pedestrian signal that flashes to get traffic to stop while crossing commonwealth from Ancell to mount vernon ave? Not a huge problem in the day, but at night especially in the winter cars don't see people. Would especially be helpful during rush hour.</p> <p>Staff Comments: Kate,</p> <p>Thank you for contacting the City of Alexandria with your request for flashing pedestrian beacons stop signs at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Ancell Street.</p> <p>The City takes mobility, access, and traffic safety very seriously and has several plans and programs in place to enhance safety for all roadway users, such as the Vision Zero Action Plan, Complete Streets Program, and the Alexandria Mobility Plan.</p> <p>At this time, staff resources and funding are currently committed to other priority projects for this fiscal year. However, staff appreciates you taking the time to share your suggestions and will take your request into consideration as they plan future safety improvements.</p> <p>Thank you again for contacting the City of Alexandria with your concerns. Should you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Bryan Hayes Complete Streets Coordinator</p>
Sunday, February 22, 2026	<p>As a parent of students in our public schools, I urge you to prioritize funding for our city's schools in the FY 2027 Operating Budget at this critical moment. We must remain competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers, and that means ensuring they feel valued, supported, and fairly compensated so they are not forced to leave our community. We are at a pivotal time when supporting the whole child — academically, socially, and emotionally — also means supporting their families. Many of our students are at risk and deserve the same access to strong learning opportunities, enrichment, and resources as their peers. We cannot continue placing the burden of closing opportunity gaps on our teachers and parents, who are already giving so much. While we are continuing to advocate at the state level for additional resources, we know that change there will take time. In the meantime, we are depending on you. Your investment in our public schools is an investment in our city's future workforce, safety, and economic stability. The decisions you make today will determine what our tomorrow looks like as a community. We cannot do this alone! We need you to stand with our students and families now. Please incorporate the school board approved budget into your budget plans to ensure we have a fighting chance. Thank you.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the original budget was presented in January a slide said that \$11.44 million was set aside for an approximately 5% raise for employees 2. The City of Alexandria advised the superintendent and school board they would only approve an additional 1.5 budget request. The superintendent asked for an additional 3.7 percent 3. Michelle Reif stated that if the city did not approve the full 3.7 % request staff would not even get a step increase. What happened to the reserve set aside for a 5% average pay raise, especially considering increased health care costs led to a decrease in take home pay for staff last year? 4. year 5. ACPS is being surpassed in salary enhancements by just about every district (last year neighboring districts provided staff with 5-8% salary increases and are providing the same this year) <p>The school board and superintendent are playing politics with the City of Alexandria regarding the livelihoods of staff. ACPS will blame the city for a lack of salary enhancements if the city refuses the 3.7 increase when the city provided budget guidance of approving 1.5 from the beginning. ACPS needs to cut funds from a multitude of sources, including an over bloated Central office staff and a building nobody works in, in order to provide those who serve students IN PERSON on a daily basis a fair and equitable salary that is comparable to surrounding districts.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<p>I am a parent at James K. Polk Elementary School, and school funding is extremely important to my family. My child depends on ACPS not only for academic learning, but also for a safe and supportive environment every day.</p> <p>Strong funding ensures smaller class sizes, dedicated teachers, and essential programs that help students grow both academically and emotionally. Budget cuts would directly affect my child and many other students in our community.</p> <p>Please prioritize full and strong funding for ACPS so our children can continue to receive the quality education they deserve.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello - I am the parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary School.</p> <p>I am concerned that our schools do not have enough funding to meet the needs of our students. I understand that City Council determines the funding level for Alexandria's schools, and your decisions directly impact the quality of education our children receive.</p> <p>We know that neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong teachers have choices about where they work. Retaining great educators should be a priority. I am also concerned about large class sizes and how they affect student learning and teacher support.</p> <p>Our students deserve the resources, attention, and opportunities needed to succeed. Can we count on you to prioritize education and increase funding for our schools?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>In order to retain and recruit talent in ACPS, salaries need to be competitive. Please include funding to support ACPS staff's collective bargaining in your annual budget.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello, I am writing to express my support for ACPS funding. Our school system faces many challenges, including overcrowding especially at many of the elementary schools and all the middle schools. Without funding for teachers, our students will receive a sub par education. I also support turning one of the elementary schools into another middle school or building a new middle school on the west end, to make the middle school environment safer for our children.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I am Vice President of the Patrick Henry PTA.</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for an increase in the funding allocated for ACPS schools, specifically for staffing. We remain uncompetitive with surrounding school districts (Arlington and Fairfax) and the proposed budget indicates we will continue to be so, resulting in attrition and teacher turnover. Retaining talented teachers is particularly important for us, given that many of our teachers are asked to manage very large class sizes. Providing this sort of stability should be an absolute priority for us, given the many challenges faced by ACPS students and families in light of the many changes due to redistricting.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>Please fully fund ACPS. It is critical that we keep and attract the best teachers. Fully funding ACPS is a step in the right direction to keep Alexandria competitive for top talent in the region. Strong schools lead to strong communities. Fund ACPS.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I would like to see two things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A significant improvement in the ratio of teachers to administrative staff, and 2. A significant reduction in the amount of laptops and tablets that are purchased and used for instruction at the elementary level.
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I would like to see the ACPS school budget prioritized in the FY2027 city budget, to be presented next week. I acknowledge that this is (yet again) a tough budget year. However, I am disappointed that the conversation around the budget continues to be "what can we cut" rather than "how can we increase revenue." Years without tax increases and without revenue investments have contributed to the schools being underfunded and repeatedly having to beg for adequate funding to meet the ever-increasing population and need in the city. It is clear based on recent research and data that at the state level, the recommendations and funding levels do not meet the need of any school across the commonwealth. However, until strong advocacy and a motivated General Assembly can change how Virginia schools are funded generally, it is the responsibility of this city to fund our school system. Claiming that we are adequately funding ACPS when we are not only adds to the problem. When you compare the percentages of funding that surrounding jurisdictions provide their public schools, all of them are higher than Alexandria, despite the fact that we educate a population with a higher percentage of need. We need more resources for our kids, not less.</p> <p>For a sadly large number of children in Alexandria, their schools are one of the safest places in their lives, and the primary source of positive adult interactions outside of the home. Many families don't have the extra funds to participate in travel sports (or any sports outside what is offered at ACPS), or extra theater classes.</p> <p>Many of our teachers are truly magicians to be able to give what they give to their students. You see that when you walk into a kindergarten class at the start of the year and see students that can't write their full name or accurately identify all the letters of the alphabet. Return in May, and you will find them sounding out words. Come to the schools. See special education teachers give up their lunch break to work 1:1 with their students to make sure they "get their wiggles out" before joining their class for encore classes. Walk into a middle school science classroom and find students bringing to life a flying robot for the science fair during their lunch break, constructively working with their teacher (even middle school students who won't talk to their parents).</p> <p>These magicians deserve to be paid fairly for the extraordinary work they do each every day so that our children graduate ready to be contributing citizens in our city. Teachers and administrators deserve to be paid at a level that acknowledges their years of service, their investments in their educations, and the truly impressive outcomes that they manage to produce on a shoestring budget. Retaining excellent, experienced teachers is key and unfortunately in Alexandria the pay gaps between us and the neighboring jurisdictions gets higher each year.</p> <p>We all watched as every collective bargaining unit came to the city and had their requests fulfilled this year, DESPITE the tough budget year. Funding the ACPS budget at a 1.5% recommendation will not allow that to happen for our teachers-not when nearly 80% of the budget is salaries. We can do better in Alexandria. And we have to. The kids are counting on us, and on you.</p> <p>Catie Brownback</p>
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I request that the budget includes a dedicated line item for non-technology curriculum materials — such as workbooks, printed homework packets, pencils, pens, paper, ink for printouts, and other hands-on learning tools for elementary and middle school students.</p> <p>Children are not yet mentally mature enough to consistently keep themselves on task or safe when using technology without constant supervision. Extensive screen use can make sustained attention, focus, and deep thinking more difficult for young learners, because digital media often delivers rapid, highly stimulating content that competes with slower, more thoughtful tasks (research shows screen exposure is linked with shorter attention spans and difficulty concentrating).</p> <p>Balancing technology with traditional, non-screen learning materials supports stronger cognitive development, real-world problem-solving, and foundational skills like handwriting, reading comprehension, and memory.</p> <p>I also ask that parents be given the option to opt their children out of learning through iPads, Chromebooks, or computers, so that families who prefer traditional, non-screen instruction for developmental or educational reasons can choose that path.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Ruth Leiva</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I support the FY 2027 budget's focus on recruitment and retention of high-quality educators. Competitive teacher compensation is essential to attract and retain top talent and sustain instructional excellence across ACPS. The inclusion of salary reserves and recruitment/retention resources is a positive step; however, continued investment is necessary to ensure ACPS remains competitive with neighboring districts and supports long-term teacher stability.</p> <p>I also strongly encourage ACPS and City Council to expand access to high-quality, nutritious meals. While universal lunch programs are helpful, meal quality matters. Breakfasts should minimize added sugars (especially for elementary school children) and offer balanced options, and lunches should emphasize fresh, nutritious, whole-food ingredients. With more than 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals, food security and meal quality directly impact academic performance and overall well-being.</p> <p>Arts education and after-school programming must remain strong priorities. These programs are foundational to a well-rounded education and are not optional enrichment. Music, visual arts, theater, academic clubs, and extended-day programs support engagement, equity, and student development across all grade levels. Dedicated funding ensures these programs are protected and accessible to all students.</p> <p>Finally, as ACPS navigates school boundary changes and redistricting, I urge the inclusion of explicit resources to support impacted families. While staffing adjustments are included in the proposed budget, families would benefit from dedicated transition support such as transportation assistance, counseling resources, multilingual communication, and community-building opportunities at receiving schools. Proactive support will help maintain stability, trust, and student well-being during transitions.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I'm a 30+ year resident of the City and 17 year ACPS veteran teacher. Our salary increases do not come close to keeping up with the rate of inflation, and many of my colleagues are leaving the district for Fairfax, Arlington or Falls Church for more money.</p> <p>I am currently in the position of needing to make a decision of whether or not I want to do the same. I am coming up on my last 3 years of work before retirement, and it would be in my best interest to switch districts to maximize my VRS post-retirement income.</p> <p>I'm keenly aware of the budget issues facing Alexandria but I strongly urge you to consider the future of our educational system and our City's children.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I am a 3rd-grade teacher at a title 1 school on the west side of Alexandria. With the cost of living in Alexandria, I am barely making enough to get by. I am working paycheck to paycheck just to afford rent and groceries. I am also still using my own money to fund resources in my classroom to give my students an exciting education. Teachers' salaries need to be raised to match the expense of living in our beautiful city! I do not want to leave this city, both living and working, but I may have to if our school budget and teacher salaries are not increased!</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>Hello I am a city resident and a ACPS staff member for 20years. *I would like for the city council members to know that ACPS has one of the lowest pay salary in this area. The support staff members (bus drivers, cafeteria staff, office staff and paraprofessionals) work the hardest to make sure schools are ran in a great manner. Yes I could maybe should be going to our school board members. I will not waste my time.</p>
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	<p>Dear Alexandria City Council and City Manager,</p> <p>Thank you for all that you do to make Alexandria City such a wonderful place to live. This is a welcoming, diverse, vibrant community because the people here believe in creating that kind of place. I know that it requires careful planning and balancing to make our budget meet the similarly diverse needs of a city like Alexandria. As a parent with two children in elementary school in ACPS, I believe that our schools are regularly called on to do a lot with not nearly enough resources. Because Virginia uses a staff-based model to assess educational costs and because of an unfair Local Composite Index formula, Alexandria City must shoulder an unreasonable portion of the expense of running our schools. I encourage City Council and the Mayor's office to press our state elected officials and leaders to address this situation. In the meantime, I ask that you do all that you can to meet the needs of our schools. Already, our schools are tightening budgets in painful ways for next year while grants that flowed freely in more prosperous times dry up. At Mount Vernon Community School, we are aware that our 3-5 grade after-school tutoring program for next year is unfunded thanks to budget cuts. For many complex reasons, ACPS will have a tough time meeting all the financial demands next year. A new collective bargaining agreement, inflation, and capital improvement demands are challenges that I know you are all aware of. I ask that you do everything you can to fund ACPS's budget, knowing that it is far, far from being funded to the level of its true needs.</p> <p>With gratitude, Evan Wilson</p>