



**Gloucester County
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MESSAGE REGARDING FY2018 BUDGET

The Board of Supervisors extends its sincere gratitude to the County Administrator and School Superintendent for their outstanding work on the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. On Monday night the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the budget with a major goal of absorbing a \$2 million increase in health insurance and Virginia Retirement System costs - without raising taxes. That this was done without degradation to the quality of services offered is a testament to the thousands of hours of hard work by the County Administrator, School Superintendent, and their combined staffs. Their diligence, expertise and perseverance were above and beyond, and their efforts are deeply appreciated.

This budget had to be able to expand to accommodate the inevitable and unavoidable demands of an increasingly expensive national health care system, while remaining flexible enough to handle the uncertainty concerning this year's Federal budget and the economic outlook. This drove the Board's desire for a budget that was fiscally constrained, yet robust enough to meet the needs of a growing county. Structured to take advantage of a potential economic upturn, yet lean enough to weather the possibility of an economic downturn, this budget is one that meets the unique demands of today's fiscal environment.

This year's budget, one of the most detailed and well developed we had ever reviewed, contains some major highlights:

- Maintains the high quality of service we've come to expect from the county and GCPS.
- Invests over \$2 million in critical infrastructure improvements for the schools.
- Allocates an additional \$382,000 to meet essential needs in the Abingdon and Gloucester Volunteer Fire & Rescue departments, as well as an additional \$44,000 for the Sheriff's department.
- Provisions for a 1% bonus for all county and school employees
- Incorporates a \$200K reduction in the business, professional and occupational licensing (BPOL) fees to help enable business development, and refunds \$200K in excess BPOL tax collections from FY17.
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In short, we have a budget that fully supports the essential needs of Gloucester County – without having to increase taxes to do so.

Phillip Bazzani, York
Chris Hutson, Gloucester Point
John Meyer, At-Large
Mike Winebarger, Petsworth

Ashley Chriscoe, At-Large
Andy James, Ware
Robert Orth, Abingdon