

**McLean Citizens Association  
Resolution on Principles to Guide Development of the  
Fairfax County Budget  
January 5, 2011**

**Whereas,**

Fairfax County faces a third straight year of budget shortfall for FY 2012, with the prospect of additional shortfalls in FY 2013 and FY 2014, due to reduced revenues, adverse economic conditions, and likely reduced government spending; and

**Whereas,**

The federal government and many cities, counties, and states are being forced to take severe measures such as furloughs, salary freezes, benefit revisions, and service reductions because of similar problems with market stagnation and slow growth; and

**Whereas,**

The Fairfax County Executive does not anticipate any federal or state stimulus or transfer funds for FY 2012, such as those that helped balance the FY 2010-2011 budgets (in which compensation was held flat); and

**Whereas,**

Fairfax County property owners have endured continual annual increases in property taxes even as property values have declined, because tax rate adjustment has been the primary last step in balancing the budget; and

**Whereas,**

The FY 2012 projected shortfall of approximately \$125 million does not include any school operating transfer or compensation increases, nor infrastructure requirement costs, and FY 2013 forecasts a \$36 million shortfall also; and

**Whereas,**

A requested 2% increase for all employees, with refined pay-for-performance and merit increments would result in revised shortfalls of approximately \$233 million, \$268 million, and \$328 million for FYs 2012-2014, respectively, which would require even more severe cuts in public services and property management; and

**Whereas,**

Given the above considerations, to live within our means and balance the County budget, now

**Therefore be it resolved,**

That the MCA strongly supports consideration of austerity measures, including but not limited to the following:

1. Adopt a residential tax rate that will result in FY 2012 revenues from residential taxes at about the same level as FY 2011, based on actual 2011 assessment values;
2. Develop, implement and publicize metrics to evaluate the degree to which programs are cost-effective, and cut or eliminate programs that are not providing an adequate return on investment;
3. Develop and implement metrics to evaluate the number of personnel and skill sets required to provide direct services to County residents, and cut positions that are determined to not be required for this purpose;
4. Increase efficiencies in the administration of County departments and services by consolidating human resource, information technology, and public affairs functions County-wide;
5. Cut administrative costs, particularly by cutting the size of Department headquarters, including for education;
6. Protect the direct provision of services to County residents, to the maximum extent feasible;
7. Freeze hiring and/or establish policies that result in an overall decrease in the size of County government;
8. Develop and implement compensation and benefit policies and procedures tied to affordability and merit rather than across-the-board percentage increases which escalate successive year legacy costs;
9. Require greater contributions to retirement and health benefit plans by existing and new County hires;
10. Prevent “grade creep” or unwarranted upward reclassification of positions as a means of circumventing the County austerity measures enumerated above; and
11. Require that any increases in expenditures for specific programs be accompanied by corresponding decreases elsewhere in the County budget.

Distribution List  
Board of Supervisors  
County Executive  
School Board