

Testimony on FY 21 General Fund Tax Rate above the Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR)
April 21, 2020
Laurie Halverson, President of CCWRC

President Katz and Members of the County Council,

I am opposing any increases in the real property tax. Increasing taxes at this fragile time in American history is abominable. When people are losing their businesses as owners and their jobs as employees, it is important to state the opinion of myself and 200 members of the Chevy Chase Women's Republican Club. Increasing taxes will drive people away from this county. While before the Coronavirus, this country was in a solid economic state, we are no longer in that position. Raising taxes at this time will be the nail in the coffin for many who are on thin ice to leave this county. There are many retired women in my club and several (even before Coronavirus) have already moved to places like Florida where they can stretch their dollars further.

Mitch Daniels, President of Purdue in Indiana, stated in a video to parents and staff two weeks ago, that there would be no raises this year for his staff. That was the right move to make given the situation today. I wish our leaders in Montgomery County would have been so swift in their actions. Union contracts cannot be an excuse to continue any decisions made before the Coronavirus pandemic.

I also want to point out that your County Council meeting last week was concerning when you stated that the Washington Post article was just something that was required by state law to post. Members of the Council stated they do not intend to increase taxes at this time and that the posting by the Washington Post was required by the state to include the highest possible increase which was included in the County Executive's recommendation. Marc Elrich's recommendation wasn't the recommendation by the County Council, but I am grateful for the posting because it alerted the public about the potential increase. As citizens, it is important that we are informed. I applaud this transparency and oppose any increase. That is why I am sending this testimony today. Without such testimony, you could have a reason to raise property taxes, stating there was no opposition.

Finding new ways to intentionally support and welcome businesses to Montgomery County is the preferred action to accumulate more revenues to support the services our county has become accustomed to. We would be happy to continue this conversation further.

Laurie Halverson
President, Chevy Chase Women's Republican Club