

Amy Waychoff
Property Tax Increases Resolution
Unfavorable
16 July 2024

Good afternoon, members of the Montgomery County Council. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Amy Waychoff and I have been a Montgomery County resident for almost 37 years. I am testifying against any changes to the requirement that increases in property tax rates may only be passed by unanimous vote of the County Council. Placing a charter amendment on the ballot to change the requirement to a two-thirds vote is an effort to undue two previous referendums — one in 2008 and the other in 2020 — that reduced property tax hikes because of the requirement that Council votes must be unanimous. The people have already spoken, and they are tired of paying exorbitant property taxes.

The County Council has already proven itself to be a poor steward of the citizens' money, overspending year after year. When you *cut* taxes (something I don't recall ever occurring since I moved to Montgomery County), tax revenue actually *increases* because of the doors it opens for businesses — large and small — to expand, thus hiring more employees and lowering unemployment. Those new employees, in turn, fuel the local economy by buying goods, services, and even homes.

Opening the door to higher property taxes is especially irresponsible when the State legislature and executive just imposed 338 — that's right, 338 — new

taxes, fees and regulations. No wonder businesses are leaving the state and the county, while neighboring states are experiencing the opposite trend.

Montgomery County citizens are wondering what they get in return for the ever higher property taxes they pay year after year. Good schools? Not anymore. A respect for police and a reduction in crime? Just the opposite.

It's time to stop using the the taxpayers as an ATM. Rest assured, the citizens of this county will remember what you did in November, 2024, when they return to the ballot box in November, 2026, for the election of new council members.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.