

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed tax increases, which I believe are both unjustified and deeply disconnected from the financial realities facing your constituents.

Over the past four years, home price assessments have increased by approximately 10% annually. As a direct result, homeowners are already paying significantly higher property taxes. This steady escalation has placed a growing burden on families without any corresponding relief.

I urge you to consider the impact on retirees and older residents living on fixed incomes. These individuals have worked their entire lives to own their homes, yet they are now being priced out of them due to continuously rising taxes. How are they expected to sustain these increases?

At the same time, salaries have not kept pace with these rising costs. Most households have not seen income growth anywhere near the rate of property value increases or overall inflation. Speaking of inflation, even by your own estimates, it has not exceeded 6%—so what justifies tax increases that far outpace both wage growth and inflation?

Equally concerning is the continued increase in funding for MCPS schools without corresponding improvements in educational outcomes. In fact, many parents have observed a noticeable decline in standards. This raises serious questions about how taxpayer dollars are being utilized.

For example, the reported expenditure of \$1.3 million on a survey—one that is now being widely challenged by parents—demonstrates a troubling lack of fiscal discipline. Why is such a substantial amount being spent on initiatives that fail to deliver value or credibility?

It is unacceptable to ask taxpayers for more money without first addressing clear inefficiencies, waste, and potential mismanagement. Before any tax increases are considered, there must be a transparent and accountable review of how existing funds are being used.

I strongly oppose any tax increase that does not prioritize eliminating waste, improving accountability, and demonstrably raising the standard of education and public services.

I expect thoughtful leadership that protects taxpayers—not policies that place an even greater burden on them without justification.