

# BRUCE ST. JOHN

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• Olney, MD 20832 •

April 7, 2026

I am opposed to the tax increases proposed in the County Executive's FY2026 budget.

The county budget has been increasing faster than the consumer price index. It really needs to be brought under control.

Taxes in Maryland and Montgomery County are already too high. We really need a tax cut, not tax increases.

In 2020 I paid \$4153 in property taxes. They increased by 33% in 2024. I called to complain and someone politely explained to me that 33% was really 10%.

Last year, in 2025, I paid \$7736 in property taxes. That is an 86% increase from the \$4153 that I paid in 2020. If the property tax had increased in proportion to the 27.5% increase in the Consumer Price Index, I would have paid around \$5300.

My wife and I moved to our current house in 1987 when we were both working. We are both retired now. I think Montgomery County is a nice place to live and I would like to continue to live here.

In addition to public safety and the public schools, the county government provides many other great services. I use many of them. But surely, there is some way to work more efficiently, maybe trim some nice-to-have items and eliminate a few things that are no longer justified. I am not proposing Elon Musk-style carnage; just reoptimization of existing programs.

So, I want to pass the ball to you to govern the county efficiently, control spending, and reduce taxes.

I don't want to be calling my council members all the time. They are already tired of me. I want to trust you to make the difficult decisions and get the county on track so that people like me and my grandchildren can live here.

Thank you.