

WAKE COUNTY

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

FY 18

WAKE COUNTY

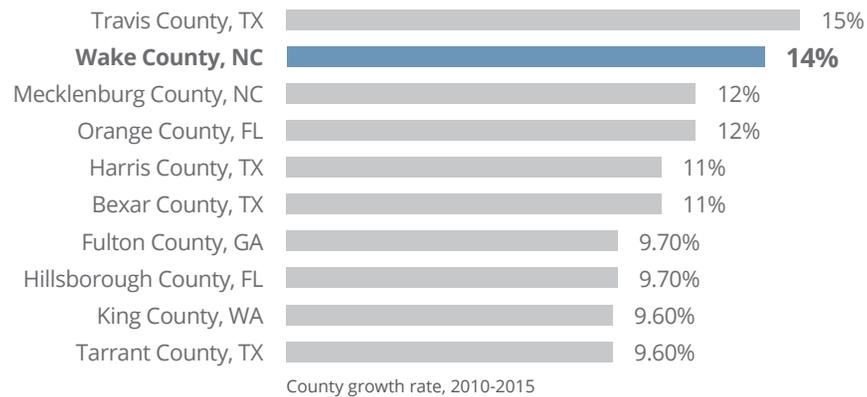
RECOMMENDED BUDGET

County Manager Jim Hartmann's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 – which runs from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018 – totals \$1.26 billion. The budget represents an increase of \$61.4 million over the FY17 budget to meet the needs of our growing county.

Wake County is currently growing by 67 people per day. In less than 40 years, our population of one million will increase to two million. At that rate, it's no surprise that Wake County is the second fastest growing county of its size in the nation.

10 FASTEST GROWING COUNTIES

with > 1,000,000 Residents, July 1, 2015



What's driving our budget decisions?

IN A WORD, GROWTH.

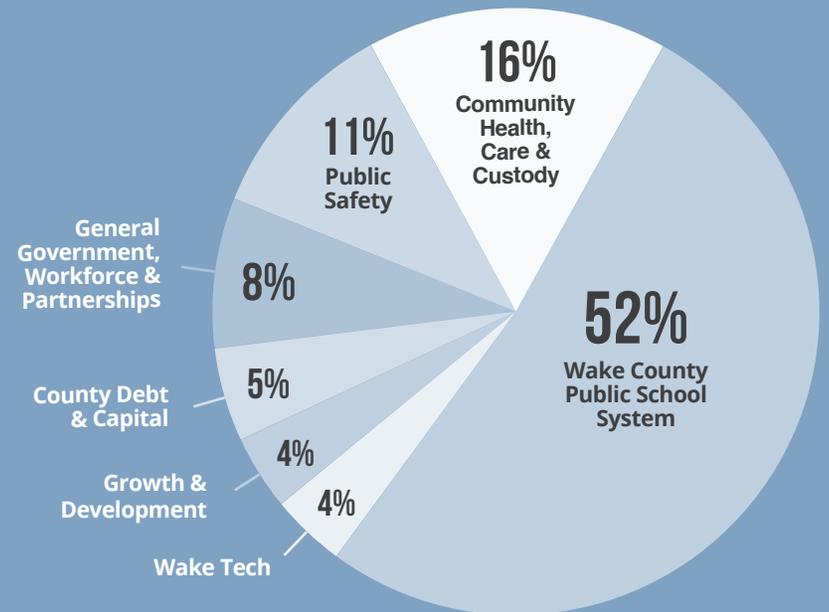
“Wake County is a place where people want to be. Our existing revenue is growing, but it's not enough to address the increasing demands on the services the county is required to deliver and the services the public expects us to provide.”

County Manager Jim Hartmann

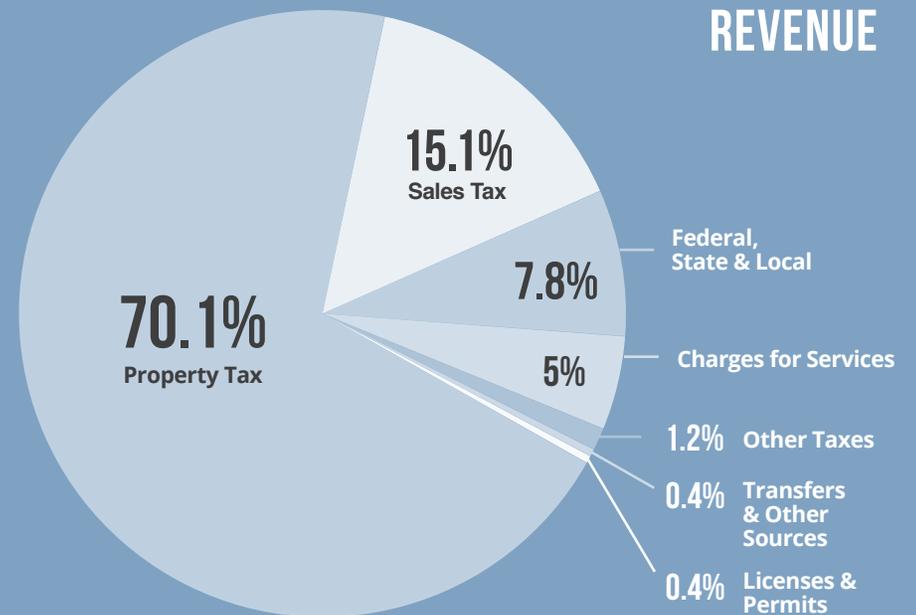
That's why the proposed FY18 budget includes a 1.45-cent property tax increase for a total proposed rate of 61.5 cents for every \$100 of property value. For the average home in Wake County, priced at \$270,000, that tax increase equals \$39 a year. The recommended increase would generate nearly \$21 million in new revenues.

EXPENDITURES

TOTAL BUDGET: \$1.26 BILLION



REVENUE

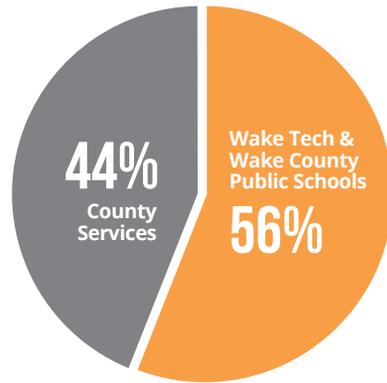


The FY18 Recommended Budget would enable the county to:

- Respond to workload demands for quality county services;
- Attract, retain and equip a highly-skilled workforce;
- Leverage partnerships to achieve social and economic vitality; and
- Continue a strong investment in education.

EDUCATION

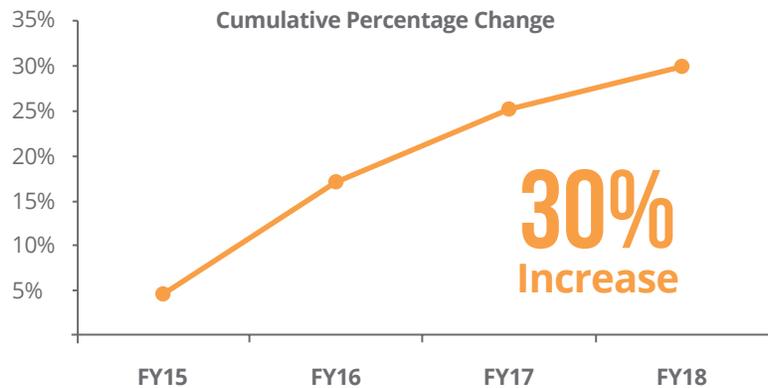
Education is a big part of our budget. More than half of our current year spending – 56 percent – is for the Wake County Public School System and Wake Technical Community College. The remaining 44 percent funds all other county operations, as well as debt and capital expenses unrelated to education.



Wake County Public School System

The Wake County Public School System is the largest in North Carolina and the 15th largest in the country. The school district will educate nearly 160,000 students this year, which is almost triple the student population in 1980.

In his budget recommendation, County Manager Hartmann proposes appropriating \$425,911,000 to the Wake County Public School System for operating expenses. That includes a \$16 million increase in funding over the FY17 budget. If adopted by the board, this would represent a 30-percent funding increase for the school district over four budgets and include the highest per-pupil funding in county history at \$2,633 per student.



Wake Technical Community College

Wake Technical Community College is North Carolina's largest community college. It educates nearly 70,000 students each year, and it plays a major economic development role in our county by partnering with great companies and preparing an educated workforce.

The budget includes funding for opening new buildings and start-up staffing, as well as new positions to support the implementation of the 7-year capital program. It would provide a funding increase of \$1.5 million from FY17, for a total recommended operating budget of \$21.2 million. That, combined with debt and capital costs for Wake Tech, amounts to 4 percent of the proposed budget.

PUBLIC SAFETY

One of the biggest drivers in the FY18 Recommended Budget is public safety. New investments in this area total more than \$12 million, bringing our total proposed budget for public safety to more than \$142 million, or 11 percent of the proposed budget.

Wake County Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office is having a difficult time filling vacant positions for sworn law enforcement officers and detention center officers. In April, more than 15 percent of detention officer positions were vacant.

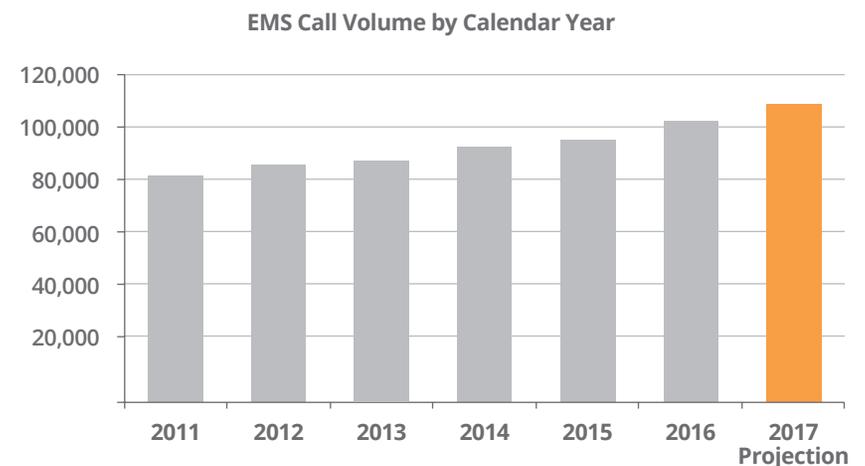
To help with recruitment and retention, the budget would:

- Invest \$1.6 million to increase the starting salary for detention officers and law enforcement officers to \$36,000 and \$40,000 respectively; and
- Create a recruitment officer position responsible for attracting more viable candidates and encouraging them to apply for open positions.

The proposed budget would also allocate \$2.3 million to cover the rising costs of inmate medical care due to a change in state law.

Wake County Emergency Medical Services

Our EMS division also faces recruitment and retention challenges. Over the past five years, EMS has seen a 25-percent increase in calls. However, in 2016, more than 10 percent of paramedic positions were vacant each month.



To attract more candidates, the budget proposes creating two pilot programs.

- The first would offer a recruitment and relocation bonus to the selected applicants.
- The second pilot program would pay EMTs who currently work for us to attend community college to get the training needed to transition into our open paramedic positions.

COMMUNITY HEALTH, CARE AND CUSTODY

The majority of the new investments for community health, care and custody of others are within our Human Services Department. The recommended budget would create 28 new, full-time positions and invest an additional \$5.2 million in Human Services. Of that, \$2.3 million would be offset by federal and state revenues. Our total commitment to human and behavioral health services would be \$208 million, or 16 percent of this budget.

These proposed investments include:

Continuing our

\$26 MILLION

to Alliance Behavioral Healthcare for mental and behavioral health services not covered by Medicaid or the state

Investing

\$950,000

in ABC funds over three years to launch a pilot program to help address the opioid epidemic

Adding

8 nurses 1 nurse supervisor

to improve the nurse-to-student ratio in the Wake County Public School System

Funding

7 new positions

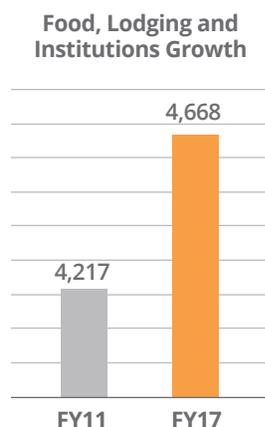
to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as Zika, measles and mumps.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

As our population continues to grow, we must invest in our Community Services and Environmental Services departments to meet the increasing demand for their services. The recommended budget includes 12.5 new positions and an increase of \$2.2 million in investment in these areas for FY18. That brings our total investment in Community and Environmental Services to \$47 million, or 4 percent of the total recommended budget.

These proposed investments include:

- Adding three new inspectors to examine the rising number of food, lodging and other institutions to help prevent the spread of illness;
- Funding three new inspector positions to inspect complex septic systems;
- Adding a transportation planner and a current planner to support our increasing planning and development workload; and
- Funding to begin updating the Wake County Land Use Plan.



WORKFORCE SUPPORT

We need to equip and support all of our more than 4,000 employees by investing in our departments throughout general government. The proposed budget includes \$13.4 million in increased funding to support our workforce and government services. These investments and the funding for all other county departments not specifically mentioned totals \$98 million, or 8 percent of the total proposed budget.

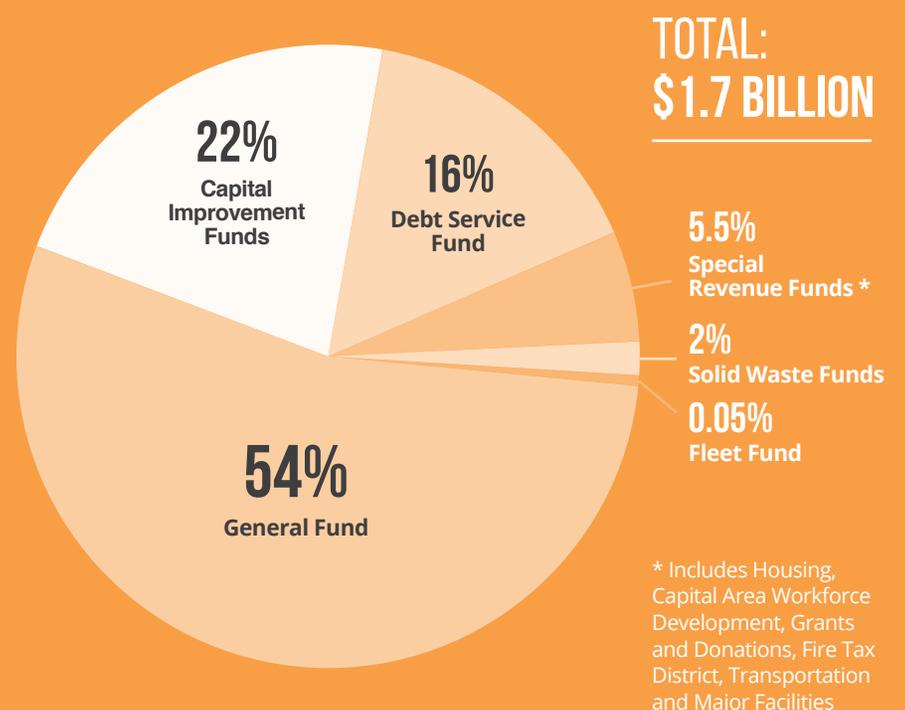
These proposed investments include providing an additional:

- \$1.4 million to support our information technology infrastructure and the tools that enable us to deliver better and faster service;
- \$4.5 million for employee health insurance; and
- \$1.9 million in our departments that oversee general management, revenue collection, elections, human resources and financial management to keep Wake County government operating efficiently.

In addition, we want to make sure Wake County is competitive in the marketplace. The proposal recommends budgeting \$5.6 million for an average 3-percent performance pay increase for our eligible employees.

FY18 RECOMMENDED BUDGET: ALL FUNDS

We've provided an overview of items recommended for the FY18 General Fund operating budget. The chart below shows total county expenditures by fund recommended for the FY18 budget. Together with the General Fund, the county budget totals \$1.7 billion (net of transfers).



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As the proposed budget was developed, County Manager Hartmann looked to the Wake County Board of Commissioners' goals to guide his decisions. They helped him ensure the choices he made would move the organization in the direction the board wants it to go.

BOARD GOALS

Community Health
Economic Strength
Education
Great Government

Growth and Sustainability
People, Arts and Culture
Public Safety
Social and Economic Vitality

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Sig Hutchinson
Chair/District 1



Matt Calabria
Vice Chair/District 2



Jessica Holmes
District 3



Erv Portman
District 4



James West
District 5



Greg Ford
District 6



John D. Burns
District 7

Jim Hartmann
County Manager

Denise Hogan
Clerk to the Board

Scott W. Warren
County Attorney

NEXT STEPS

The board will consider adopting the FY18 Recommended Budget at its regular meeting on **June 19 at 2 p.m.** It will take place on the second floor of the Wake County Justice Center in downtown Raleigh.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the proposal by visiting

WAKEGOV.COM/BUDGET

