



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Wake County Adopts Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

The Wake County Board of Commissioners today adopted a \$1.26 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2018, which runs from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018. The budget is an increase of \$63.3 million over the FY2017 budget and would require a 1.45-cent property tax increase for a total proposed rate of 61.5 cents for every \$100 of property value.

The adopted budget includes all of Wake County Manager Jim Hartmann's [recommendations](#) and the following changes made by the Board of Commissioners:

### Wake County Public Schools

- \$5 million for the Wake County Public School System, bringing the total increase in funding from FY2017 to \$21 million and the overall investment in public education in FY2018 to \$430.9 million. This represents a 31.6-percent increase in the county's contribution to the school district over four budget years;
- A request from the Wake County Board of Commissioners to the Wake County Board of Education to collaborate on a work plan that would develop a rolling, multi-year local operating

budget forecast for WCPSS. The goal is to clearly articulate, validate, and communicate the assumptions, drivers and priorities that will inform future funding requests from the school district. The Board of Education would be required to take action on this proposed partnership to launch development of the work plan;

### **Other changes**

- \$80,000 to add Sunday operating hours at Richard B. Harrison, Green Road and Fuquay-Varina community libraries;
- \$50,000 in one-time funding for Legal Aid of North Carolina to provide residents in vulnerable communities with representation in legal matters related to housing; and
- \$25,000 in one-time funding to provide emergency assistance to displaced residents of the Forest Hills complex in Garner.

The funding for these additions comes from a \$1.5 million increase in projected sales tax revenue for FY2018, ABC funds, and a reduction of transfers to county debt and the school district's capital funds.

Other significant areas the budget addresses include:

- Supporting strategies to improve employee retention and recruitment in agencies that provide critical public safety services, including the Wake County Sheriff's Office and Wake County Emergency Medical Services;
- Adding positions to help protect the public from communicable disease outbreaks of emerging threats like Zika or reemerging diseases like measles or mumps;
- Addressing the demand for services directly related to population growth and development such as plan reviews, and food, lodging and septic system inspections;

- Funding IT infrastructure and tools for county government to deliver better and faster service in all areas of the county;
- Budgeting for an average three-percent performance pay increase for eligible county employees, and meeting the costs of rising employee health insurance;
- Providing direct funding to 10 non-profit partner agencies working on programs and initiatives including pre-kindergarten education, school food pantries and public art; and
- Investing an additional \$1.5 million in Wake Technical Community College, the state's largest community college, for a total county operating appropriation of \$21.2 million.

Learn more about the budget at [wakegov.com/budget](https://wakegov.com/budget).

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