



NEWS RELEASE

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Wake County Presents \$1.26 Billion Recommended Budget for FY18

County Manager Jim Hartmann presented a \$1.26 billion recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2018 – which runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 – to the Wake County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting today. The budget represents an increase of \$61.4 million over the FY17 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 decisions that went into this proposed budget are largely driven by one thing – growth,” said Hartmann. “Wake County is a place where people want to work, live and play. 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.”

The proposed budget would allow 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.

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 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.

The Wake County Public School System is the largest recipient of funding from Wake County. Its operating budget appropriation, along with capital and debt costs, make up 52 percent of the county's total recommended budget for FY18.

It proposes increasing operating funding for the Wake County Public

School System by \$16 million for a total county appropriation of \$426 million. This would result in a 2.5-percent increase in per-pupil funding for a total contribution of \$2,633 per student. That would be the highest per-pupil funding in county history even after adjusting for inflation.

With this proposed additional funding, Wake County will have increased its operating appropriation for the school system by 30 percent over four budgets.

“Developing the recommended budget for FY18 meant making tough decisions to balance the needs of our county, our schools and our commitments,” Hartmann said. “Overall, I feel this budget considers our most critical needs, works toward accomplishing county board goals and represents a responsible use of taxpayer dollars.”

To watch the county manager’s presentation, read the recommended budget and access a helpful fact sheet, visit wakegov.com/budget.

Members of the public are invited to share their thoughts on the recommended budget at public hearings on June 5 during the 2 p.m. Wake County Board of Commissioners meeting or at 7 p.m. at the Wake County Commons Building.

The commissioners are scheduled to adopt a Fiscal Year 2018 budget at their 2 p.m. meeting on June 19.

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