

Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2025

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Special Session for the County Manager's Recommended Budget for FY2025-2026, in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina at 11:02 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Mark Jerrell, Vice-Chair Leigh Altman
and Commissioners George Dunlap,
Vilma D. Leake, Laura J. Meier, Elaine Powell,
Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, Yvette Townsend-Ingram
County Manager Dena R. Diorio
County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade
Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith
Deputy Clerk to the Board Arlissa Eason

Absent: Commissioner Arthur Griffin

-INFORMAL SESSION-

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Jerrell, followed by introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram entered the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

County Manager Dena Diorio gave opening remarks and led a moment of silence for the passing of Rusty Rozelle, worked as the Water Quality Program Manager in Storm Water Services for LUESA.

County Manager Diorio gave an overview of the FY 2026 budget.

HIGHLIGHTS

\$215M added to capital plan, and an additional \$133m in funding for land acquisition for a total of \$150M for land purchases over the next 5 years.

Operating budget: \$2.5 Billion an \$39m increase for \$1.6% over prior fiscal year.

Education

Full funding for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools with the requested increase of \$28M
93% of the increase would be used to invest in employee compensation
\$8.3M to address below market salaries
\$8.1M for local teacher supplement
\$2M technology to make sure every student had access to a device for learning

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Total commitment to CMS \$699M which is an increase of \$38M

\$49M for CPCC operating budget, which is an increase of \$1.7M

Meck Pre-K - 10 new classrooms and associated costs for a budget impact of \$3.4M

Seniors

\$2.3M for in-home aid and adult daycare services to serve and additional 60 seniors with subsidies for in home aid services and additional 50 client who need adult day care services.

\$2.6 to continue critical home repair program which allowed seniors to age in place.

Operations

\$3.6 to increase security screenings as well as an increase in guard services.

\$1.4 for facility maintenance contract increases and utility costs

\$1.1M to annualize the operating budget for a total of \$2.1 for Forest Point Place (permanent housing for homeless seniors aged 55 and older with chronic health conditions)

MEDIC

\$7M for 10 new ambulances 9 remounted units and 2 supervisor replacement vehicles.

\$5.1M for 78 new position, including 50 EMTs.

Library

\$1.3M for 15 new position to increase services

Support staffing to plan for the opening of the new Main Library

Employees

\$38.9M total investment

\$15.7M for 3% across-the-board increases

\$11.4M for performance-based pay increases up to 5%

\$5.3M increase in medical premiums

\$3.3M for County's contribution to local government employee retirement system

\$2.6M for reclassifications and other position adjustments

\$389,000 law enforcement special separation pay

Non-Profit

No Community Service Grants awarded in FY26 which would save \$2M

Defendable reductions in work with various non-profit partners saved \$6.3M

Fund balance

Stands at \$56M which was \$96M above policy minimum

Recommended appropriation of approximately \$30M

Tax Increase

Deficit of \$29M for FY26

Board approved changes and allocations in FY25 resulted in a \$14.7M deficit

Recommended a .96 cent increase in the property tax rate

For median home of \$377K would be increase of \$36.19 per year or \$3.02 per month.

County Manager Diorio made closing remarks and turned the podium over to Adrian Cox, Budget Director who gave a more detailed overview of the County Managers recommended budget.

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25-0312 PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR FY2026-2026

The Board received a presentation of the County Manager’s Recommended Budget for FY2025-2026.

Adrian Cox, Director of Management and Budget, gave the presentation.

Background: The County Manager is charged with presenting a Recommended Budget for the Board’s consideration annually. No action is taken by the Board at this time.

FISCAL YEAR 2026
Recommended
Budget



Overview

- Revenues**
- Expenses**
- Takeaways & Next Steps**

REVENUES



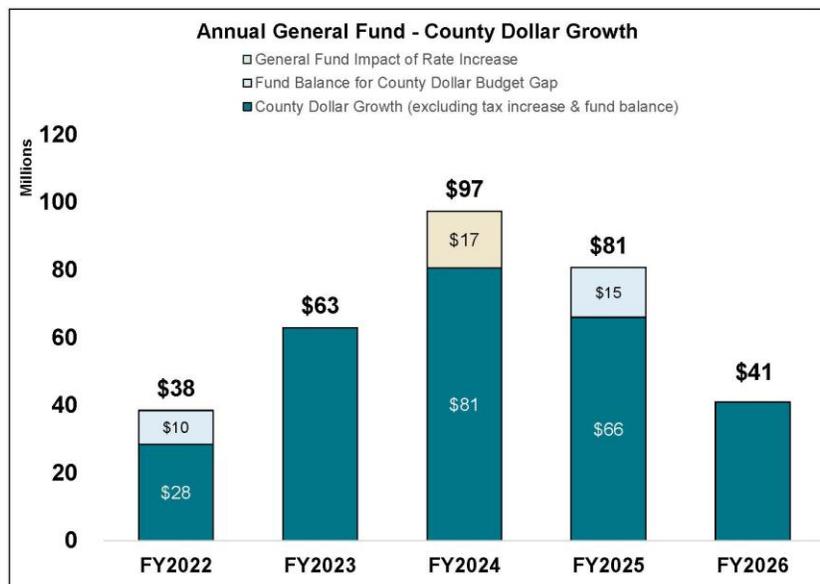
General Fund County Dollar Growth

General Fund County Dollar Revenue Growth without a tax rate increase is estimated to be **\$41M, or 2.8%**

In FY2025, **\$14.7M** of fund balance was used to close a budget gap & defer a tax increase

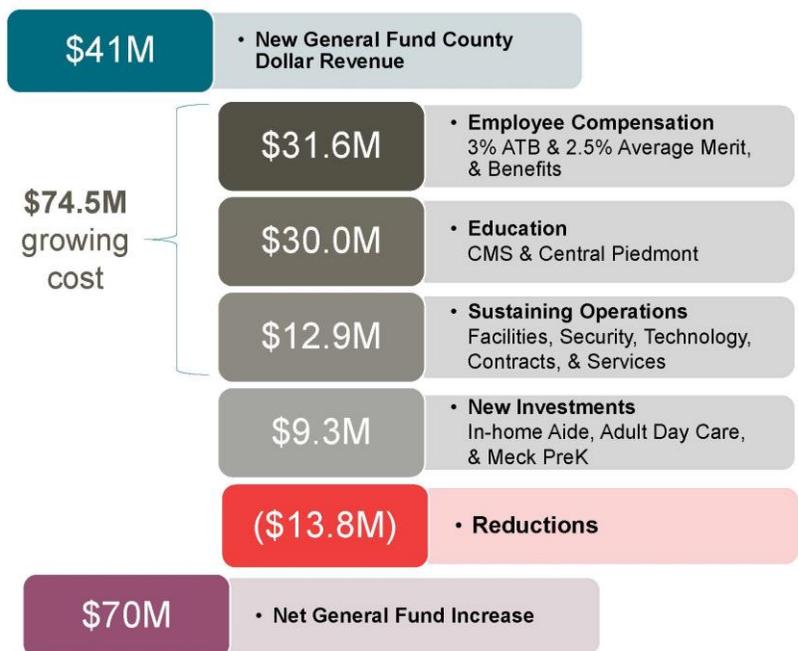
County funded compensation, education, & operating costs to sustain services alone are increasing by **\$74.5M, or 5%**

Note:
In FY2024 a tax rate increase of 0.6 for the General Fund was approved
In FY2022, fund balance was used as a stopgap measure as the economy recovered from the pandemic



General Fund County Dollars

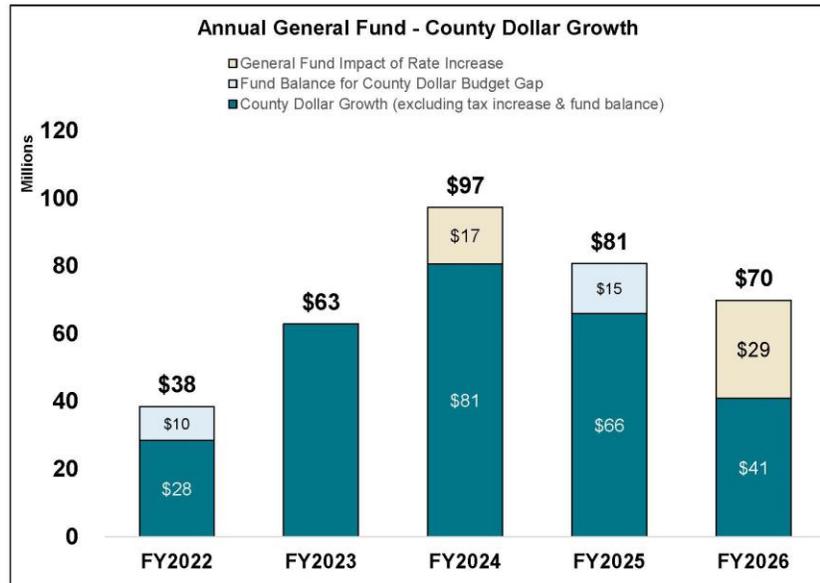
**Budget Gap
\$29M (.96¢)**



Growth with the Recommended Tax Rate

	Millions
Property Tax +2.3%	\$24.8
Sales Tax +4.1%	12.7
Interest	13.3
Register of Deeds	2.2
Interfund Revenue	1.8
Other	0.9
Fund Balance	(14.7)
Total	\$41.0
Tax Increase 0.96¢	\$29.0
Total with increase	\$70.0

Collection Rate = 99.35%
Value of 1¢ = \$30,118,079



Impact On The Taxpayer

- **0.96¢** for General Fund
- **49.27¢** total County Tax Rate per \$100 of value
- The median homeowner will pay **\$36.19/year** more or **\$3.02/month**



\$250,000

	Rate	Annual	Monthly
Current	48.31¢	\$1,207.75	\$100.65
New	49.27¢	\$1,231.75	\$102.65
Increase	0.96¢	\$24.00	\$2.00



\$377,000
(median)

	Rate	Annual	Monthly
Current	48.31¢	\$1,821.29	\$151.77
New	49.27¢	\$1,857.48	\$154.79
Increase	0.96¢	\$36.19	\$3.02



\$600,000

	Rate	Annual	Monthly
Current	48.31¢	\$2,898.60	\$241.55
New	49.27¢	\$2,956.20	\$246.35
Increase	0.96¢	\$57.60	\$4.80

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How Property Taxes are Used

	FY2025	FY2026	Change
• CMS Operating	21.66¢	22.12¢	.46¢
• County & Other Partners	15.08¢	15.58¢	.50¢
• Facilities (County & Schools)	11.57¢	11.57¢	0¢
• Total	48.31¢	49.27¢	.96¢

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EXPENSES



Recommended Funding for CMS

	FY2025 Budget ¹	FY2026 Requested	FY2026 Recommended ²	Change
CMS Operating	\$637,865,849	\$666,129,849	\$666,129,849	\$28,264,000
Capital Maintenance	22,960,000	32,960,000	32,960,000	\$10,000,000
Total	\$ 660,825,849	\$699,089,849	\$699,089,849	\$38,264,000

4.4%
 Operating Increase

Note 1: The FY2025 Budget excludes \$14M in one-time fund balance allocations (\$10M for capital maintenance, & \$4M for bonuses). Fines & forfeiture revenues are dedicated to public schools. Due to accounting changes, these passthrough revenues will no longer be included in the budget but will continue to be provided to CMS. For consistent comparison, fines & forfeitures have been excluded from the FY2025 base budget & will not be budgeted for FY2026 & going forward.

Note 2: The FY2026 Recommended Budget includes \$7.76M in one-time fund balance for capital maintenance. This funding supports the request from CMS while increasing the ongoing allocation for CMS capital maintenance by \$2.24M due to growing maintenance needs.

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Recommended Funding for Central Piedmont

	FY2025 Budget ¹	FY2026 Requested	FY2026 Recommended	Change
CP Operating	\$47,320,867	\$49,865,394	\$49,042,490	1,721,623
Capital Maintenance	3,752,000	3,575,000	3,575,000	(177,000)
Total	\$51,072,867	\$53,440,394	\$52,617,490	\$1,544,623

3.6%
 Operating Increase

Note 1: The FY2025 Base Budget excludes \$3.1M in one-time fund balance for capital maintenance.

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Employee Investments

\$38.7M
Total

\$31.6M
County Dollars

- **\$15.7M** for 3% across-the-board pay increase for all regular employees
- **\$11.4M** for performance-based pay increase up to 5% for regular employees
- **\$5.3M** for an expected 8.75% increase in medical premiums
- **\$3.3M** for 0.75% increase for regular & 1.0% increase for LEO Local Government Employee Retirement System (LGERS) county contribution
- **\$2.6M** for reclassifications & other position adjustments
- **\$389K** increase for Law Enforcement Special Separation pay

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New Positions

33 Full-time

Major Additions Include

- **15** positions for Public Library to support additional branch staffing & Main Library planning
- **8** positions for operations & maintenance of new & existing park facilities
- **3** positions in Child, Family, & Adult Services to support Adult Protective Services
- **2** positions in Human Resources to support business operations & leave of absence services
- **2** positions in County Attorney to support additional legal work required based on land acquisition & restrictive covenants

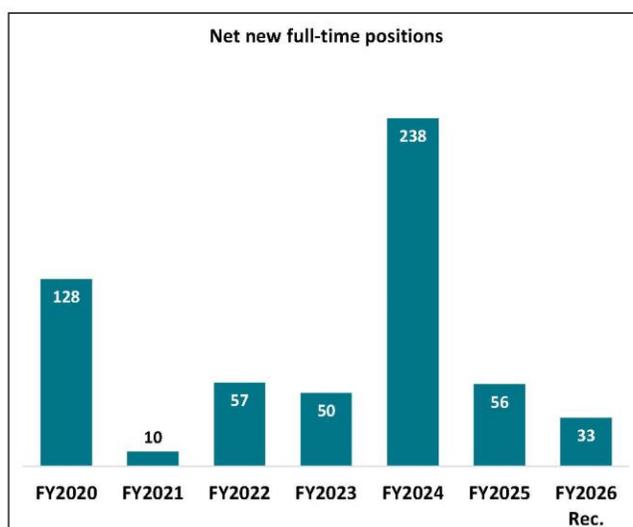
New Positions	
Agency	Full-time
Child, Family, & Adult Services	3
Community Support Services	1
County Attorney's Office	2
Criminal Justice Services	1
Human Resources	2
Park & Recreation	8
Public Health	1
Public Library ¹	15
Total	33

¹Excludes 29 part-time positions that were repurposed by Library to create 12 full-time positions

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New Position History

- **33** net new full-time positions included in FY2026 Recommended Budget
- Fewest new positions since FY2021 during COVID-related economic uncertainty
- Reflects significant reduction in growth revenues to support new positions



Excludes fee-funded positions in LUESA & positions

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County Dollars for Sustaining Operations

Major increases

- **\$3.6M** for security & weapon screening at County facilities
- **\$2.4M** of ongoing cost of technology, systems, & software
- **\$2.2M** for growing cost to conduct elections (on-going county dollar increase)
- **\$1.6M** of contractual increases for various services including food services, medical, interpreting, etc.
- **\$1.4M** in growing cost for maintenance & utilities
- **\$1.4M** to annualize the operating costs for the Youth & Family Emergency Placement Facility (total budget of \$2.3M)
- **\$1.1M** to annualize the operating costs for Forest Pointe Place permanent supportive housing for seniors (total budget of \$2.1M)
- **\$930K** for operating cost for parks

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County Dollars for New Investments

Major increases

- **\$3.4M** to expand Meck PreK with 10 new classrooms, increase reimbursement rates from \$925 to \$950 per-month per-child for Meck PreK & NC PreK, & fund increasing cost for wrap-care services
- **\$2M** to add 15 Library positions, & increase ongoing funding for collections by \$750K
- **\$1.3M** to expand In-Home-Aide to serve an additional 60 clients, with the goal of adding 60 additional each fiscal year to increase from 207 to 387 (vendor capacity) by FY2028
- **\$1M** to expand Adult Day Care to serve an additional 50 clients, with the goal of adding 50 additional in FY2027, reaching 266 total (inquiry list)
- **\$464K** for housing placement & navigation, & subsidy increase for Keeping Families Together
- **\$250K** implementation vendor to support phase one of the Behavioral Health Strategic Plan
- **\$158K** to add three (3) Social Worker positions to Adult Protective Services based on workload
- **\$125K** to support Charlotte Pride based on economic impact
- **\$125K** of ongoing funding to support the Three Sisters Market

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Reductions & Eliminations

Reductions & Elimination Factors:

- Performance outcomes
- Under utilization or underspending of County funding
- Outcome alignment with the Board's priorities
- Cost per individual served
- Funding discretion (no state or federal funding requirements)
- Uniquely serving a vulnerable population
- Whether other options are available to residents
- Department recommendations

(\$13.8M)

Reductions

**58 reductions
across 25
departments**

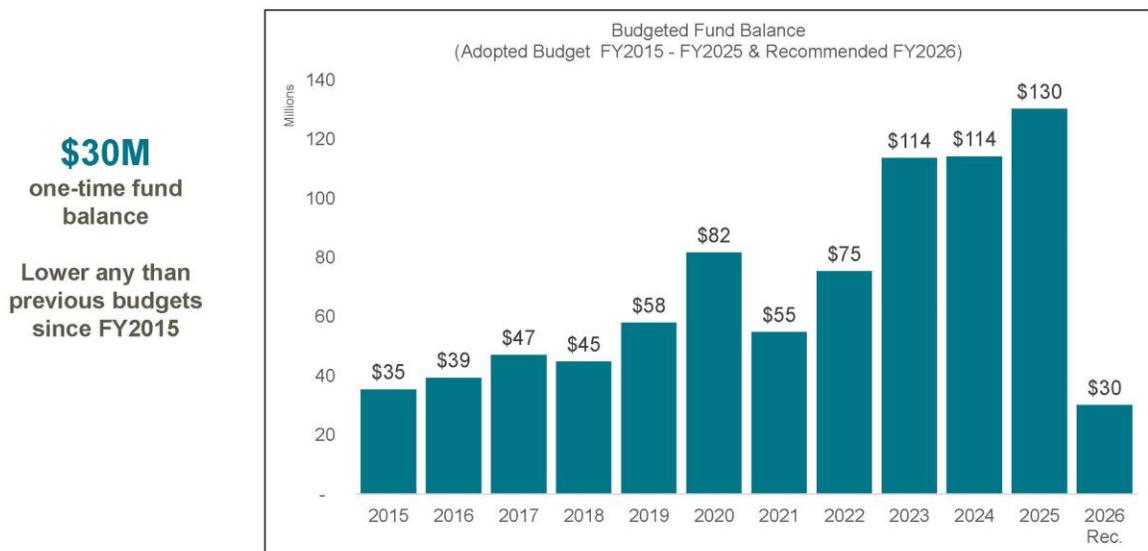
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One-time Expenses - Funded with Fund Balance

Allocation	Amount	Description
Medic Capital	\$7,885,000	Funding for 10 new ambulances, 9 remounted units, & 2 supervisor replacement vehicles, & technology enhancements for Medic. Enabling Medic to expand their staff by 78
CMS Capital Maintenance	7,760,000	Additional one-time funding to support CMS capital maintenance (\$33M total with \$2.24 in ongoing increase)
Affordable Housing	5,075,000	One-time funding of \$2.5M for Willow Park NOAH, & \$2.6M for Critical Home Repair
Capital Reserve	4,000,000	One-time funding for Capital Reserve (\$12.9M total Capital Reserve funding)
Technology	1,206,553	One-time investments in technology replacements (\$7.6M total Tech Reserve funding)
Elections	1,122,182	One-time to support 3 elections occurring in FY2026. Combined with ongoing funding & City revenue, the total cost is \$5.5M
Revaluation Reserve	1,000,000	Reserve fund contribution for the 2027 Revaluation
Revolutionary War Exhibit	350,000	Charlotte Museum of History Revolutionary War Exhibit
Veterans Services Study	300,000	Contracted veterans' services needs assessment
A Brighter Day	250,000	Funding to support one-time site needs for A Brighter Day Community Center
Park Operating Equipment	271,363	Maintenance & equipment for new parks & greenways
Library Collections	250,000	One-time funding for Library Collections (\$1M total with \$750K in ongoing increase)
ARPA Grant Program Continuation	220,000	One-time funding to allow a full year of services for Nurse Family Partnership & Hearts for the Invisible for two (2) months after ARPA expires
One-time Staffing Demand	200,000	Funding to double slot a Chief Pathologist position during transition
Dental Expansion	170,000	Expansion for Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Center dental site
Other	97,308	Background screening based on recruitment demand & one-time funding associated with two (2) new legal positions
Total	\$30,157,406	

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Historical Fund Balance Allocations



Excludes enterprise & special revenue funds

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Board Priorities

- **\$1.5B (59%)** in total funding is aligned to the Board's Budget Priorities.
- **\$65M** in new funding, with \$20M from fund balance or non-county revenue sources.
- **\$45M** in County Dollars mostly for CMS, CPCC, & services for seniors.

Board Priority	FY2026 Recommended Total Funding ¹	New Funding	New County Dollars
Education	\$1,009,189,517	\$44,006,658	\$35,996,658
Health Equity & Wellness	242,682,332	11,395,631	2,405,077
Environmental Stewardship	123,117,770	1,318,400	607,613
Workforce Development	90,583,327	1,721,623	1,721,623
Services for Seniors	36,522,605	6,320,552	3,678,142
Economic Development	8,682,353	215,000	215,000
Total	\$1,510,777,904	\$64,977,864	\$44,624,113

¹ - factors reductions & eliminations

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Total Revenues & Expenses

Revenue	Description	Amount	%
County	Property tax, sales tax & other discretionary revenues	\$1,900,590,823	75%
Fund Balance	Unassigned funds available for one-time expenses	30,157,406	1%
Federal	Federal funding	109,532,383	4%
State	State funding & restricted sales tax	216,072,079	9%
Other	Service charges, permits, fees, etc.	285,464,421	11%
Total Revenue		\$2,541,817,112	100%

Expenses	Description	Amount	%
General Fund	Primary annual operating expense fund for County departments & funding to CMS & other partners	\$1,751,963,926	69%
Debt Service Fund	Debt & pay-as-you-go capital funding for county facilities, libraries, parks & schools	494,570,581	19%
Enterprise & Special Revenue Funds	Services with dedicated revenue sources, including Solid Waste, Code Enforcement, Storm Water, Transit Pass-through, Law Enforcement & Fire Protection	295,282,605	12%
Total Expenses		\$2,541,817,112	100%

\$39M or **1.6%** Increase

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Main Takeaways

- The recommended tax rate is **49.27¢** per **\$100** of valuation, an increase of **0.96¢**
- The Recommended Budget includes **(\$13.8M)** of reductions & eliminations to discretionary programs to help limit increases to the tax rate
- Fully funds CMS budget request with **\$28.3M** in new operating funding, & **\$33M** in total for capital maintenance (a total of **\$699M** overall)
- Expands Meck PreK with **\$3.4M** for 10 classrooms, wrap-care, & teacher pay
- Fully funds Medic request with **\$7.9M** in fund balance for ambulances & equipment, enabling Medic to expand their staff by 78
- Provides **\$2M** & 15 new positions for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
- Increases funding for Adult Day Care & In-home Aide by **\$2.3M**
- Provides a 3% salary increase for County employees & performance-based pay up to 5%

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Next Steps

Date	Time & Location	Meeting
May 21	2:30PM – 5:00PM Valerie C. Woodard Center	Budget Workshop – Detailed Overview of the Manager's Recommended Budget
May 22	6:00PM Chamber	Budget Public Hearing
May 29	9:00AM – 5:00PM Valerie C. Woodard Center	Budget Straw Votes
June 3	6:00PM Chamber	FY2026 Budget Adoption

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Additional Information

- On County Website: www.mecknc.gov
- Follow us on Facebook & X
- Register to speak at the budget public hearing
 - Online <https://mecknc.seamlessdocs.com/f/clerk>
 - Call 980-314-2912
 - Email at Clerk@mecknc.gov

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Chair Jerrell recognized Sheriff McFadden who was in attendance for the meeting.

Chair Jerrell thanked everyone for their work. He gave a special thank you to County Manager Dena Diorio.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap, and unanimously carried, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 11:43 a.m.



Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board



Mark Jerrell, Chair