

FISCAL YEAR 2026 Recommended Budget



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

Overview

Revenues

Expenses

Takeaways & Next Steps

REVENUES



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

General Fund County Dollar Growth

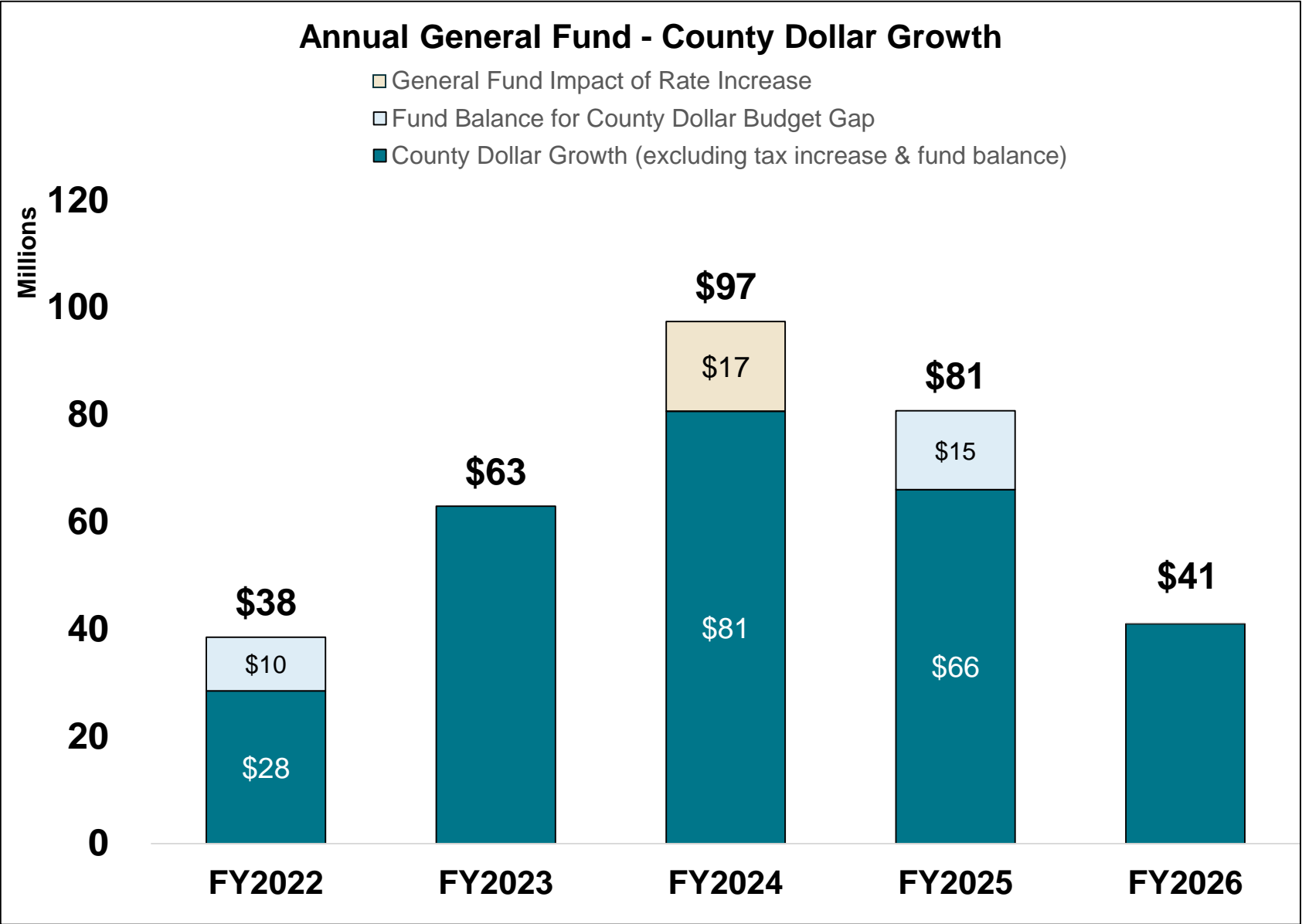
General Fund County Dollar Revenue Growth without a tax rate increase is estimated to be **\$41M, or 2.8%**

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%**

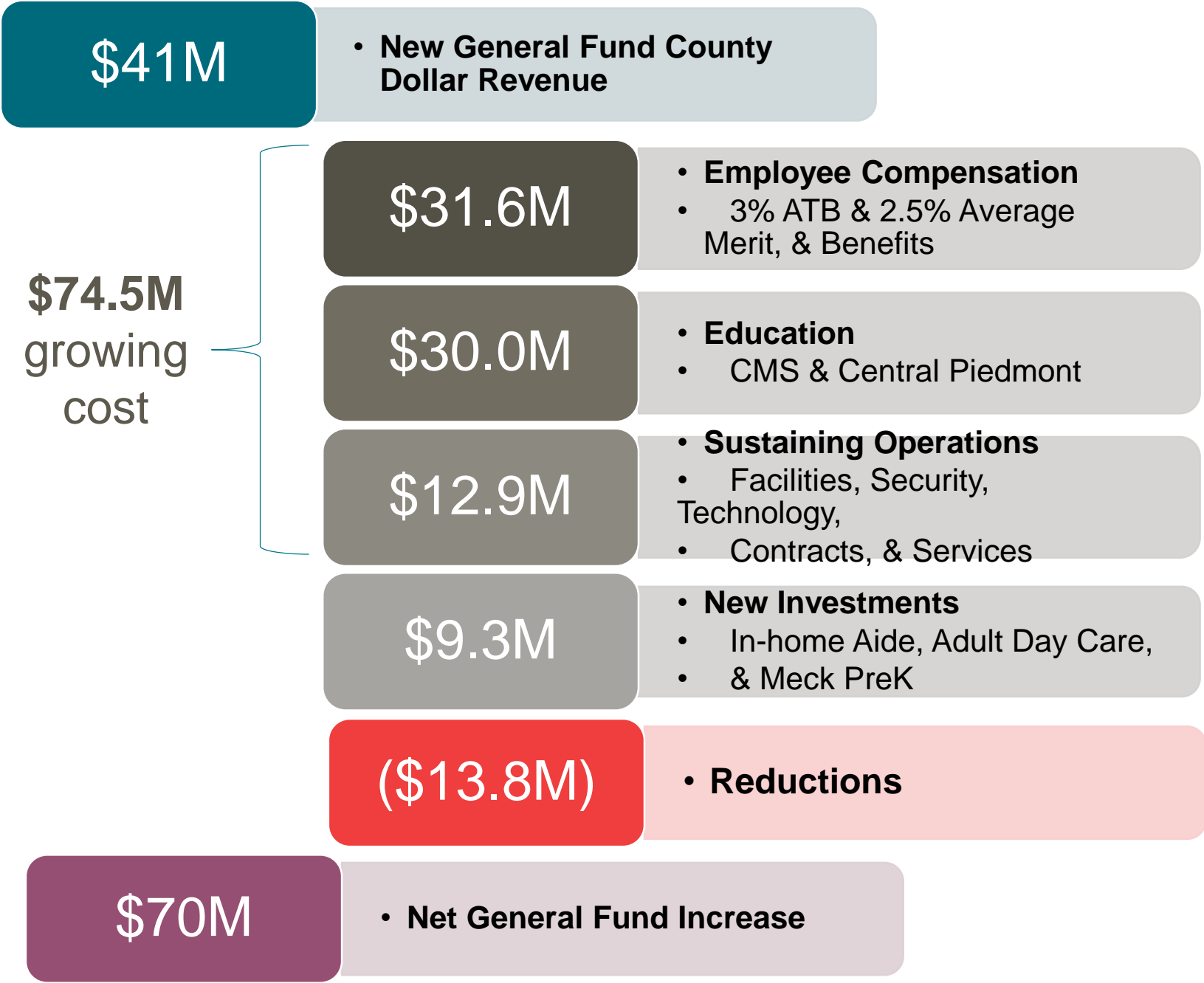
Note:
In FY2024 a tax rate increase of 0.6 for the General Fund was approved

In FY2022, fund balance was used as a stopgap measure as the economy recovered from the pandemic



General Fund County Dollars

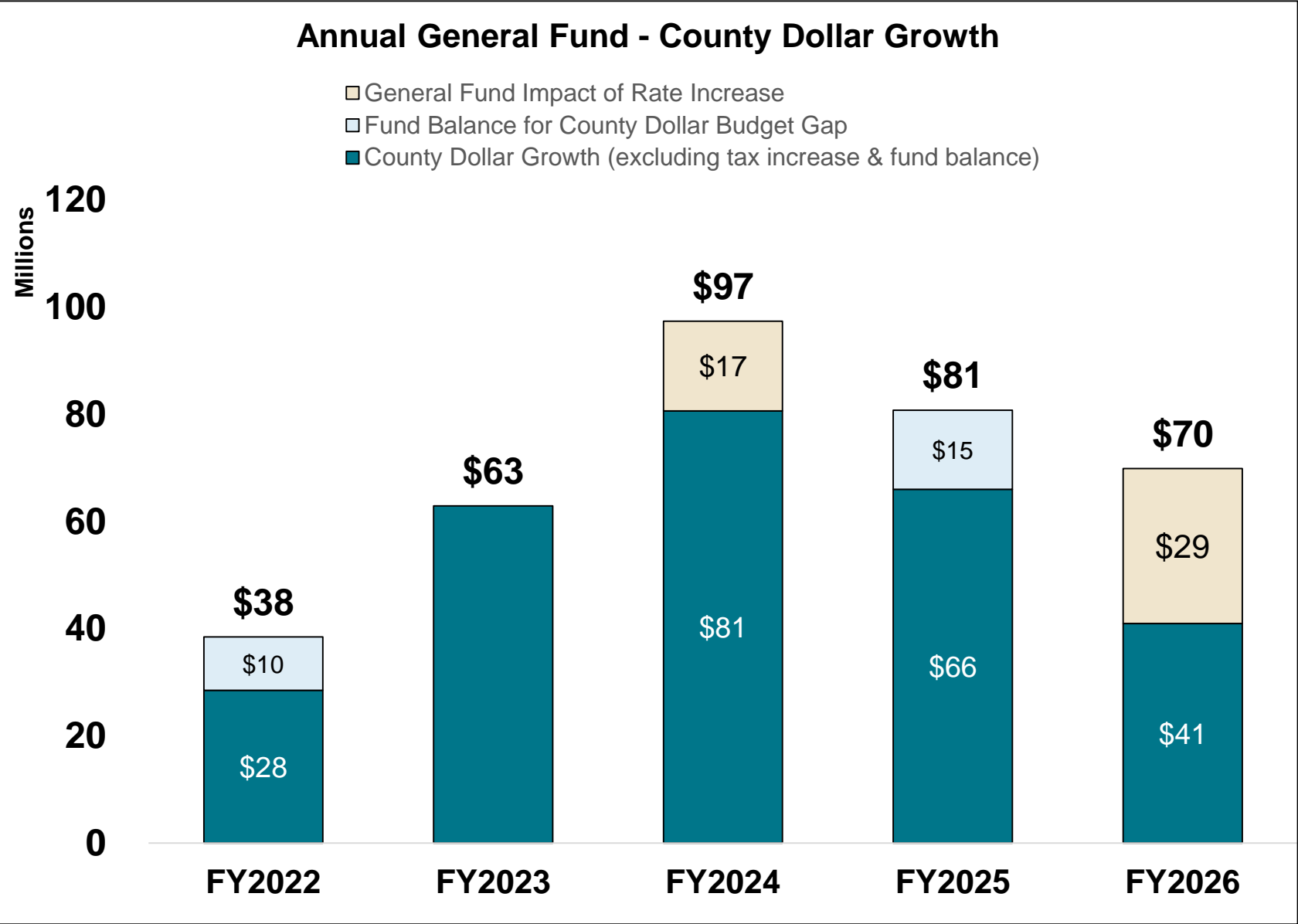
Budget Gap
\$29M (.96¢)



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

How Property Taxes are Used

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

EXPENSES



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

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.

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.

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

New Positions

33 Full-time

Major Additions Include

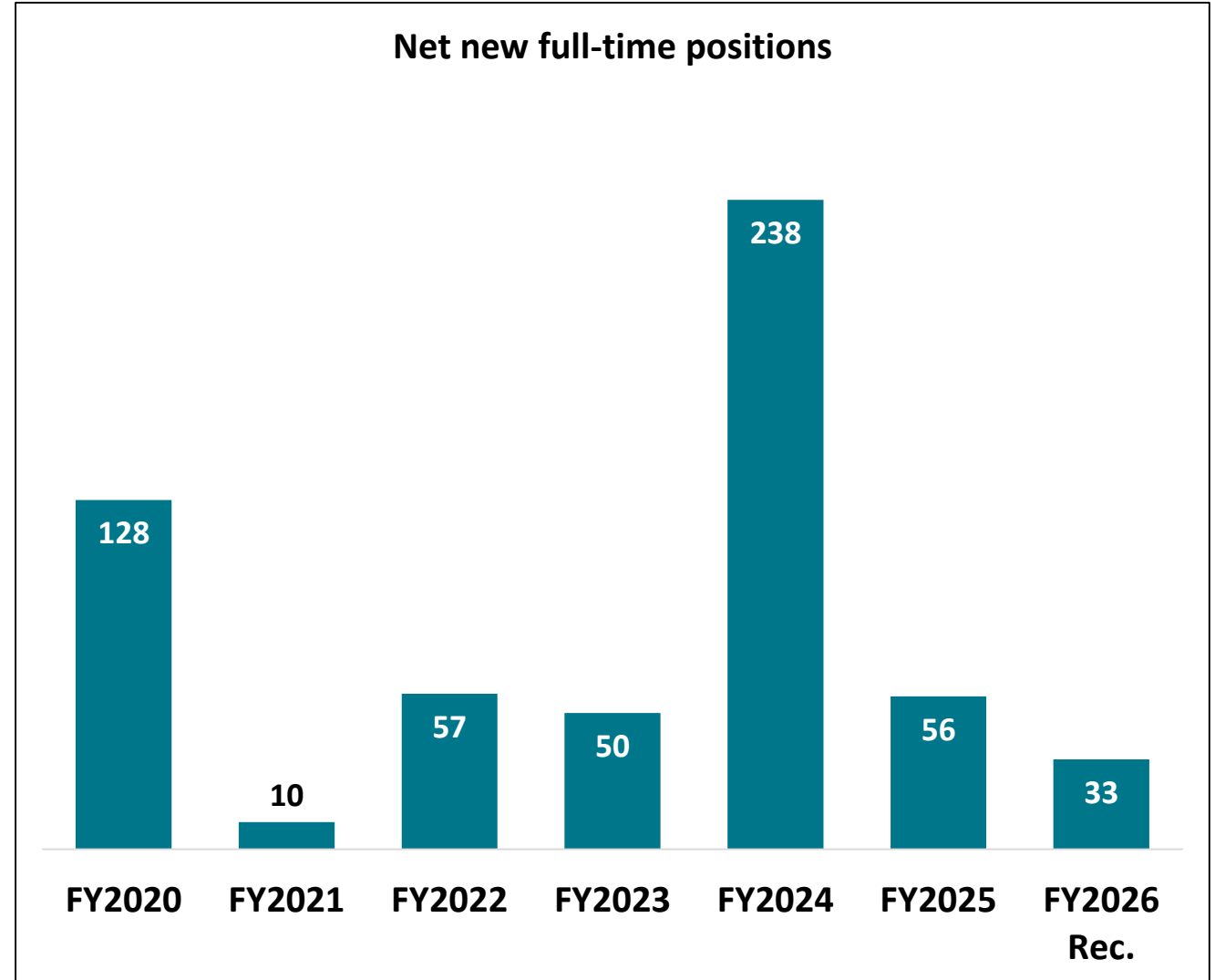
- **15** positions for Public Library to support additional branch staffing & Main Library planning
- **8** positions for operations & maintenance of new & existing park facilities
- **3** positions in Child, Family, & Adult Services to support Adult Protective Services
- **2** positions in Human Resources 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

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

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

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

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

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**

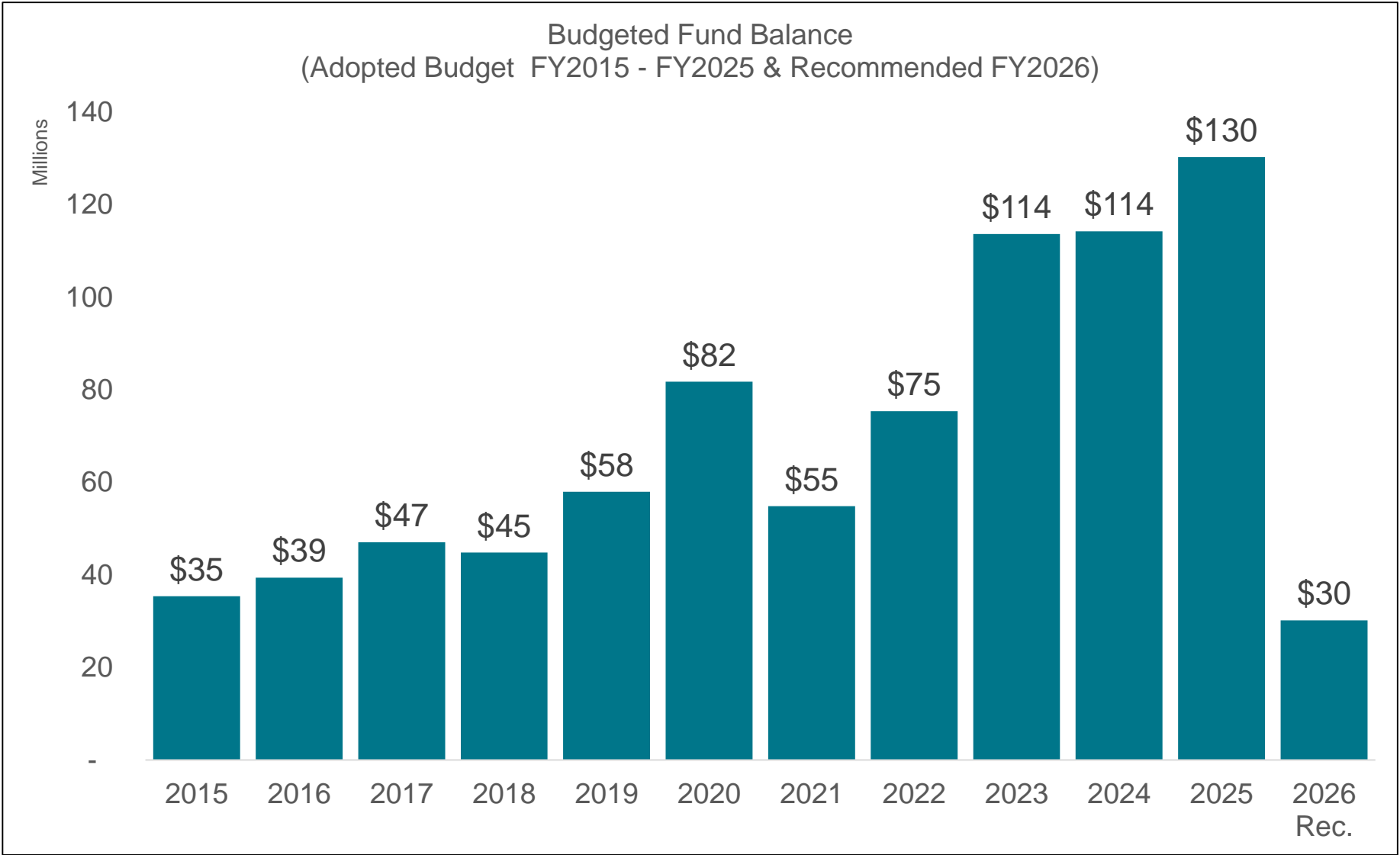
One-time Expenses - Funded with Fund Balance

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	

Historical Fund Balance Allocations

\$30M
one-time fund
balance

Lower any than
previous budgets
since FY2015



Excludes enterprise & special revenue funds

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

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

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%

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

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