



Dear York County Residents,

On behalf of the York County Council, I am pleased to inform our citizens that the Council has approved an operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2021-2022, with no countywide tax rate increase. The top priority of Council, as always, is to approve a budget with the greatest value to our taxpayers. The County reserves continue to be stable and the County continues to maintain the highest credit rating of Aaa. Key elements of this fiscal year's budget are as follows:

- Balanced Budget/Stable Reserves/Aaa rating.
- No increase in General Fund millage.
- Value of a mill for the entire County is projected to be \$1,595,000, an increase of approximately 2.9%.
- Value of a mill for the unincorporated area of the County is projected to increase by approximately 7.6% for an unincorporated value of \$925,000 per mill.
- County's landfill and water & sewer funds are both healthy and operating without being subsidized from General Fund.
- 2.5% merit based employee raise and necessary general fund positions approved without raising taxes.
- The Rural Fire budget has a 0.6 mill increase to provide for improved fire and emergency services protection in the unincorporated area (20 cents per month for \$100k owner occupied home).

As our citizens are aware, York County is a great place to live, work, and play. We continue to grow and thrive, and the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that York County's population reached 280,979 in 2019. That's a 9.0% increase since 2016. York County currently has an unemployment rate of 4.5%, below the Charlotte Metro and state averages of 4.6% and 4.8% respectively, and well below the national average of 6.2%. Since June of 2020, the County has announced 1,382 jobs and \$141,254,600 in capital investments.

In this year's budget, the increase in the value of the mill is directed towards ensuring the County's public health and safety services are delivered to its citizens in a quality and efficient manner, and in a way that anticipates future growth. Strategic plans and capital improvement

plans are being developed to ensure fire, police, coroner, waste management, and emergency services are delivered in a safe, efficient, and quality manner.

In this budget, York County Council also prioritizes parks and greenspace and recognizes that these amenities are critical components to managing growth, attracting high quality economic development, and improving our citizens' quality of life. Council is committed to improving the County's parks system in a way that best enhances the lives of our residents, and in the most cost-effective manner possible.

York County recently opened Field Day Park at Lake Wylie, providing a place for active recreation. Just last month, York County unveiled to the community \$4.6 million of enhancements at Ebenezer Park. York County always strives to make sure we spend our taxpayer's dollars wisely. Therefore, York County did not raise taxes or borrow money to pay for the \$4.6 million upgrades to Ebenezer Park. These improvements were funded through existing Hospitality Tax revenue on a pay-as-you-go bases. Currently, York County is in the master planning stages of Riverbend Park and Allison Creek Park. In addition, the County will begin master plan development for Worth Mountain Park and Nanny's Mountain Historical Park; as well as, enhancing York Veteran's Memorial Park.

We have much to be thankful for in York County. I could not be more proud of our citizens, York County Council, and our York County staff for their collaborative efforts in making our community a safe, healthy and enjoyable place to live. York County is truly a place where all citizens and businesses can thrive and succeed, and I am excited about our future and look forward to our continued progress.

Your York County Council Chairwoman,
Christi Cox