

# Glossary and Index FY 2022 Proposed Budget

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www.loudoun.gov/budget Loudoun County, Virginia





# **Glossary of Terms**

**501(c)3** Exempt tax status afforded to nonprofit organizations meeting certain criteria.

Accrual Basis of Accounting A method of accounting that recognizes the financial effect of transactions, events, and interfund activities when they occur, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Actual(s) Revenues and expenditures that occur in a prior fiscal year. Actuals differ from budgeted

figures in that they represent the real disbursements and/or collections that take place

subsequent to budget adoption.

Adjusted Gross Income Adjusted Gross Income is the key before-tax definition of income used by the IRS to

compute individual income tax liabilities and is defined as: "all income that is received in the

form of money, property, and services and that is not explicitly exempt by law."

**Adopted Budget** A plan of financial operations approved by the Board of Supervisors highlighting major

changes made to the County Administrator's Proposed Budget. The Adopted Budget reflects approved tax rates and estimates of revenues, expenditures, transfers and departmental goals, objectives, and performance/workload indicators. This document is commonly

referred to as the Adopted Budget.

**An itemized listing of the amount of all estimated support and revenue which an** 

organization anticipates receiving, along with a listing of all estimated costs and expenses

that will be incurred in the operation of the organization over one fiscal year.

**Appropriation** A legal authorization granted by the Board of Supervisors to a specified organization, such as

a unit of the County government or an affiliated regional organization, to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is limited in dollar amount

and as to when it may be spent, usually expiring at the end of the fiscal year.

**Appropriation Resolution** A legally binding document prepared by the Department of Finance and Budget which

delineates by fund and department all expenditures and revenues adopted by the Board of

Supervisors which are reflected in the Adopted Budget.

**Assess** To place a value on property for tax purposes.

**Assessed Valuation** The appraised value of property for purposes of property taxation. The assigned valuation

covers real and personal property at 100 percent valuation.

**Assessment** A charge of money collected by the government from people or businesses for public use.

Asset Owned resources, possibly held by Loudoun County, which have a monetary value.

**Audit** A formal examination of an organization's or individual's accounts or financial situation.

**Basis Point** Equal to 1/100 of one percent. For example, if interest rates rise from 6.50 percent to 6.75

percent, the difference is referred to as an increase of 25 basis points.

**Balanced Budget** A financial plan in which total expenditures equal total revenue and/or fund balance.

**Base Budget** The cost of continuing existing levels of service in the upcoming budget year.



**Benchmark** A factor or standard used to assess the effectiveness of a service or program in comparison

with other organizations or jurisdictions.

**Bond** A written promise to pay a specified sum of money (called the principal) at a specified date

> in the future, together with periodic interest at a specified rate. In the budget document, these payments are identified as debt service. Bonds may be used as an alternative to tax receipts to secure revenue for long-term capital improvements. County debt, to which the full faith and credit of the County is pledged, is approved by voter referendum. The State Constitution mandates taxes on real property sufficient to pay the principal and interest of such bonds. The majority of bonds issued for County and School construction projects are

known as general obligation bonds.

**Bond Rating** The rating of bonds as a statement of a locality's economic, financial, and managerial

condition. The bond rating represents the business community's assessment of the

investment quality of a local government.

**Budget** A specific plan which identifies a plan of operations for the fiscal year, states the

> expenditures required to meet that plan of operations, and identifies the revenue necessary to finance the plan. The annual County budget is established by the Board of Supervisors'

Appropriation Resolution.

Schedule of key dates which a government follows in the preparation and adoption of the **Budget Calendar** 

budget.

Occupational License

(BPOL)

Business, Professional, and Refers to the license tax that is levied upon the privilege of doing business or engaging in a

profession, trade, or occupation in the County.

**Capital Asset Replacement** 

**Fund** 

A fund established to ensure a consistent means of financing and planning for Countywide major maintenance efforts. This fund provides a mechanism for the replacement and rehabilitation of major components of the School and County physical plant including

structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and site-related efforts.

**Capital Expenditures** Expenditures on all fixed assets with a value greater than \$5,000 and an expected life of 3

years or more.

**Capital Facilities** Fixed assets, primarily buildings, acquired or constructed by the County.

**Capital Improvement** 

**Program** 

The County's plan for future capital project expenditures. The six-year plan covers public

facilities, resulting in the construction or acquisition of fixed assets, primarily buildings, but

also including parks, land, landfills, etc.

**Capital Outlay** Expenditures for items of a substantial nature that are expected to have a useful life of more

than one year. Examples include personal computers, vehicles, radios, and furniture.

**Carryover Funds** Unexpended funds from the previous fiscal year which may be used to make payments in the

current fiscal year. This is also referred to as the beginning fund balance.

Children's Services Act for At-Risk Youth (CSA)

This is a joint project of the Departments of Family Services; Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Services; Finance and Budget; Finance and Procurement; Juvenile Courts; the School System and community service providers and private citizens. CSA is funded jointly by the State and the County. The project goal is to maintain, strengthen and reunify at-risk youth and their families.

**Code of Virginia**The titles, chapters, articles, and sections of this Code contain the laws of the State.

**Codified Ordinance** Regulation related to a specific code, such as the Code of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

This official annual report, prepared by the Department of Finance, presents the status of the County's finances in a standardized format. The CAFR is organized by fund and contains two basic types of information: (1) a balance sheet that compares assets with liabilities and fund balance, and (2) an operating statement that compares revenues and expenditures.

**Constituent** A resident in an electoral district.

**Constitutional Officers** Officers or agencies directed by elected officials (Clerk of the Circuit Court, Commissioner

of the Revenue, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer) whose positions are established by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia or its statutes.

**Contractual Services** Services rendered to a government by private firms, individuals, or other governmental

agencies.

**County Seat** An administrative center of a community. Leesburg is the County Seat of Loudoun County.

**County Zoning Map**The unincorporated areas of Loudoun County are divided into districts indicated on the

Zoning Map. It is the final authority as to the current zoning status of land and water areas,

buildings, and other structures in the County.

**County Zoning Ordinance** This zoning ordinance was adopted by the County in conformance with the provisions of

Title 15.1, Chapter 11, Article 8, of the Code of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its purpose is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. The zoning ordinance is a means of controlling land use. For example, zoning ordinances can help to prevent traffic

congestion, protect historic areas, and control population density.

**Debt** An obligation resulting from the borrowing of money.

**Debt Service** Funding as defined by the State Auditor of Public Accounts that finances and accounts for

the payment of principal and interest on bonds.

**Department** Basic organizational unit of the County government which is functionally unique in its

service delivery responsibilities.

**Depreciation** Expiration in the service life of capital assets attributable to wear and tear, deterioration,

action of the physical elements, inadequacy, or obsolescence.

**Division** Major organizational subunits.



Emergency Operations Center (EOC) The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provides a central location to determine situational status, coordinate actions, and make critical decisions during emergency and disaster situations. Emergency Management staff maintains the EOC during routine operations. Personnel from various departments and agencies in the county along with key organizations outside the County comprise the EOC staff during activation.

**Encumbrance** 

A reservation of funds for an anticipated expenditure prior to actual payment of an item. Funds are usually reserved or encumbered once a contract obligation has been signed, but prior to the actual disbursement of the cash payment.

**Enhancement** 

"Enhancement" is a general term used for new initiatives that may consist of: (1) expansions or improvements to an existing program, (2) establishment of a new program, (3) a proposal to fund from local dollars a program which has previously been supported by non-local sources of revenue, or (4) an increase in revenue due to a new fee or an increase in fee rates.

**Enterprise Funds** 

Funds used to account for operations (a) that are financed through dedicated user fees, or (b) where the Board of Supervisors has decided to appropriate funding for specific operations using a periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income.

Equalization

An annual assessment of real estate to ensure that assessments accurately reflect current market values. Equalization revenue is the annual increase or decrease in collected revenue resulting from adjustments to the assessment of existing property in the County. This annual increase or decrease is due to value changes rather than to new construction.

**Expenditures** 

Decreases in net financial resources not properly classified as other financing uses.

**Facilities Standards Manual** 

A document by the Board of Supervisors which sets out specific regulations and design standards for such facilities as water/sewer service, roads and streets, soils review, etc.

**Fiduciary Fund** 

Funding used to account for assets held by the County in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or funds.

Fire/Emergency Services
Tax District

A special revenue fund established by the Board of Supervisors in 2007 to provide a dedicated funding mechanism for career and volunteer fire and rescue operations in Loudoun County. The Fire/EMS District is primarily funded by a separate tax rate on real property.

**Fiscal Impact Model** 

A 20-year model developed to help the County plan for future population growth. The fiscal impact model determines the financial impact of growth on the County Government, quantifying the need for services and projecting the related expenditures for providing these services.

**Fiscal Policy** 

A statement of the guidelines and goals that will influence and guide financial management practices

**Fiscal Trends** 

The statistical section of the document that provides a broad range of trend data covering key financial indicators with historical and current data. The fiscal trends section also contains demographic and miscellaneous data useful in assessing the County government's financial condition.



**Fiscal Year** This is the period of time measurement used by the County for budgeting and accounting

purposes. The fiscal year consists of the twelve months beginning on July 1st and ending

June 30th.

FTE Full-Time Equivalent, considering all full-time and part-time staff positions. One FTE

consists of 1,950 work hours per year.

**Fund** A fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and other

financial resources, together with all related liabilities and residual equities, or balances and changes therein. Funds are segregated for the purpose of carrying out specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations.

Fund Balance The amount of money or other resources remaining unspent or unencumbered in a fund at a

specific point in time. This term usually refers to funding available at the end of the fiscal

year.

**Fund Type** A group of funds that have similar activities, objectives, or funding sources as defined by the

State Auditor of Public Accounts.

**GAAP** An acronym for Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, this term refers to uniform

minimum standards for financial accounting and recording.

**General Fund**The primary location of all financial activity associated with the ordinary operations of

County government. Most taxes are accrued into this fund and transfers are made to the

School, Debt Service, and Capital Projects funds as appropriate.

**General Obligation Bond** 

**Financing** 

G.O. bonds are approved by voter referendum and carry the full faith and credit of Loudoun

County.

**General Plan** An official public document, which is the product of citizen participation, the Planning

Commission, the Board of Supervisors, County staff, and consultants. The General Plan is a long-range guide for growth, land use, and development decisions in the County and

provides a framework for consistent future decision-making.

Geographic Information

System (GIS)

The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer system used to assemble, store, manipulate, and display information about land in the County. GIS is a multi-departmental

resource integrated with several of the County's other computer systems. It is used to manage and analyze land information, produce maps in support of the assessment process, manage zoning and health information, assist with the planning process, addressing County

residences, and landfill management.

**Goals** A general statement of purpose. A goal provides a framework within which the program unit

operates; it reflects realistic constraints upon the unit providing the service. A goal statement speaks generally toward end results rather than toward specific actions (e.g., "minimize

unemployment among disadvantaged youth").

**Grant** A contribution by one organization to another. The contribution is usually made to aid in

the support of a specified function, such as health care, housing, crime prevention, etc.



Intergenerational Equity

This is one of the concepts that underlie the issuance of long-term debt for capital projects. If

a facility has an expected useful life of 20-40 years, there is a rationale for linking the payment for the facility to the beneficiaries of the facility. In other words, future users of the facility will also pay their share of the construction cost of the facility through debt service

payments.

Intergovernmental Revenue Revenue from other governments, such as the State and Federal government, in the form of

grants, entitlements, shared revenue, or payments in lieu of taxes.

**Landfill Fee Waiver** The forgoing of the tipping fee charged for use of the County's landfill. Organizations which

are granted fee waivers must meet the following criteria: (1) the organizations must apply for the exemption, (2) the organization must be a governmental or nonprofit entity with IRS 501

status, and (3) the organization must provide a service for the public good.

Lease Purchase A method of financing that allows the County to construct or acquire property and pay for it

over a period of time by installment payments rather than an outright purchase. The time payments include an interest charge, which is typically reduced because the lessor does not

have to pay income tax on the interest revenue.

**Levy** The imposition of taxes for the support of government activities.

**Liabilities** Obligations incurred in past or current transactions requiring present or future settlement.

**Liquidity** Funds consisting, or capable, of ready conversion into cash.

Local Gasoline Tax

This is a 2 percent tax on gasoline sold in the County. Local gasoline tax collections are

directed to a special account maintained by the Northern Virginia Transportation

Commission (NVTC).

**Local Tax Funding** Represents funds that the Board of Supervisors may allocate from general tax revenues to

supplement revenues received by a program.

**Long-Term Debt** Debt with a maturity of more than one year after the date of issuance.

**Mission Statement** A written description stating the purpose of an organizational unit (department or agency)

and its function.

**Modified Accrual Basis of** 

Accounting

Basis of accounting according to which (a) revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they become available and measurable and (b) expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the fund liability is incurred (if measurable). Under this approach, immature interest on general long-term debt and certain similar accrued

obligations are recognized when due.

Non-Revenue Receipt Assets received by the County which are not in the form of cash, such as federal food

commodities received at the Juvenile Detention Home and donated land from developers in the form of proffers. These are entered in the County records at their fair market value at the

time of receipt.

**Object Classification** A grouping of expenditures on the basis of goods or services purchased, such as personal

services, materials, supplies, equipment, etc.

A statement of purpose defined more specifically than a goal. Objectives describe specific Objective

> measurable outputs within a designated timeframe (e.g., "increase the number of children qualifying as Level I swimmers by 20%"). Program objectives are identified for each program

description in the budget document.

Obligation A future expenditure requirement incurred by voluntary agreement or legal action.

**Overlapping Debt** The debt issuer's (County's) proportionate share of the debt of other local governmental

> units such that the issuer (the County) is located either wholly or partly within the geographic limits of the other units. The debt is generally apportioned based upon relative assessed value. For example, debt issued by a regional organization with which the County is

affiliated would be overlapping debt of the County.

Overmatch The amount of local tax funding over and above the amount required to leverage federal and

state grant revenue.

The process of producing maps of land parcels in the County. These parcels serve as units for **Parcel Mapping** 

assessing taxes.

Pay-As-You-Go A term used to describe the practice of financing certain capital expenditures using current

revenue as opposed to borrowing.

Pay-For-Performance An assessment system that provides a process for appraising the quality of work performed

> by County employees and linking potential pay increases with work performance. The Payfor-Performance system is designed to establish a link between performance assessment and

employee performance of job duties and responsibilities.

**Performance Measures** Data collected to assess a program's progress toward achieving established objectives and

goals.

**Personal Property** A category of property other than real estate, identified for purposes of taxation, including

> personally owned items, corporate property, and business equipment. Examples include automobiles, motorcycles, trailers, boats, airplanes, business furnishing, and manufacturing equipment. Goods held for sale by manufacturers, wholesalers, or retailers (i.e., inventory)

are not included.

A high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures of the **Policy** 

governing body.

Private Contributions/

**Donations** 

These donations are usually from private citizens, typically one-time, non-recurring

donations of cash or property.

**Proffer** An offer of cash or property. This usually refers to property, cash, or structural

improvements, offered by contractors/developers to the County in land development

projects. An example is a proffer of land from a developer to the County.

This is a plan or unit under which action may be taken towards meeting an individual or set **Program** 

> of goal(s) in the provision of a particular service. Examples of County government programs include fleet management, field services, outpatient services and the Loudoun Youth

Initiative.



Property Tax Rate The rate of taxes levied against real or personal property expressed as dollars or \$100 of

equalized assessed valuation of the property taxed.

**Proposed Budget** A plan of financial operations submitted by the County Administrator to the Board of

Supervisors. This plan reflects estimated revenues, expenditures, transfers, and departmental goals, objectives, and performance/workload indicators. In addition, sections are included to

show major budgetary/financial policies and guidelines used in the County's fiscal management. The document is commonly referred to as the proposed budget.

**Proprietary Fund Types** Funds that account for County activities which are similar to private sector businesses. These

funds measure net income, financial position and changes in financial position.

**Prorate Tax System** A system in which taxes are assessed proportionally during the year.

**Public Service Property** Property specifically designated for public service use, as determined by the State

Corporation Commission. This category includes designated real property, such as land and

buildings and other property, such as computers, copiers and cash registers.

**Rating Agencies**The organizations which provide publicly available ratings of the credit quality of securities

issuers. The term is most often used to refer to the nationally recognized agencies, Moody's

Investors Service, Inc., Standard & Poor's Corporation, and Fitch Investors.

Real Property Real estate, including land and improvements (building, fencing, paving), classified for

purposes of tax assessment.

**Referendum** The principle or practice of submitting to popular vote a measure passed on or proposed by a

legislative body or by popular initiative.

**Regional Organization** Organizations to which the County is either a member or contributes as a funding source.

**Resolution** A formal expression of opinion will, or intent voted by an official body or assembled group.

**Revenue** An increase in assets or financial resources. Revenue types are from local sources, from the

Commonwealth of Virginia, the Federal Government, and from Non-Revenue Receipts

(other Financing Sources).

**Revolving Loan Fund** A fund established by the Board of Supervisors for County government, School, and Fire and

Rescue company capital projects. Loans from the fund must be repaid back into the fund.

**Rollback taxes** Amount of the difference between the taxes calculated for a property with and without the

exemption for the previous five years.

**Short-Term Debt** Debt with a maturity of less than one year after the date of issuance.

**Special District** An independent unit of local government organized to perform a single governmental

function or a restricted number of related functions. Special districts usually have the power to incur debt and levy taxes; however, certain types of special districts are entirely dependent upon enterprise earnings and cannot impose taxes. Examples of special districts are the Fire/EMS Tax District, the Route 28 Special Improvement District, and the Dulles Industrial

Park Water and Sewer District.

**State/Federal Grant Fund** A governmental fund type used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources

(other than for major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditure for specified

purposes.

**State Compensation Board** A State Board that determines the rate of State funding toward the total cost of office

operations for Constitutional Officers.

**Task Force** A group of individuals organized to discuss and research a particular topic. Task forces are

often used as advisory groups on a given topic.

**Tax Base** The aggregate value of taxed items. The base of the County's real property tax is the market

value of all real estate in the County. The base of the personal property is the market value of  $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\} =\left$ 

all automobiles, trailers, boats, business equipment, etc., which are taxed as personal property by the County. The tax base of a sales tax is the total volume of taxable sales.





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