



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

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**STAYING  
STRONG**

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FY25 PROPOSED BUDGET



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
STUART PITTMAN**



***“When I say that the theme for this budget is Staying Strong, I am saying that we must not retreat from the progress we have made. Period.”***

## **Investing in Tomorrow’s Leaders**

***“The outlook for our future depends more on whether our school system can engage and empower the next generation of residents than anything else that government does.”***

- Fully funds Dr. Bedell's compensation request with a step increase and 3% cost-of-living adjustment for AACPS teachers and school staff.
- Surpasses last year's year-over-year increase in support for our school system with a nearly \$48 million increase for AACPS.
- Funds staffing for the three new schools opening this fall - Severn Run High School, Two Rivers Elementary School, and New Village Academy.
- Provides funding to meet all the Maryland Blueprint for Education requirements.
- Funds the new AACPS Middle School Athletics Program.
- Funds an expansion of Discoveries: The Library at the Mall for increased space and staffing.
- Increases county aid to Anne Arundel Community College by nearly \$2.4 million.



*Whether you're proud or ashamed of it - or like me, a little of both - Anne Arundel County has the smallest government per capita of the big seven central Maryland counties. That means fewer cops, fewer firefighters, fewer parks. You get the idea. And it means lower taxes, and until recently a lower bond rating.*

*We've done some catching up since I took office. Three Triple-A bond ratings wasn't just about putting more money in reserve. It was an assessment that our government is delivering quality services to our residents, and making this a place that businesses and people want to be.*

*It was an acknowledgment that we are addressing threats to our future - threats like poverty, housing insecurity, climate change, aging infrastructure, crime, and the social determinants of health.*

*With this budget, we continue our progress in all of these areas. This summary is just a sampling. Please get more detail at [aacounty.org/FY25Budget](http://aacounty.org/FY25Budget).*



***Steuart Pittman***  
County Executive



## Improving Quality of Life

***“A strong economy is important, but it’s simply a means to something greater. That something is health.”***

- Continues programs that were funded with federal ARPA dollars during the pandemic that have proven to effectively impact our residents.
  - Funds the Mental Health Agency’s Crisis Response Team.
  - \$1.5 million to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.
  - Funds the Healthy Communities program to decrease health disparities by expanding public health services offered in vulnerable communities.
  - Funds the Community Health Ambassador program.
  - Adds a position to manage the Department of Health’s Cure Violence program.
  - Continues funding for Turnaround Thursday through a federal grant.



- Provides school health staff with retirement benefits, paid holidays, and a 3% supplemental salary adjustment.
- Funds the Department of Social Services’ Summer SNAP Program, estimated to benefit 36,090 children in the county.
- Adds two new Child Enrichment Center programs, providing care to 60 additional children of working families in low income areas.
- Deploys \$1.2 million of the Opioid Abatement Fund to continue treatment and recovery programs.
- Provides funding for the Arundel Lodge Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center at Anne Arundel Medical Center.
- Creates an Early Childhood Specialist position and a Chief Affordable Housing Officer position.

## Protecting Our Communities

***“Government’s most fundamental obligation to its people is public safety.”***

- Increases the starting salary for police officers to the highest in the State of Maryland at \$70,000 and funds a generous pay package to retain existing officers.
- Staffs the county’s most effective new crime-fighting tool, the Real Time Information Center.
- Provides funding to train 70 new firefighter recruits.
- Funds hiring bonuses for detention officers to continue to reduce vacancies.
- Funds innovative program to provide a Sheriff’s Deputy in every courtroom.





## Safeguarding Our Environment

▶ ***“Staying Strong is only possible if we protect the nature that sustains us.”***

- Established the county’s first environmental subcabinet to lead sustainability efforts.
- Resilience Authority has brought in \$32 million in state and federal grants, and has another \$58 million in the pipeline.
- Funds staff for the soon-to-be-open Jug Bay Emory Waters Nature Preserve.
- Expands River Days to five locations to provide free public water access for families.

## Critical Government Services

▶ ***“We must focus on the backbone of government, the core agencies that make the others efficient.”***

<b>AAA</b> Exceptionally Strong	<b>Aaa</b> Exceptional	<b>AAA</b> Exceptionally Strong
<b>Fitch</b>	<b>Moody’s</b>	<b>Standard &amp; Poor’s</b>

- Grows the county’s competitive advantage in hiring with a close to 3% cost-of-living-adjustment for union and non-represented employees to ensure vacancies in essential services are filled.
- Funds the escalating costs of Information Technology for our new Police Real Time Information Center, Land Use Navigator, and other tools that improve operations and enhance security protocols.

## Fiscal Responsibility

▶ ***“People say they want investments in public safety and education, and that’s where most of our new money is going.”***

- Maintains Anne Arundel County’s triple-A ratings from all three major bond rating agencies for the second year in a row.
- Includes three revenue enhancements to generate recurring funding to remove the deficit from this budget without cutting essential services.
  - Updates permit fees for the first time in 21 years, linking fees to cost.
  - Raises the fee residents pay each month for 911 service from \$0.75 to the state average of \$1.
  - Increases the income tax rate from 2.81% to 2.94% on income between \$75,000 and \$480,000. Only 3.6% of Marylanders enjoy lower rates than Anne Arundel County’s.
- Property tax rate remains the lowest in the region as we continue to honor the tax cap.

**The full proposed FY25 budget is available online at [aaccounty.org/YourBudget](http://aaccounty.org/YourBudget)**