

Taxes/Affordability

Name	City/Town	Comment
Irina Cole	Apex	Tax rates should not grow beyond the inflation percent, but more so it's important to understand that people can't pay both for inflation and a higher property tax, when many lost jobs. Services would need to be cut.
Chance Crowder	Cary	NO NO NO, NO MORE TAX HIKES! You are pricing people out of home ownership! It is not the taxpayer's responsibility to try to "make up" what the county commissioners' opinions of what "adequate funding" would be. Do like the citizens have to do and CUT BACK ON SPENDING. Stop wasting money on "incentives" for developers and things like parks and bike lanes that only a small segment of the population gets any benefit from and divert that money to where it is *needed*
Nia Canady	Raleigh	Our property taxes have already skyrocketed over the last 10.5 years of owning our home, from \$1600 to almost \$3800. As has everyone else's. If anything our taxes need to be reduced because we are all struggling and can barely meet basic needs. We have no mortgage payment but our taxes and insurance are significant and a burden for our income. Those that don't have the luxury of no mortgage are further struggling. Wake County has become an unaffordable place to live. Tax values should not be increased till a sale is made. I bought my house at the top of my budget at 195k. I could never afford the 425k+ value the city has chose to allot of the taxes that come along with this value. Many of my neighbors have lived here for decades and also could not afford the inflated values given by wake county. Please do what is right and reduce the burden for your citizens. The County and City have plenty of money, it is a budget problem not a lack of money issue. Over the last several years you've doubled the amount you were receiving.
Smith, Cathy	Raleigh	My husband and I have lived in Wake County for over 41 years. We worked hard to buy and pay for our home. Since buying our home in 2003, our property taxes have tripled, our insurance has increased to the point we are unable to retire at 70 years old! Our three children went through WCPSS and graduated, went to NC college and now live in Wake County. Should we have to contribute to WCPSS failing budget? I hope you will go line by line and reduce expenses like I had to do at home. Your budget is not acceptable! Stop blaming others and fix the WAKE COUNTY budget to reduce taxes, not raise them. This is NOT the American Dream! Thank you for your time.
Marc Waterloo	Holly Springs	I saw the recommendation for a 2 cent per \$100 increase. I would like to recommend that the county look for a 2 cent per \$100 cut in total programs, or a cent for cent exchange. I am certain there are programs that can't and aren't meeting their goals or missions. Rather than throwing more capital at solutions that don't work, let's save taxpayer dollars.

Elizabeth B. (Age 63)	Apex	Although I recognize the many budget challenges faced by the county, increasing property tax has a cruel impact, especially on older long-time residents. My modest unrenovated 1950s is fully paid off. The assessed valuation is out of control because of the gentrification and McMansions that now surround me. Both Wake County and Apex plan to increase the property tax rate again. Currently, property tax is my biggest expense of the year and beyond what I can afford on a limited income. I made the frightening decision to drop homeowner's insurance this year after the cost tripled, because I could not possible afford that expense along with the property tax. I have been brutal with my household budget -- no car, no air conditioning, no heat, no supply purchases beyond essential replacements, zero for entertainment, no travel, skipped medical appointments, and a food budget of just \$80 per month. Low-income residents are facing extreme rising costs, requiring painful sacrifices every month. I expect the local government to match my frugality and cutback expenses with comparable severity. Freeze all salary increases and freeze all hiring. Cut non-essentials, including park and art programs. Defer capital investments. That would be harsh for the county budget, But I am already living each day in harsh budget realities -- do not treat people like me as an easy cash source in a bad economy.
MARK SPANIOLI	APEX	Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Based on the current economic outlook, this is not the time to be increasing the millage rate. This is the time to cut back on expenses and look for alternative revenue options. Wake County needs to provide the basic services, freeze hiring and cut back on services that do not directly impact the tax payer. We just had the revaluation which created a substantial tax increase, why now do we need to increase property taxes to increase revenue to the County even further? Everything in our local economy has increased, basic goods and services that everyone needs have increased. Housing affordability has decreased, home insurance rates have almost doubled. The County needs to consider the burden placed on the people before any option to increase taxes are considered.
Lorri	Raleigh	Property taxes are high enough. Cost of living is high enough. Rent and house payments are high enough. High enough for most residents of Wake County. The few who are able to afford these increases have enough money for food, clothing, education, vacation, most things that many residents of Wake County cannot afford. Taxes have increased each year, cost of living increases each year. And incomes decrease each year, homelessness increase each year, increase in people going hungry. Basic living for most people is strained enough without adding to the already existing burdens.

Tina Moore	Raleigh	<p>Subject: Residents Need Affordability, Not Another Property Tax Increase</p> <p>Dear Wake County Commissioners and Raleigh City Council Members, I am writing to express my opposition to the additional property tax increases currently being discussed for the FY 2026–27 budget. Wake County is considering a proposed 2-cent property tax increase, and Raleigh is separately reviewing a possible increase of approximately 1.11 cents per \$100 of valuation. These increases may sound small when presented individually, but for residents already dealing with higher costs across the board, they add to an already heavy financial burden. Many Wake County and Raleigh residents are stretched thin. Single people, working families, seniors on fixed incomes, renters, and homeowners are all dealing with higher gas prices, groceries, utilities, insurance, healthcare, rent, transportation, and home maintenance costs. Many residents have not seen their income rise enough to keep up with these increases. This also follows the major impact many residents already felt from the 2024 revaluation. For some households, property taxes have already increased significantly. Adding another increase now sends the message that residents are the default solution every time local government faces a budget gap. Property taxes also affect renters. When property owners pay more, those costs often get passed down through higher rent. This means a property tax increase does not only affect homeowners. It affects the entire community and makes affordability worse. I understand the need to fund schools, libraries, parks, public safety, and other essential services. However, residents should not be asked to pay more until local leaders have fully explored other serious and practical options. Before raising taxes again, I ask Wake County and Raleigh to adopt two alternative strategies. First, create a Revenue Recovery and Accountability Plan to review commercial property tax appeals, under-assessed high-value properties, and tax-exemption loopholes that reduce local revenue. If commercial appeals and loopholes are part of the revenue problem, then commercial appeals and loopholes should be part of the solution before residents are taxed more. Second, create a Community Impact Enforcement Fund. This fund would be supported by increased enforcement and penalties for actions that create public costs, such as littering, illegal dumping, repeat nuisance violations, and speeding in legally authorized high-risk areas like school zones, high-crash corridors, and pedestrian-heavy areas. People who create safety risks, cleanup costs, and neighborhood damage should help pay for those impacts. Residents who are already paying more for basic necessities should not always be the first place government turns for additional money. I also ask that any revenue from this type of enforcement be restricted to public safety, road safety, neighborhood cleanup, litter removal, and maintenance. It should not become a blank check for unrelated spending. Before approving any additional property tax increase, local leaders should be able to clearly show residents that they have: * Reviewed spending priorities; * Identified budget efficiencies; *</p>
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Edith Arukwe	Raleigh	<p>Dear Wake County Commissioners and Raleigh City Council Members, I am writing to express my opposition to the additional property tax increases currently being discussed for the FY 2026–27 budget. Wake County is considering a proposed 2-cent property tax increase, and Raleigh is separately reviewing a possible increase of approximately 1.11 cents per \$100 of valuation. These increases may sound small when presented individually, but for residents already dealing with higher costs across the board, they add to an already heavy financial burden. Many Wake County and Raleigh residents are stretched thin. Single people, working families, seniors on fixed incomes, renters, and homeowners are all dealing with higher gas prices, groceries, utilities, insurance, healthcare, rent, transportation, and home maintenance costs. Many residents have not seen their income rise enough to keep up with these increases. This also follows the major impact many residents already felt from the 2024 revaluation. For some households, property taxes have already increased significantly. Adding another increase now sends the message that residents are the default solution every time local government faces a budget gap. Property taxes also affect renters. When property owners pay more, those costs often get passed down through higher rent. This means a property tax increase does not only affect homeowners. It affects the entire community and makes affordability worse. I understand the need to fund schools, libraries, parks, public safety, and other essential services. However, residents should not be asked to pay more until local leaders have fully explored other serious and practical options.</p>
Bill Mandulak	Raleigh	<p>I am strongly opposed to any increase in tax rates or reassessment that will again increase my property taxes. I am 82 and live on my pension and social security. When I retired, I anticipated some small increase in my living expenses. Yet the largest expense increase I have had to absorb over the last few years has been my property tax. I have to live within my income and so should my local government. Further increases in my property tax may well require me to sell our family home of 47 years. Is my home worth more than when I bought it? Yes but I can't live off what my home might be worth some day. I love my home and my neighborhood. I don't want to be forced to leave it. You need to do your job and find ways to run the government on the revenue you have and not increase the burden residents. Sincerely, Bill Mandulak</p>

Marie Stowers	Raleigh	Wake County residents fo NOT need a property tax increase Actually it would be nice to give , like Florida, a \$25000 homestead exemption on property .
Sherry Pickett Aldridge	Raleigh	Dear Council members, Please do not consider raising even 2%, our property taxes. In the times that we are living, no one can afford to pay more. Paying less would be great. I'm seeing too many of my neighbors struggle (including myself) because property taxes are too high. Let's make Raleigh more affordable to live in again. I have lived in Raleigh all of my life and would like to continue to live here with no property tax increases. My mother passed away and now I have her property taxes to pay as well as my own. Please help me to stay in Raleigh. Thank you for your time. Sherry Pickett Aldridge, retired educator
marie	Knightdale	In reference to tax increases currently being discussed for the FY 2026–27 budget, spending more isn't always the answer to better quality of life. Wake County's proposed 2-cent property tax increase per \$100 of valuation will be a very heavy financial burden for me. As a retired, single senior on a fixed income, I am dealing with higher gas prices, groceries, utilities, insurance, healthcare, auto maintenance, and home maintenance costs. I have to balance my budget without receiving a large increase in my annual income. I experienced a significant property tax increase in 2024. Adding another increase now sends the message that residents are the default solution every time local government faces a budget gap. I respectfully ask you to oppose additional property tax increases and pursue fairer, more targeted revenue solutions first. Thank you for serving and for your time.

BarbaraAnn Wolf	Raleigh	<p>Dear Wake County Commissioners and Raleigh City Council Members, I am writing to express my opposition to the additional property tax increases currently being discussed for the FY 2026–27 budget. Wake County is considering a proposed 2-cent property tax increase, and Raleigh is separately reviewing a possible increase of approximately 1.11 cents per \$100 of valuation. These increases may sound small when presented individually, but for residents already dealing with higher costs across the board, they add to an already heavy financial burden. Many Wake County and Raleigh residents are stretched thin. Single people, working families, seniors on fixed incomes, renters, and homeowners are all dealing with higher gas prices, groceries, utilities, insurance, healthcare, rent, transportation, and home maintenance costs. Many residents have not seen their income rise enough to keep up with these increases. This also follows the major impact many residents already felt from the 2024 revaluation. For some households, property taxes have already increased significantly. Adding another increase now sends the message that residents are the default solution every time local government faces a budget gap. Property taxes also affect renters. When property owners pay more, those costs often get passed down through higher rent. This means a property tax increase does not only affect homeowners. It affects the entire community and makes affordability worse. I understand the need to fund schools, libraries, parks, public safety, and other essential services. However, residents should not be asked to pay more until local leaders have fully explored other serious and practical options. Before raising taxes again, I ask Wake County and Raleigh to adopt two alternative strategies. First, create a Revenue Recovery and Accountability Plan to review commercial property tax appeals, under-assessed high-value properties, and tax-exemption loopholes that reduce local revenue. If commercial appeals and loopholes are part of the revenue problem, then commercial appeals and loopholes should be part of the solution before residents are taxed more. Second, create a Community Impact Enforcement Fund. This fund would be supported by increased enforcement and penalties for actions that create public costs, such as littering, illegal dumping, repeat nuisance violations, and speeding in legally authorized high-risk areas like school zones, high-crash corridors, and pedestrian-heavy areas. People who create safety risks, cleanup costs, and neighborhood damage should help pay for those impacts. Residents who are already paying more for basic necessities should not always be the first place government turns for additional money. I also ask that any revenue from this type of enforcement be restricted to public safety, road safety, neighborhood cleanup, litter removal, and maintenance. It should not become a blank check for unrelated spending. Before approving any additional property tax increase, local leaders should be able to clearly show residents that they have: * Reviewed spending priorities; * Identified budget efficiencies; * Addressed commercial tax appeals; *</p>
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Julian Chachula Jr	Raleigh	<p>Subject: Residents Do Not Need Another Property Tax Increase</p> <p>Dear Wake County Commissioners, I oppose the additional property tax increases currently being discussed for the FY 2026–27 budget. Wake Co. residents are already dealing with higher costs across the board and they add to an already heavy financial burden. Many of us are stretched thin. Single people, working families, seniors on fixed incomes, renters, and homeowners are all dealing with higher gas prices, groceries, utilities, insurance, healthcare, rent, transportation, and home maintenance costs. Many residents have not seen their income rise enough to keep up with these increases. This also follows the major impact many residents already felt from the 2024 revaluation. For some households, property taxes have already increased significantly. Adding another increase now sends the message that residents are the default solution every time local government faces a budget gap. Property taxes also affect renters. When property owners pay more, those costs often get passed down through higher rent. This means a property tax increase does not only affect homeowners. It affects the entire community and makes affordability worse. I understand the need to fund schools, libraries, parks, public safety, and other essential services. However, residents should not be asked to pay more until local leaders have fully explored other serious and practical options. Before raising taxes again, I ask Wake County and Raleigh to adopt two alternative strategies. First, create a Revenue Recovery and Accountability Plan to review commercial property tax appeals, under-assessed high-value properties, and tax-exemption loopholes that reduce local revenue. If commercial appeals and loopholes are part of the revenue problem, then commercial appeals and loopholes should be part of the solution before residents are taxed more. Second, create a Community Impact Enforcement Fund. This fund would be supported by increased enforcement and penalties for actions that create public costs, such as littering, illegal dumping, repeat nuisance violations, and speeding in legally authorized high-risk areas like school zones, high-crash corridors, and pedestrian-heavy areas. People who create safety risks, cleanup costs, and neighborhood damage should help pay for those impacts. Residents who are already paying more for basic necessities should not always be the first place government turns for additional money. I also ask that any revenue from this type of enforcement be restricted to public safety, road safety, neighborhood cleanup, litter removal, and maintenance. It should not become a blank check for unrelated spending. Before approving any additional property tax increase, local leaders should be able to clearly show residents that they have: * Reviewed spending priorities; * Identified budget efficiencies; * Addressed commercial tax appeals; * Examined tax loopholes and exemptions; * Looked for revenue from public-cost violations; * Protected seniors, renters, single-income households, and working families from additional strain. Residents are not saying public services do not matter. We are saying affordability matters too.</p>
		<p>Wake County and Raleigh should not continue solving budget problems by placing more pressure on people who are already financially stretched. I respectfully ask you to oppose additional property tax increases and pursue fairer, more targeted revenue solutions first. Thank you for your time and public service. Sincerely, Julian Chachula Jr</p>

Wayne Rogerson	Wendell	I offer these comments as a retired state employee who has not received a cost of living raise in a dozen years or so. Property taxes are already very difficult to pay & an increase will be a very unfair burden on retirees especially. Inflation is hitting us retirees harder than others & this would just cripple us. It is difficult to see how we need a rate increase when the building boom in Wake Co. is at an all time high. That in itself should be a huge increase in tax intake. Please look at some other way to bring in more income maybe higher construction fees for all those developments being built by rich corporations. Thanks for your consideration.
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Libraries

Name	City/Town	Comment
Lara Fountaine	CARY	Libraries are vital to our community and any cut to their budget would be detrimental to residents. Our collections are wonderful but are still lacking in comparison to Durham County Library. Libraries are one of the few free third spaces. We need to be investing in these not cutting them.
Karen Kluttz	Raleigh	Please do not cut funds from libraries and parks. They are vital resources for the mental health of our community
Leah Dexter-Boone	Knightdale	I go to my local library and use other resources provided by Wake County Libraries. Whenever I go, I see community there. People of all ages enjoying books, using the computers, or participating in some of the activities the libraries host. A library creates a safe place for people to congregate and learn. We should not be cutting back on resources to educate ourselves. I urge you to consider not reducing the staffing at libraries. They are being used!
Roderic Kavanagh	Garner	Libraries are the backbone of educational advancement and any effort to minimize their societal impact can only be orchestrated by those who wish to keep their populace under-educated in order to exert control over them. I'm relatively new to the American South, but I see this attitude as a pervasive one amongst the "locals" who abhor outside influences that can benefit underserved communities.
Crystal Whittenton	Raleigh	Librarians and library workers have improved my life for my family for the 22 years I've lived here. The services they provide to the community are crucial. Budget cuts that detract from the services they can offer or the number of staff available harm the community and harm the workers. The community always votes to approve library funding and bonds for a reason. Represent the voting public you serve and fully fund libraries and the workers that keep them going.
Sarah Yang	Raleigh	SUPPORT PUBLIC LIBRARIES!
Alissa Vermillion	Raleigh	Libraries always seem to be on the chopping block for budget shortfalls, along with schools. Find a way to tax the rich instead, since schools and libraries benefit everybody and the rich only look out for themselves.

David Burroughs	Holly Springs	The library is a vital resource for every citizen of Wake County. Please fully fund our libraries so they can continue to serve our community. My children have loved the library for years. From checking out books and attending fun programs when they were little to volunteering for programs and still checking out books, the library has been a vital and vibrant part of their childhood. I urge you to fully fund the library so that other children may know the joy of going to the library.
Anita Simha	Cary	Staffing shortages at Wake County Public Libraries must be remedied!
Gale Hayes	Raleigh	Hello, I am an employee of Wake County Public Libraries and have been a Raleigh resident for a few years now. I would like to share my experience of how the library staffing cuts over the last two years have negatively impacted the library and the wider community. Last summer, I transitioned from working at one of our smallest community libraries to one of the regionals. While the staffing crisis does affect everyone, I have witnessed firsthand how brutal it is particularly for community libraries. They rely on temp staff to cover shortages and, with the hours for temps being so drastically cut last cycle, scheduling has become more difficult. If one person calls out- which does happen, as we are only humans- then the entire schedule for the day crumbles. There were times that I was left to cover the desk by myself because there was no one else available who could help and, with temp hours being cut, there was no one who could be asked to come in. It has put a strain on everyone working in our libraries: managers, librarians, library assistants, and pages. It ripples through the entire staff, and we are exhausted. I implore you to give the library additional staffing. If we are going to give the community- your community- the programming that they deserve, then library staff needs more support. Thank you for your time and consideration. Gale Hayes WCPL Library Assistant
BethAnn Guevara	Zebulon	I am writing in support of budgetary considerations as they relate to Wake County libraries. Public libraries remain a mainstay of any healthy society, as they protect access to not only books, but knowledge and resources. My family and I have used library computer/printing, résumé assistance, and the seed library in Zebulon....in addition to having multiple books checked out at any given time. When we moved to Wake County in 2019, the first thing we did was get a library card. The library is a place where people care, where calm prevails even when it's not quiet. The library is a place where people can go to simply exist, without the expectation of spending money. It is a cool place in summer and a warm place in winter. People find housing, jobs, and educational opportunities thanks to the library's open doors and open resources. I particularly appreciate the pollinator gardens, as the human race depends on the well-being of these small creatures, outside both the Zebulon and Knightdale branches. None of these things is possible without the good people on staff who show up every day and work to keep resources available. In any budgetary discussion, I urge in the strongest possible terms that Wake County government prioritize vital public services that provide net societal good. We don't need data centers that destroy green spaces and drain our finite water supply. We don't need nor benefit from militarized police vehicles. But we will always need and benefit from both the resources and human contact available at for free at our public libraries. Our county's people and the library staff deserve to be made a priority. Thank you.

Ruchi Sarkar	Raleigh	I really value the local libraries here, it allows me access to books that I otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. I use it everyday, through the Libby tool. It is a great resource for our community and I hope we can continue to support and grow our libraries
Genevieve Hunt	Holly Springs	Our libraries need funding, they're hubs for our communities! Our people need them!
Maura Dixon	Raleigh	I am currently a Wake County Employee who has been a resident of Wake County for the last 15 years. I love living and working to serve those in my community. However, the cuts to library staffing have greatly affected both staff and the residents that rely on our services. I became a Librarian to help others and I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to serve my community but unfortunately, now I cannot always offer the assistance that patrons need simply because we do not have the staffing to do so. Over the last 2 years the libraries have seen a significant decrease in hours for our Temporary employees which are our Library Assistant and Library Page positions. Although these positions are not a line item in the budget, both of these positions are essential to the operation of the library branches. Since these are being cut it's stretching the permanent staff to cover their responsibilities along with filling in other areas that are essential to the library's operation. Ultimately many aspects of the libraries are suffering because of this. At my branch we have had to limit the programming and services that we offer to the public because we don't have the capacity. This directly affects those in our community who rely on our services. You may hear that our program statistics haven't decreased and our attendance has increased, but that is a testament to the hard work that library staff is doing to ensure that our community is served with less manpower. Staff is suffering to maintain this standard that we are absolutely proud of but, we want to also maintain the capacity to do so. I am aware that a staffing study is happening to assess our needs, which I am hopeful for. However, these things take time and our need for staffing is immediate. I ask the Commissioners to consider this when considering the county's budget. Thank you,
Hanna Gibbs	Raleigh	I support Wake Country public library workers and think the city should support them by adequately staffing libraries and paying workers appropriately. Public libraries are one of the greatest services offered by the county and they should be supported with the funding to match their importance
Meredith Wynn	Raleigh	While I have read and understand the budget rationale, and appreciate that state funding has created a gap, I ask the commissioners to consider fully funding libraries in this budget. Public libraries are an important part of our community, and the services offered by WCPL have already been negatively impacted by budget cuts. Everyone in the county benefits from these services, from kids' reading groups to memory care kits for caretakers. Please fully fund the libraries so they can continue or bring back these important services.
Melissa Kammerer	Apex	I have been an employee of Wake County Public Libraries for 8 years. In that time our community has grown rapidly and, as the County Manager said in his presentation, their needs from their government have grown as well. We see

		<p>this every day as we help residents find jobs, look for affordable housing and apply for other government services. We are proud to be able to help our residents meet these challenges. While the need has grown, however, our staff has not. This chronic understaffing puts more strain on our services every year. The recent reduction to our temporary Library Assistant and Library Page positions has hit particularly hard. The data will tell you that overall program attendance has not dropped, but it does not tell the full story. For example, some branches have had to cut back on the number of storytime programs, leading to overcrowding at the remaining programs. These are by far our highest attended programs, averaging 75+ people each at many branches even before the cuts. The availability of programs and services during weekend and evening hours has been severely reduced, limiting who among our population can access them. Some branches even find themselves having to close a service desk during the day to cover lunch breaks, particularly during weekends, which are high traffic days. These changes, while a necessary response to the current staffing crisis, are not sustainable and create a significant barrier to access for residents. We cannot wait another year in hopes that our public officials will take action. Our community needs help today. Much has been said about tax loopholes and incentives at the state level that we cannot control, but not much about those offered at the county level. Please consider what can be done to provide a stopgap measure that will ensure that we are able to provide our growing population the high quality service they need and expect. Our residents should not have to choose between public safety and other essential public services. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Melissa Hutcheson	Cary	<p>Hello, I am a proud library assistant with Wake County Public Libraries for 10 and a life long Wake County resident. I truly love my job. I get to help people, whether in their search for their read, printing out documents, answering their questions, helping with programs and countless other ways. But due to the cuts in temp hours, the ways I can help have changed and been restricted. And the same goes for my coworkers, both at my library location and across the county. The number of programs we can offer are reduced, because we do not have enough staff to cover the desk and programs all the time. There are restrictions on WHEN programs can be scheduled, and for my location this includes adult programs can not be on the weekend unless the managers can arrange for extra staff for that day. Isn't the weekend when adults want programs sometimes; not everyone wants to or can attend a program during the weekday! Library chat hours (a way to answer patron questions online) are greatly reduced because we do not have the hours to man it all day across the system. We are not able to do programs out in the community, outside the library grounds. Community outreach is something that library staff would love to do, and something that a Wake County staff member had been given permission to pilot this spring. However, due to a shortage of staff, this was stopped. Despite all of this, staff still show up every day with a smile on their face, ready to serve their communities. We are feeling the stress and burnout. Some staff have left and found other jobs elsewhere. But we really don't want to. We want to be able to serve our patrons to the best of our abilities. To be able to provide them all the services they expect from a library system such as ours, and to make our library system even greater than it is now. But we need help to be able to do that. Thank you for reading and considering.</p>

Joseph	Raleigh	We need to ensure our public libraries are well staffed - not only for the good of the community now but the future of our community. Libraries are a safe haven for knowledge. An open door for anyone to learn, find their passions in literature, and to think! We must not stop our community from thought! From thinking!
Danica Lewis	Cary	Wake county libraries are an incredible resource and community service. They've seen a broad increase in patronage and need new support to maintain staffing to meet community need.
April Smith	Raleigh	I use the library every week to pick up books and attend the sewing and writers groups. Sometimes I bring my elderly parents to activities. They love the staff and how kind and friendly they are. We are disappointed that there are not more adult librarians there so we can have more events and get more tech help...they helped me with my libby. My parents need help - they not tech savvy, but there are never appointments on Mondays or Tuesdays or Sundays. I don't think there is enough staff to help us. I hope you will look at the budget and find the money for more staff.
Lee Katherine Ayerhart	New Hill	The FY 2027 Wake County budget must include short-term measures to restore temporary library staff hours and long-term measures to increase permanent library staffing at a sustainable level needed to provide programs and services to a growing county. The library system is a rare and vital resource that is equally available to every single person regardless of age, income level, housing status, occupation, religion, or any other qualification. As a cost-per-beneficiary ratio, it's hard to find a better deal than that. Librarians are compassionate, mission-driven, and endlessly dedicated to providing the services they promised to their community. It is immoral and unacceptable for the government to subsidize the cost of these vital public services on the backs of our librarians' physical and mental health due to chronic understaffing. It is unsustainable to continually ask them to do more with less. I commend Wake County for investing in badly needed repairs to library facilities. I thank the county for expanding evening library hours, which are directly beneficial to me. I have also seen many social media posts about the county's commendable 2024 Library Growth Plan to place a library within 10 minutes of every resident, including one closer to me. However, one has to wonder how the county can adequately staff these expanded hours and new libraries when our librarians are already drowning and begging for help. County leadership must work together with the leadership of the Library Workers United union to create a solution that ensures adequate permanent staffing. I don't believe they are asking for raises (although I would argue that they are almost certainly needed). They are asking for hours, for positions, for HELP to do the job they love and that we need them to do. Please make this a priority for the FY 2027 budget cycle. Thank you.
Sojourna Cunningham	Raleigh	Libraries are the heart of a community and are a product of a society that values education, care and access. Please don't cut hours to this very special piece of our community.
Chad Appenzeller	Raleigh	Love our libraries, and hope budgets can make a positive change for the hard working and understaffed librarians!

Andrew Hill	Raleigh	Public libraries are an integral part of educating the children and teenagers of wake county and allow all people in this county access to resources for their own betterment. I write this comment in solidarity with the library workers who are asking for funding so that they may properly staff their shifts. Investments in our public libraries pays dividends over time. When we invest in the resources that libraries provide, we allow future generations to gain the education needed to help them tackle the problems that will arise in their community. Providing adequate staffing levels is essential for ensuring that the libraries can continue to serve the citizens of wake county in their full capacity.
Evan C Morris	Raleigh	Libraries are essential to our community. As capital seat and the home to one of the state's top universities, Wake County should work to differentiate itself as the best educated county in the state. Our county budget should account for better pay for more librarians as well more resources such as other types of media like films.
Jill L	Raleigh	I'm very concerned about the lack of funding for the Wake County Library system. There are many reports of staff feeling pressured and over worked due to lack of hiring despite huge population growth. There has also been a lack of investment and expansion of library services like ebooks and audiobooks via Libby. And educational programming such as that offered by the Durham County Library. Given that Wake County is the home to the state capitol our library system should be a flagship for the state.
Kathryn B. Wall	Raleigh	The Wake County Library is a major asset that I use and I've had a library card since 1986! I took my children to the library all the time and one of my daughters is a children's and youth librarian now in a different county. Please keep funding levels high! This is a community service and we need our libraries. It's not just a nice amenity. They provide services to a wide array of community members.
Rachel Moninger	Cary	Our public libraries must be fully funded and considered a top budget priority. This should include adequate staffing and proper living wages for employees.
Kaitlin Kehnemuyi	Raleigh	Wake County Libraries budget needs to be increased to support adequate staffing needs. Libraries and library staff play a vital role in our civic life and supporting our community. In order to do that successfully they must be staffed and the staff must be supported. Thank you
Kyle Munn	CARY	Wake County needs to invest more in paying our librarians a living wage and ensuring libraries have enough staff during operating hours. As a regular visitor of the libraries, it's obvious the staff aren't getting the support they need for their roles.

Kristin Hilborn	Wake forest	Public libraries hold a wealth of information and are a huge resource for our community! Reading comprehension and literacy is already on a decline and as a soon to be mom I highly value the services the libraries provide for our community. The current understaffing and underfunding puts this all at risk and would be a disservice to all wake county residents. I have wonderful childhood memories of going to the library and participating in story times, summer reading challenges, and having access to a wealth of knowledge. I hope that my son will be able to have the same experience. We want to be proud to be in Wake county where libraries and the staff should be supported and appreciated. I hope you consider the impact of the current funding situation on one of America's greatest public resources.
Ethan wright	Raleigh	Please increase budget for library staffing and for additional services. Would love expanded kids programs and movie library

Schools

Name	City/Town	Comment
Hope Flemming Gill	Raleigh	Thank you Wake County Board of Commissioners for your investment in Wake ThreeSchool at Method Child Development Center and the difference it makes for children and families in our community. The positive impact and ability to overcome challenges are made possible because of county program funding. This impact has been meaningful and life-changing for children, parents, and teachers. Our students, who we call "friends," grow through creativity in art, culture, nature, and outdoor play. Wake ThreeSchool friends are not limited in their environment—they are encouraged to explore through books, music, visual aids, songs, and dance. Teachers create a safe and supportive space where children can explore, gain independence, and build relationships. Wake ThreeSchool teachers are trained to support friends in reaching important developmental goals—whether that's working through separation anxiety, using language to express their needs and wants, or building connections with peers and teachers. These are skills they will carry with them for life. Over the past two years, with the county's funding, I have seen incredible growth in the children I've worked with. These experiences have been meaningful, memorable, and truly life-changing. Our dual language classrooms also create a welcoming environment where every child and family feels included. For Wake ThreeSchool to continue meeting each child where they are, county funding is essential so we can keep doing the work we love. Thank you again to the Wake County Board of Commissioners for making this possible through your support and investment.
Elizabeth Soto	Raleigh	Please fund public schools, staff rate adjustments, per pupil spending over anything else. Wake tech increases would be nice but they already started construction on a new building. My kids are in high school classes with up to 35 kids, my kindergartener is in a class of 20. We've got to be able to attract and keep good teachers. Would also like increased security at high school levels to keep kids safe from mass shootings. Pls get the Blue Ridge exemption closed. It's ridiculous to be giving breaks to large corporations through a loop hole.

Emily	Raleigh	Please give WCPSS funding for building repairs, especially HVAC. There are many issues with the schools that need to be addressed, but without a safe, clean, functional physical environment, nothing will be effective. Many schools don't have functioning HVAC. At Enloe High, classrooms are often 70-80 degrees by the second period, and the humidity inside is high enough that posters fall. There is mold and water damage near vents. This is not an okay environment for our students.
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Various/Other

Name	City/Town	Comment
Stacey Gross Janet	Raleigh	CLOSE THE BLUE RIDGE HOUSING LOOPHOLE!! It's clear that it has been abused and taken advantage of and we are losing money because of it. Costa are then being passed onto regular property/homeowners. Close it now!!
Kathryn Edwards	Raleigh	I may be wrong but I think the top 100 Wake County Employees make over 100k per year with our Wake County Manager making over \$347 k per year, (this was in 2023) this was 604% higher than the average pay for co-workers and 384% higher than the national average for government employees, several deputy county managers making over \$200k, perhaps Wake County needs to consider reining in the income of these positions, I am sure this is a small part of the needs, the DEI director makes \$151k per year- yikes!!!
Jordan Hart	Raleigh	To the Wake County Board of Commissioners, I write in support of the public safety investments in the FY27 Recommended Budget, particularly the 16 new EMT positions and the Fire Services training manager. These are needed and overdue. However, I ask the Board to consider a gap in the current proposal: emergency communications infrastructure — the technology backbone that connects 911 callers to first responders. Three documented failures in the last 18 months reveal a system under strain. First, Wake County families experienced 911 hold times severe enough that one family "gave up and drove to the ER," as reported by WRAL. Second, a countywide false alert was triggered by a system error in January 2025. Third, the 911 dispatch center operates with a chronic dispatcher vacancy rate that forced a restructuring of EMS response protocols. The budget rightly allocates \$8M in new tax revenue to field responders: 16 EMT positions, a fire training manager, and 92 detention positions. But there is no visible allocation for the communications infrastructure those responders depend on: the 911 call-handling platform, the radio network, the alert system. Manager Ellis noted the state is "chronically underfunding public safety." Raleigh's response was a 17% pay boost for 911 call takers. The county's approach — adding field positions without communications investment — addresses symptoms rather than root causes. I ask the Board to request a briefing on what communications infrastructure investments are planned and funded in FY27, separate from station construction and vehicle procurement. Resilience means the system works when under maximum strain, not just at baseline. Respectfully submitted, Jordan Hart
Elizabeth A Campbell	APEX	Will there be a separate set of public hearings about the WakeMed/Advocate Health collaboration?

Mary Thompson	Raleigh	I would like to make a public comment
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