## Debt and Capital Capacity

In this section, we will:

- Review debt and capital policies / guidelines;
- Explain changes to financial planning model assumptions; and
- Share capital capacity options to fund future plans and any associated tax increases.


## Seven-Year Capital Plan Developed Around Context of Policies and Targets



Policies and targets are consistent with rating agencies for and benchmarked against
Aaa/AAA/AAA
governments.

## Debt and Capital Policies and Guidelines

Maintain adequate reserves ( $\geq 30 \%$ General Fund + Debt Service Fund Revenues)
Debt to assessed value managed within expected ranges ( $\leq 1.75 \%$ )
Debt repayment schedule of $\geq 70 \%$ principal paid within ten years
Strive for annual debt service expenditures to be $\leq 20 \%$ of total governmental expenditures
Access to funding secured prior to funds appropriated or any commitment to contracts
Variable rate debt $<25 \%$ of overall debt outstanding
Strive to maintain an 80 Debt / 20 Cash funding ratio

## Debt Financing Creates the Lowest Burden to Taxpayers

- Cost of capital is spread over time
- Current and future taxpayers share cost and benefit of the asset


|  | Example \$97M High School |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathbf{1 0 0 \%}$ Debt | $\mathbf{1 0 0 \%}$ Cash |
| Amount Spent Over <br> Three Years | $\mathbf{\$ 2 7 . 7 ~ M}$ | $\$ 97 \mathrm{M}$ |
| Tax Increase Assuming <br> Zero Capacity Exists | $\mathbf{0 . 6 8}$ cents | 2.3 cents |

## When Does the County Use Debt?



Cost to build/purchase is large

- A single asset (jail, courthouse, or office building)
- A collection of like assets that total a large amount and/or part of a multi-year program
- Libraries, open space, and parks
- School and community college facilities and equipment
- Fire apparatus

Expected life of the asset is longer than one year
Must spend proceeds according to IRS guidelines

## Which Debt Options are Best?

| It depends... | General Obligation (GO) Bonds | Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Purposes | Large volume of capital needs (schools) <br> Discretionary projects (libraries, parks, open space) | Essential governmental projects that must move forward even if GO referenda fails (public safety, human services) |
| Method | Referendum approved by the voters | Local Government Commission approval |
| Security/Collateral | Full faith and credit (taxing power) of governmental unit <br> Voters approve pledge of future tax dollars | The asset(s) for which funds are being borrowed <br> Annual appropriation of debt service payment by governing board |
| Cost | Lowest cost permanent financing option | Slightly higher cost financing option (typically rated a notch below GO Bonds) |

## Education Needs Drive Increase in County Debt



## The Future is Difficult to Predict

## Time

|  <br> Expenditures | Realistic <br> Predictable Data | Conservative | More Conservative <br> \& Cautious |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Economic <br> Uncertainty | Low | Moderate | High |
| Need for <br> Margin of Error | Low | Moderate | High |

## Rate Assumptions Increasing For Short Term Debt

|  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GO BANs - Variable Interest Rate | 2.00\% | 2.64\% | 3.07\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% |
| Prior | 1.46\% | 1.74\% | 1.97\% | 2.06\% | 2.19\% | 2.27\% | 2.27\% | 2.27\% |
| Net Change | 0.54\% | 0.90\% | 1.10\% | 1.11\% | 0.98\% | 0.90\% | 0.90\% | 0.90\% |
| LOB BANs - Variable Interest Rate | 2.20\% | 2.84\% | 3.27\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% |
| Prior | 1.66\% | 1.94\% | 2.17\% | 2.26\% | 2.39\% | 2.39\% | 2.47\% | 2.47\% |
| Net Change | 0.54\% | 0.90\% | 1.10\% | 1.11\% | 0.98\% | 0.98\% | 0.90\% | 0.90\% |

County's short term debt instruments - GO BANs and LOB BANs
New tax legislation added $.35 \%$ to $.56 \%$ to prior assumptions of short-term interest rates
There are still cost savings of using BAN programs vs. bonds

## Rate Assumptions Also Increasing For Investments

|  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Investment Rate | 1.00\% | 1.63\% | 2.38\% | 2.88\% | 3.00\% | 3.00\% | 3.00\% | 3.00\% |
| Prior | 1.00\% | 1.35\% | 1.75\% | 2.00\% | 2.25\% | 2.50\% | 2.50\% | 2.50\% |
| Net Change | - | 0.28\% | 0.63\% | 0.88\% | 0.75\% | 0.50\% | 0.50\% | 0.50\% |

An upward trend in these rates has a net-positive effect for County

- County's Investment earnings base exceeds its short-term rate debt base


## Rate Assumptions Unchanged For Permanent Debt

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| GO Bonds - Fixed Rate TIC | $2.87 \% *$ | $4.00 \%$ | $4.00 \%$ | $4.00 \%$ | $4.00 \%$ | $4.00 \%$ | $4.00 \%$ | $4.00 \%$ |
| LOBs - Fixed Rate TIC | $3.75 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ |

*Actual bond sale results
County's permanent debt instruments - GO Bonds and LOBS 2018A GO Refunding Bonds sold 2/21/2018 with $2.87 \%$ actual TIC

- $\$ 9.8 \mathrm{M}$ estimated total debt service savings over life of bonds ( $3.25 \%$ estimated TIC)

Permanent debt assumptions remain conservative

## Model Assumptions Recap

|  |  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021* | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tax <br> Revenues | Total Property Tax Rate | 61.50 | 61.50 | 61.50 | 56.01 | 56.01 | 56.01 | 56.01 | 51.01 |
|  | Property Tax Rate for Capital | 18.76 | 18.76 | 18.76 | 17.08 | 17.08 | 17.08 | 17.08 | 15.56 |
|  | Property Tax Valuation Growth | 2.10\% | 2.10\% | 2.25\% | 12.00\% | 2.00\% | 2.00\% | 2.00\% | 12.00\% |
|  | Sales Tax Annual Growth | 5.48\% | 6.66\% | 5.50\% | 5.50\% | 5.00\% | 5.00\% | 4.50\% | 4.00\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest Rates | Investment Rate | 1.00\% | 1.63\% | 2.38\% | 2.88\% | 3.00\% | 3.00\% | 3.00\% | 3.00\% |
|  | GO BANs - Variable Interest Rate | 2.00\% | 2.64\% | 3.07\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% | 3.17\% |
|  | GO Bonds - Fixed Rate TIC | 2.87\% | 4.00\% | 4.00\% | 4.00\% | 4.00\% | 4.00\% | 4.00\% | 4.00\% |
|  | LOB BANs - Variable Interest Rate | 2.20\% | 2.84\% | 3.27\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% | 3.37\% |
|  | LOB Bonds - Fixed Rate TIC | 3.75\% | 4.50\% | 4.50\% | 4.50\% | 4.50\% | 4.50\% | 4.50\% | 4.50\% |

* Reappraisal Year


## FY2019 Capital Plan Funded at Existing Tax Rate

### 18.76\$ of Property Tax Rate (\$275 Million)

 Dedicated To:- Debt Service: \$221 Million
- WCPSS Cash Funded Capital: \$23 Million
- County Cash Funded Capital: \$31 Million


## Sales Tax Transfer - \$46 Million

- Portion of Article 40 (30\%) and Article 42 (60\%)
- All used toward WCPSS debt service


## Other Funding Sources Total \$31 Million

- Includes lottery proceeds, federal subsidies, and interest income



## FY2019 Capital Plan Funded at Existing Tax Rate

- Because the County has no remaining GO authorization, WCPSS and WTCC capital needs continue to be debt funded with LOBs until successful referenda
- No funding for new County programs at current tax rate

| LOBS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WCPSS | \$ | 312,406,000 |
| WTCC | \$ | 79,455,000 |
| Total Debt | \$ | 391,861,000 |
| Cash |  |  |
| WCPSS | \$ | 23,209,000 |
| WTCC | \$ | - |
| COUNTY/OTHER | \$ | 31,259,679 |
| Total Cash | \$ | 54,468,679 |
| FY 2019 Total |  | 446,329,679 |


| Policies and Guidelines | Target | $\mathbf{2 0 1 9}$ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: |
| Fund Balance Ratio | $\geq 30 \%$ | $30.4 \%$ |
| \% Debt Paid in 10 Years | $\geq 70 \%$ | $42.8 \%$ |
| Debt : Capital Ratio | $\leq 80 \%$ | $88 \%$ |
| Debt : Assessed Value Ratio | $\leq 1.75 \%$ | $1.56 \%$ |

## Option A: Future Capacity is Limited without a Tax Increase

|  |  | 2020 |  | 2021 |  | 2022 |  | 2023 |  | 2024 |  | 2025 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tax Increase |  | n/a |  | n/a |  | n/a |  | n/a |  | n/a |  | n/a |
| Total Debt | \$ | 235,000,000 | \$ | 235,000,000 | \$ | 235,000,000 | \$ | 235,000,000 | \$ | 235,000,000 | \$ | 235,000,000 |
| Total Cash* | \$ | 52,000,000 | \$ | 52,000,000 | \$ | 53,000,000 | \$ | 54,000,000 | \$ | 55,000,000 | \$ | 56,000,000 |
| Total Capacity | \$ | 287,000,000 | \$ | 287,000,000 | \$ | 288,000,000 | \$ | 289,000,000 | \$ | 290,000,000 | \$ | 291,000,000 |

*Cash capacity includes County projects identified in CIP

| Policies and Guidelines | Target | $\mathbf{2 0 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 5}$ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fund Balance Ratio | $\geq 30 \%$ | $30.3 \%$ | $31.5 \%$ | $31.5 \%$ | $31.1 \%$ | $30.7 \%$ | $30.2 \%$ |
| \% Debt Paid in 10 Years | $\geq 70 \%$ | $73.2 \%$ | $72.6 \%$ | $71.9 \%$ | $72.3 \%$ | $72.9 \%$ | $73.8 \%$ |
| Debt : Capital Ratio | $\leq 80 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $80 \%$ |
| Debt : Assessed Value Ratio | $\leq 1.75 \%$ | $1.58 \%$ | $1.47 \%$ | $1.44 \%$ | $1.41 \%$ | $1.37 \%$ | $1.21 \%$ |

WCPSS plan alone exceeds amount available without a tax increase
In order to protect the Fund Balance Ratio without a tax increase, the Debt:Capital Ratio exceeds policy limits

## Option B: Maximum Capacity Puts Adherence to Financial Policies at Risk

|  |  | 2020 |  | 2021 |  | 2022 |  | 2023 |  | 2024 |  | 2025 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tax Increase |  | 4.5 C |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.0 C |  |  |
| Total Debt | \$ | 418,000,000 | \$ | 416,000,000 | \$ | 388,000,000 | \$ | 450,000,000 | \$ | 423,000,000 |  | 419,000,000 |
| Total Cash* | \$ | 96,000,000 | \$ | 108,000,000 | \$ | 101,000,000 | \$ | 117,000,000 | \$ | 101,000,000 |  | 105,000,000 |
| Total Capacity | \$ | 514,000,000 | \$ | 524,000,000 | \$ | 489,000,000 | \$ | 567,000,000 | \$ | 524,000,000 |  | 524,000,000 |

*Cash capacity includes County projects identified in CIP

| Policies and Guidelines | Target | $\mathbf{2 0 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 5}$ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Fund Balance Ratio | $\geq 30 \%$ | $30.5 \%$ | $32.4 \%$ | $33.3 \%$ | $31.8 \%$ | $31.4 \%$ | $30.1 \%$ |
| \% Debt Paid in 10 Years | $\geq 70 \%$ | $73.2 \%$ | $71.9 \%$ | $70.4 \%$ | $69.9 \%$ | $69.8 \%$ | $70.2 \%$ |
| Debt : Capital Ratio | $\leq 80 \%$ | $81 \%$ | $79 \%$ | $79 \%$ | $79 \%$ | $80 \%$ | $80 \%$ |
| Debt : Assessed Value Ratio | $\leq 1.75 \%$ | $1.60 \%$ | $1.55 \%$ | $1.60 \%$ | $1.66 \%$ | $1.71 \%$ | $1.60 \%$ |

Staff does not recommend utilizing Maximum Capacity:

- Pushes financial policy limits
- Limits flexibility to adjust for changing economic conditions


## Option C: "Strawman" (50\% of Max Capacity) Evaluates Tax Impact, Policy \& Program Needs



A less than maximum capacity choice:

- Reduces tax impact in near term
- Creates cushion in the model
- Allows accomplishment of some capital program requests, not all


## Board "Take aways" and Questions

