



Chair Phyllis J. Randall

Newsletter



Hello, Loudoun

Thank you to all who attended the community meeting on February 24th at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne. I wanted to host one in person meeting in advance of asylum seekers arriving as part of [Operation Allies Welcome](#). In the coming weeks, I will be hosting a Facebook Live meeting and you are invited to attend that as well. Please check my [Chair Randall Facebook page](#) for the date and time. Thank you!

Masks are Not Required in County Facilities

Throughout the COVID pandemic, I made a commitment to follow science and data in making decisions about testing, vaccinations, masking, and "all things COVID". Using guidelines set forth in science and medicine, Loudoun was the only County in NOVA and one of the only counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia that never went to fully virtual Board of Supervisors meetings. Our County stayed open throughout this pandemic and followed the science. Today, I am extremely happy to announce that according to the science and the data, masks are no longer required in County facilities.

The CDC just updated its COVID-19 "community level" metrics, which are now based on three pieces of data in a community: new COVID hospitalizations, hospital capacity, and new COVID cases. The CDC's website includes a list of U.S. counties and their current levels. Based on this new information, Loudoun is showing as "low," meaning there is no recommendation for indoor masking unless an individual is at potential increased risk for COVID and if so, the CDC recommends those individuals talk to their health care provider about wearing a mask. In addition, Loudoun has one of the highest vaccination rates in the nation at 91%.

Of course, you are free to continue to wear your mask if you wish, but it is no longer a requirement. I'd like to offer a special thanks to Tim Hemstreet, Loudoun County staff, Dr. David Goodfriend, and his staff who are true public servants and who have performed remarkably over the past 24 months.

FY 2023 Budget

County Administrator Tim Hemstreet **presented a proposed budget** for the Loudoun County government to the Board of Supervisors for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023), which begins July 1, 2022. The budget totals \$3.5 billion in appropriations for County government and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS). The proposed budget has been prepared at a real property tax rate of \$0.895 per \$100 of assessed value, which is 8.5 cents below the current real property tax rate of \$0.98 per \$100 of assessed value. While the proposed tax rate for FY 2023 is lower than the current tax rate, the proposed rate is five cents above the equalized rate of \$0.845, which is the rate at which the average real property owner's tax bill would remain flat year over year. Under the proposed budget, the average homeowner would have a real property tax bill increase of \$257, or about \$22 per month, in tax year 2022.

In keeping with the Board's budget guidance, the proposed budget also includes a decrease in the personal property tax rate of five cents, from \$4.20 to \$4.15 per \$100 of assessed value in tax year 2023. The proposal includes an alternative budget scenario for the Board's consideration—referred to as an "Increase Option"—which has no change to the personal property tax rate in tax year 2023.

The priorities for the FY 2023 proposed operating budget include employee pay, the addition of 253 positions to open new facilities, maintain or enhance current service levels, and recurring funding for affordable housing by dedicating a half-penny of the real property tax rate—approximately \$5.9 million—to affordable housing needs.

The FY 2023 – FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program, which includes both County and school projects, totals approximately \$3 billion for the six-year planning period. The category with the largest capital expenditure is transportation projects at \$1.083 billion followed by school projects at \$820 million.

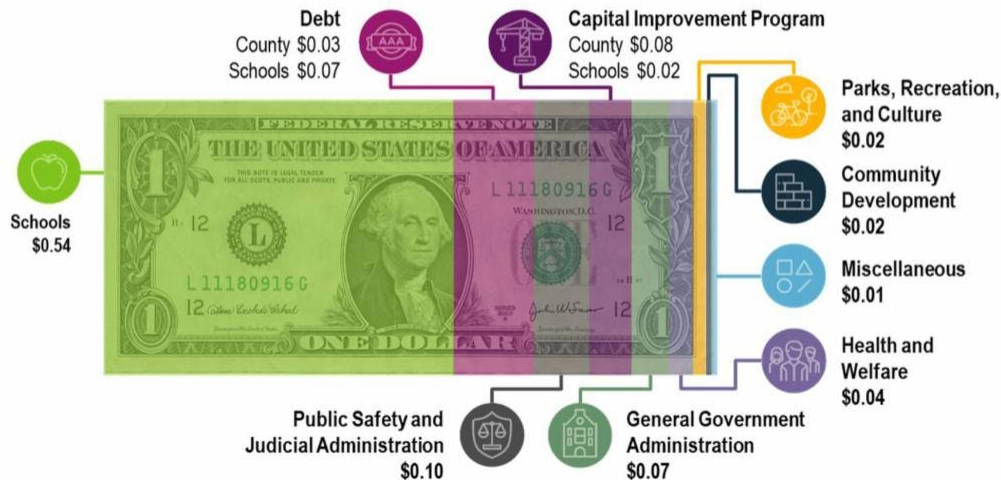
On February 10th, LCPS presented the **FY 2023 School Board adopted budget**. LCPS requested a total of \$1.1 billion in local transfer funding for the FY 2023 operational budget. The proposed budget includes a \$75.2 million or 7.4% County transfer request increase. The local transfer increase is \$53.7 leaving a gap of \$21.5 million from the School Board's adopted budget. Mr. Hemstreet recommends that if the Board chooses to adopt the "Increase Option," the additional \$5.5 million that would be available be directed to LCPS, thereby lowering the gap to \$16 million.

We will determine the final tax rates and related budget policy decisions during March budget work sessions with final budget adoption at the business meeting on April 5th. For more information, please visit the **County's budget website**.

Your Tax Dollar at Work

FY 2023 Proposed Budget

Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



Assessment Appeals

The Commissioner of the Revenue Robert S. Wertz Jr. announced that Loudoun County real estate assessments for tax year 2022 are now available [online](#). These assessment notices, which are not tax bills, communicate to property owners the value of their real property as of January 1, 2022, and are reflective of real estate market activity that occurred during 2021. The assessed value in conjunction with the tax rate to be set by the Board in April provides the basis for real estate tax bills that will be due on June 6th and December 5th. Property owners who believe their assessments are incorrect may file an Application for Review with the Commissioner [online](#) by March 7th. Thereafter, appeals may be made to the Board of Equalization until June 1st.

Grand Opening for Sterling Community Center

The public is invited to attend the grand opening of the Sterling Community Center Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 am at 120 Enterprise Street in Sterling. Following the ceremony, an open house featuring tours of the facility, program demonstrations and entertainment will be held until 12:30 pm. The center will remain open until 5:00 pm. The open house will continue Sunday, March 6th from noon to 5:00 pm. Normal hours of operation and programming begin Monday, March 7th.

The 18,200-square-foot facility was enlarged and fully renovated. The renovated center occupies 20,700 square feet of space and includes:

- A new patio area for public seating.
- A lawn area for program services.
- A renovated pavilion.

- An outdoor amphitheater area around the existing pavilion.
- Fitness room, computer room, kitchen, classrooms, administrative office and support spaces, and art room.
- A teen recreation and gaming room with garage door to a patio.
- Expanding the gymnasium to be full-court high school size in length, width and interior clearance.



Retirement of Canine Dolley

Since April 2014, Dolley has been the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System's Accelerant Detection Canine. During her service, she has worked out of the Fire Marshal's Office with her handler, Captain Bud Herndon. In just over seven years of service, she has worked 126 fire scenes, been deployed on two National Response Team callouts, and assisted federal, state and local agencies in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. She was featured in a National Geographic children's book titled "Dolley the Fire Dog", which is sold around the world, educating children on fire safety concepts through a "day in the life" perspective. Dolley will continue to live with her handler, Captain Bud Herndon, and will enjoy her retirement with his family and the friends she has made during her years of service.



Contact Us

Sincerely,

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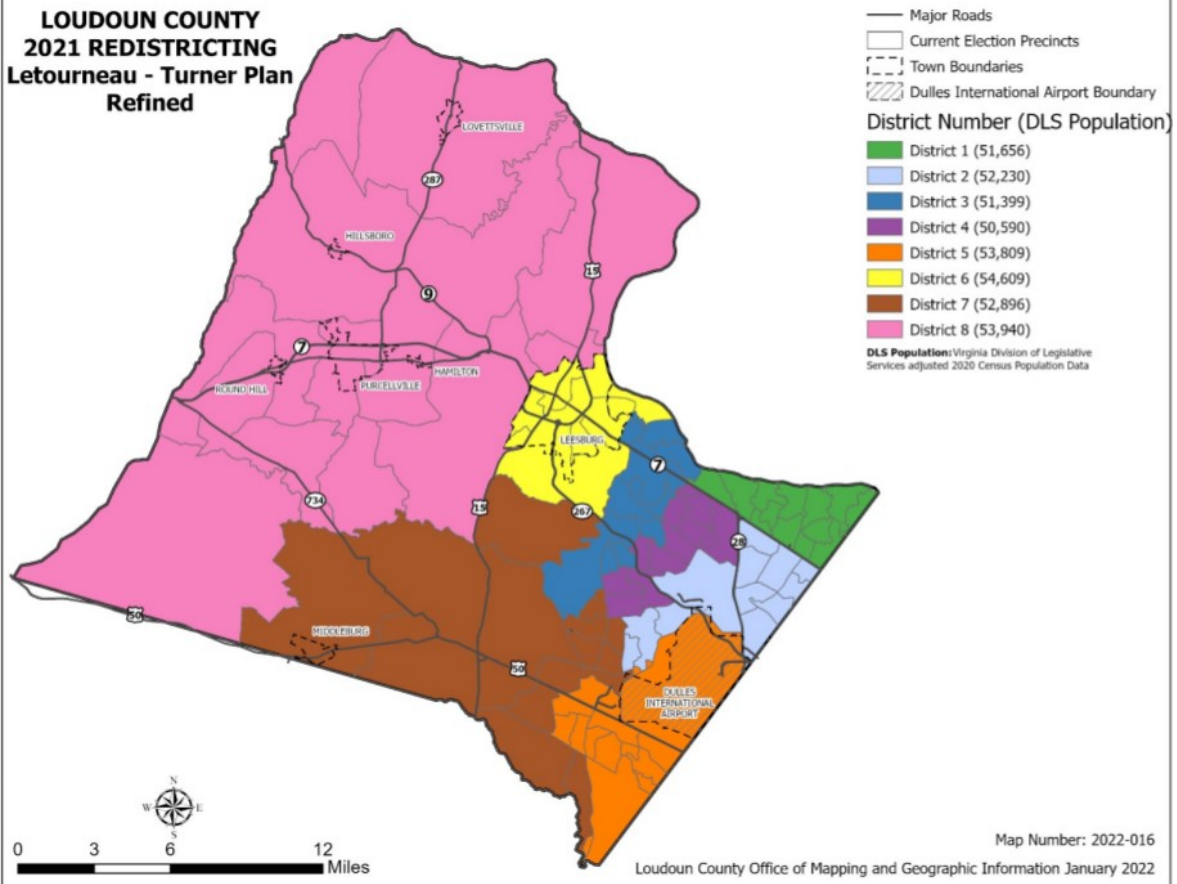
Board Business

Redistricting Plan: At the February 15th Board business meeting, we directed staff to further refine the Letourneau-Turner redistricting plan (please see map below). I supported this plan because it is bi-partisan and ensures one supervisor lives in western Loudoun County. This plan also keeps the Towns together including the Town of Leesburg and it keeps communities of interest together. Thank you to Supervisors Letourneau and Turner for the collaborative effort and staff for creating a user friendly online redistricting tool. I believe this is the right plan for our current population of 425,000 residents.

Staff will address all necessary precinct and polling place modifications and requested refinements and return with a final plan at the March 15th Board business meeting. We will also select names for the election districts no later than March 15th, so that staff can incorporate the names into the final plan for a public hearing on May 11th. Below are the next steps for the redistricting process.

- March 15th Board business meeting – Board chooses which plan to send to public hearing with name recommendations for each district.
- May 11th public hearing – Board adopts redistricting ordinance and ordinance revising precinct boundaries and polling places (with delayed effective date).
- July 27th – New election districts, precincts and polling places go into effect based upon Attorney General of Virginia preclearance review.

**LOUDOUN COUNTY
2021 REDISTRICTING
Letourneau - Turner Plan
Refined**



Renaming of Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park and Kephart Bridge Landing: At the February 15th Board business meeting, we changed the name of two County-owned recreational facilities in eastern Loudoun: Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park has been renamed Basil Newman Riverfront Park and Kephart Bridge Landing—a trailhead and canoe and kayak launch facility located within the park—has been renamed Riverpoint Drive Trailhead.

We chose to rename the park and landing after County staff researched the origins of the two facilities' names. Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park referenced nearby grist mills named for Elizabeth Clapham, the wife of local landowner and slaveholder Samuel Clapham. After his death, those he had enslaved were held by Elizabeth. Kephart Bridge Landing was named after slave trader George Kephart, who owned land along Goose Creek crucial to his business of transporting the enslaved from port to port.

We named the park after Basil Newman, a free Black man who owned and operated a ferry and warehouse service in the early to mid-1800s at the place close to where Goose Creek meets the Potomac River. He was one of the few free Black entrepreneurs in the area at the time and was successful and well-regarded. We renamed the landing within

the park as Riverpoint Drive Trailhead, which recognizes the facility's location and more accurately names it as a trailhead.

New signage will be installed soon and cost approximately \$4,000. We also requested that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services collaborate with the Loudoun Freedom Center to develop and install an interpretive display at the park that recognizes the history of enslaved people at the site.

Loudoun County VIRGINIA

Loudoun Parks Renamed

Loudoun County VIRGINIA



Elizabeth Mills Park is now
Bazil Newman Riverfront Park

Kephart Bridge Landing is now
Riverpoint Drive Trailhead

Investing in Transportation

Route 15 South Study: At the February 1st Board meeting, I moved to forward this item to the Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) for further discussion and recommendations. The Route 15 South study was conducted to improve safety and operations along Route 15 between the Town of Leesburg and the Prince William County line. Eight intersection improvements were recommended and prioritized by staff in the corridor study (see table below). I suggested we send the item to TLUC for an additional layer of review and prioritization before we include the improvements in our budget document. For example, I question why the turn lanes at a winery entrance are listed as priority four when the improvement only benefits a private business and costs \$4 million. Just because a corridor study was completed, does not mean all of the recommended improvements should be included in our Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Route 15 Roundabout at Braddock and Old Carolina Road is programmed in the FY 2023 CIP

and listed as priority one. For more information about the study and public involvement, please visit the [project website](#).

Priority	Description	Estimated Cost
1	Roundabout at Braddock and Old Carolina Road	\$14,467,000
2	Roundabout at Hogback Mountain Road	\$15,891,000
3	Roundabout at Lime Kiln Road	\$4,333,000
4	Turn Lanes at Winery Entrance	\$4,241,000
5	Improve Roundabout at Route 50/15	\$4,861,000
6	Improve Roundabout at Howser's Branch Road/15	\$4,111,000
7	Turn Lanes at New Road/Mountain Road	\$5,734,000
8	Left Turn Lane from Harmony Church Road to Mt Gilead Road	\$534,000
	Total	\$54,172,000

Community Information

Nonprofits Encouraged to Provide Input on American Rescue Plan Act Funding:

Loudoun County will host five virtual listening sessions for nonprofit organizations to share their needs as the County begins planning for another round of funding. All nonprofit organizations are encouraged to provide input, including those that have previously applied for ARPA funding or those considering applying for ARPA funding.

The office hours listening sessions will provide nonprofit organizations the opportunity to share additional input and discuss specific needs related to ARPA funding directly with County staff in an open meeting format. The purpose of these sessions is to discuss potential projects that may be included in ARPA funding programs, reporting requirements, and needs based on organizational COVID-related service levels. These sessions will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, March 9th, 1:00 – 2:00 pm – Discuss 2022 ARPA Nonprofit Needs Assessment
- Thursday, March 24th, 10:00 – 11:00 am – Finalize 2022 ARPA Nonprofit Needs Assessment and Share General Input
- Monday, April 4th, 1:00 – 2:00 pm – Discuss Feedback on Funding Programs
- Thursday, April 21st, 9:30 – 10:30 am – Discuss Feedback on Funding Programs
- Wednesday, May 4th, 9:30 – 10:30 am – Discuss Feedback on Funding Programs

More information, including logon information for the listening sessions, is available [online](#).

HOW WILL YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION LOOK?

REGISTER FOR THE LOUDOUN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

One session only
JULY 11-15

All sessions will be held online:
9am-11am and 1pm-3pm each day
Apply today at: loudounyouth.org.
Financial aid available to qualifying students.



Apply Now! Application deadline is March 31, 2022

- Interact with community, civic and business leaders
- Meet teens from across the county
- Improve leadership, communication and team building skills



Contact Us

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