

Talking Points – Loudoun County FY 2025 Budget Advocacy

*Reminder: Speakers are generally given between **2 and 2 ½ minutes** to speak.*

Be sure to practice in advance to make sure you are able to make your full remarks.

- Thank you Madam Chair and Board of Supervisors. My name is [name] and I am the [title] of [organization name] or My name is [name] and I am a Loudoun resident in the [district name] district.
- As a Loudoun [resident/organization/business owner] the lack of attainable housing in our community is an important issue to me – and one that that impacts all of us. I thank the current and previous board for your leadership in addressing this complex need through the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan.
- *Brief personal anecdote about why this issue matters to you/your organization/your business*
- We applaud the board’s commitment to building a consistent funding stream to the Housing Fund. It has been an important step towards increasing Loudoun’s capacity to address the housing shortages in our community.
- The FY 2025 budget proposes approximately \$7.4 million, or the equivalent of a ½ cent of the real property tax rate, to support the Housing Fund. We urge the Board to consider increasing that allocation to the equivalent of a full penny of the real property tax rate for the Housing Fund. As our county continues to work through the strategies outlined in the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan, we need a well-funded Housing Fund.
- Increasing the allocation to the fund now and in future years will allow Loudoun to build a stronger foundation and pipeline for future affordable housing development. It will also allow for more flexibility and creativity to address the needs of our most vulnerable workforce – those earning 40% or less of the AMI. We need more solutions for our neighbors who are the most housing-cost burdened, and those solutions require a consistent funding stream.
- I also support for the proposed departmental requests that will provide additional resources impacting our county’s response to the need for affordable housing. This includes the Department of Housing and Community Development’s resource request for a State Rental Assistance Program Specialist, and the Department of Planning and Zoning’s request for a Senior Planner position dedicated to the work outlined in the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan. Having well-staffed county departments is key to moving this work forward.
- Thank you for your support and leadership.

Public Participation

There are several ways in which members of the public may participate in the budget process, including Board of Supervisors public hearings, email, voice messages and social media.

The Board will hold three public hearings on the proposed FY 2025 budget. All three hearings will be held in the Board Room of the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison St. SE in Leesburg.

- Wednesday, February 28, 2024: 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 28, 2024: 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 2, 2024: 9:00 a.m.

Anyone who wishes to speak at the public hearings may sign up in advance for one speaking slot, beginning Thursday, February 15, 2024, by calling 703-777-0204. Public input may be provided in person or virtually. More information about providing input to the Board of Supervisors is posted on the county's website at loudoun.gov/signuptospeak.

The budget public hearings will be televised on Comcast Government TV Channel 23 and Verizon FiOS Channel 40 and streamed live at loudoun.gov/meetings.

In addition to providing comments at the public hearing, members of the public may also:

- Leave a message on the Board of Supervisors' Comment Line at 703-777-0115.
- Send an email to the Board of Supervisors at bos@loudoun.gov or write to the Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177.
- Provide comments through the Loudoun County government's Facebook and Twitter sites