



# NEWS

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, CHAIR  
KENNETH E. LAWRENCE, JR., VICE CHAIR  
JOSEPH C. GALE, COMMISSIONER

### Contact:

Kaitlyn Foti, Public Information Officer

610-278-3062 [kfoti@montcopa.org](mailto:kfoti@montcopa.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DEC. 14, 2017



### Montco Adopts \$403.4 Million Budget with No Real Estate Tax Rate Increase

**Norristown, PA (Dec. 14, 2017)** – The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously today to adopt a \$403.4 million budget for 2018 that includes no increase in millage for either the County General Fund Operating or Montgomery County Community College rates. Commissioners also approved the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan, which includes the County Campus Plan and a continuing focus on county-owned roads and bridges projects.

“The county budget and capital plan reflect months of careful consideration and years of strong fiscal management. In 2018, we are able to continue rebuilding and improving our infrastructure, provide important health and human services to seniors, veterans, and children, expand our county trail system, and invest in our county employees - all without raising county property tax,” said Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Commissioners.

The 2018 budget includes funding to implement the recommendations of a compensation analysis study that was funded in the 2017 budget. The study compared Montgomery County employee positions with those in comparable neighboring counties, and over two years will bring salaries that are below market up to competitive amounts in order to attract and retain the highest level of talent in the area. In addition, the commissioners approved a 2 percent increase for all non-contractual employees whose salaries are already within market range.

The budget includes funding for 20 new full-time positions across a number of departments including Adult Probation, Assets and Infrastructure, Corrections, District Attorney, Finance, Health and Human Services, Planning, Public Defender, and Sheriff. Some of these positions are partially or fully funded by grant revenue.

- Two out of three tax dollars supports human services and the criminal justice function (Corrections, Courts, District Attorney).

- Tax dollars also support the county's public safety, parks and trails, public defender, assets and infrastructure, commerce, and planning.
- The dedicated millage set aside in the 2017 budget to support the Montgomery County Community College remains the same and will continue to provide stable funding for the college. Research has shown that an investment in community colleges yields significant returns for the community and taxpayers.
- The budget maintains a fiscally responsible General Fund reserve of around 16.5 percent in 2018.

The Capital Improvement Plan spans from 2018 – 2022 and includes aggressive programs to rebuild our roads and bridges and the County Campus Plan to expand and modernize the courthouse, One Montgomery Plaza, and Hancock Square as well as build a new Justice Center.

"The 2018 budget prioritizes the county's mission to repair its aging infrastructure. In 2012, the county was faced with 62 structurally deficient bridges," said Ken Lawrence, Jr., Vice Chair, Montgomery County Commissioners. "Since 2012, the county has completed 17 bridge projects, and this year we have had 35 active bridge projects underway."

"This budget is thanks to the hard work of staff that poured over figures for months to make sure the county was making smart fiscal decisions for our taxpayers. I assured the residents of Montgomery County that I would oppose tax increases. Last year, this administration implemented a double digit tax increase which I aggressively opposed. This budget reflects no tax increase which is what I and many other residents of Montgomery County expect after facing back to back tax increase amounting to 21% over two years," said Commissioner Joe Gale.