

HENRICO COUNTY'S BUDGET PROCESS

THE BUDGET CYCLE

Transfers & Amendments

During the Fiscal Year, the County Manager is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any Fund; however, any revisions that alter the total budgeted amounts and/or appropriations of any Fund require an amendment to the budget. The Code of Virginia requires that the Board of Supervisors consider any amendment request. If the total amendment requested at any one time is over one percent of the total expenditures shown in the current adopted budget, the request also must be advertised in the newspaper and a public hearing must be held before the Board can act. The Board of Supervisors meets twice a month, at which time Budget Amendments may be presented. All Board of Supervisors meetings have been highlighted on the calendar below.

AUGUST 2020						
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SEPTEMBER 2020						
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OCTOBER 2020						
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Revenue Estimates

Henrico County's budget process for the next fiscal year begins with an estimate of revenues in order to develop a budget balanced within resources. Revenue estimates begin in August of the year prior to the fiscal year being adopted. This process includes the review of current County finances, local and regional economic conditions, and a re-examination of key local economic indicators via the County's Financial Trends Monitoring System. The questions that are asked in this review are aimed at acquiring relevant financial information that will set the broad limits of budgetary possibilities for the following year. From a fiscal perspective, the basic question is whether current revenues support the necessary budgetary outlays. Weekly meetings with the Finance Director and County Manager's Office are central to the months between August 1 and September 30 in refining initial revenue estimates. Estimates culminate in a formal estimate that is reviewed with the County Manager and Finance Director no later than September 30.

Target Development

After a Revenue Estimate is formulated, the next step in the budget process is to create a funding or target allocation for each department, which is calculated by the Office of Management and Budget in October. Targets are developed using the following list of priorities:

1. Debt service obligations
2. Department Payroll expenditures
3. Department operating and capital outlay expenditures

Target estimates do not automatically include an inflation factor for operating expenditures, nor are new services or positions automatically funded. The target allocations do, where applicable, include the operating costs of new facilities approved in prior year budgets. This "link" between the operating and capital budgets is performed through an annual crosswalk that determines all such costs. The FY2021-22 Operating budget includes all operating costs arising from new facilities that are anticipated to become operational during the fiscal year. For additional information, please see "Capital Improvement Program – Implications on Operating Budget", found elsewhere in this document.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

NOVEMBER 2020

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Budget Call for Estimates

Each year all County departments receive the County Manager's "Call for Estimates" (i.e., budget call) during the first week of November, which contains the budget policy, special budget instructions, various revisions to the budget manual, a budget calendar, and the target allocation. The Call for Estimates is accompanied by information on using the County's Automated Budget System, which enables the departments to prepare their budget requests on their departmental personal computers and submit them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) electronically. The budget request consists of expenditure estimates in detail by line item, and in summary, together with supporting narrative information. When expenditure needs exceed the target allocation, departments must submit a request for additional funding. Certain County departments such as Education, Police, and Fire are considered priorities when allocating new funds among departments. Each request must be prioritized and prepared with detailed justification to support the need for additional funding.

DECEMBER 2020

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Financial Trend Monitoring System Updates

An important step of the budget process involves the completion of the Financial Trend Monitoring System Trends Document ("Trends"), which represents an eleven-year evaluation of past financial and economic indicators. These indicators, over time, may reflect fluctuations, which prove to be extremely valuable as

the document allows staff to monitor changes in all aspects of the local economy and provides an insight into possible trends that may impact future decision making. This document, which analyzes historical trends, is utilized as a forecasting tool during initial Revenue Estimates and provides a logical way of introducing long-range considerations into the annual budget process. A copy of the Trends document can be found in Appendix C of this document or at <http://henrico.us/finance/divisions/office-of-management-and-budget/financial-trends/>

Budget Submissions

All County departments submit their budgets in the first week in December for initial review by the Office of Management and Budget. This includes both the target allocation as well as any supplemental requests for funding. The Budget Director and the OMB staff work closely with the County Manager and department administrators in reviewing expenditure estimates and available revenues both in program and financial terms.

JANUARY 2021

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Review of Budget Submissions

The Office of Management and Budget reviews each department's budget, creating a narrative for each department outlining recommendations, as appropriate, to the County Manager. These recommendations include expenditure analyses and evaluations of budget submissions. Narratives and analytical reports are compiled into a single document that is presented to the Executive Review Committee in February.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

FEBRUARY 2021

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Executive Budget Reviews

The Executive Budget Review Committee holds hearings to discuss budget submissions with departments in the last week of January through the first week in February. The Executive Budget Review Committee consists of the County Manager, Deputy County Managers, the Director of Finance, the Director of Human Resources, one department director on a rotating basis, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the supervisor of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the supporting (six) budget analysts. The representatives from

the departments are present at the time of these reviews and have the opportunity to make presentations and answer questions relative to their budget requests. The Budget Office finalizes recommendations based on the Executive Review Committee results during the last three weeks in February.

MARCH 2021

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Legislative Budget Reviews

Based on information exchanged during the Executive Budget Reviews, a balanced budget is recommended by the County Manager to the County Board of Supervisors as the Proposed Budget in early March, fulfilling the requirement set in Section 15.2-613 of the Code of Virginia. The Legislative Budget Review Committee is comprised of the County Board of Supervisors, which represents each of the County’s five magisterial districts. The budget document that is presented to the County Board of Supervisors during these hearings represents the culmination of intensive research and analysis completed from August through February. The purpose of the document is to present to the

legislative body and the public a comprehensive picture of proposed operations for the budget year, expressed in both verbal and statistical terms. During the hearings, the Board of Supervisors examines all line items in each of the department’s budgets and all associated operational premises. These hearings are held during the course of one week, in the middle of March, approximately eight hours per day. Based on these hearings, the County Board of Supervisors may amend the County Manager’s Proposed Budget.

APRIL 2021

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Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget

Once the County Board of Supervisors has received the County Manager’s Proposed Budget, advertisements in the local newspaper are ordered and a date is set for the Budget Public Hearing in April. The FY2021-22 Public Hearing was held on April 13, 2021. The public hearing that sets the tax levies was held on April 27, 2021. The Code of Virginia requires that the County advertise a synopsis of the budget in the newspaper and that one or more public hearings be held before the Board adopts the budget. The Board of Supervisors adopts the Annual Fiscal Plan during this month and sets tax levies for the Calendar Year.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

MAY 2021

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Publish and Distribute Budget

During the month of May, the final Annual Fiscal Plan is compiled, published, and distributed.

JUNE 2021

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Appropriation of Budget

In the final month of the current fiscal year (last Board meeting in June), the Board of Supervisors appropriates funding for the next Annual Fiscal Plan based on the budget adopted in April, which is required by the Code of Virginia.

JULY 2021

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Beginning of the new Fiscal Year

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the new Fiscal Year begins July 1 and follows the budget approved the previous April and operates based on the appropriations from June.