

Good evening. My name is [REDACTED], I represent Chesterfield Citizens for Responsible Government.

I'm here with a simple message: Chesterfield County is spending too much, growing government too fast, and pushing the cost onto taxpayers. Residents see it every year, tax bills keep going up because county spending keeps going up.

Over the last several years, county spending has grown at a rate far outpacing population, inflation, and household income. Chesterfield residents have repeatedly been told that tax rate "cuts" offset rising assessments. The reality is that tax bills continue going up because spending continues going up- That is the core problem I am asking this Board to address.

This county does not have a revenue problem. It has a spending problem. And until that changes, nothing else will.

We are asking the Board to take specific steps:

1. Make real, measurable spending cuts this year.

Not smaller increases. Actual reductions. Every department should be required to cut 3–5% without touching essential services. Other counties do this routinely. Chesterfield can too — if the Board chooses to demand it.

2. Freeze nonessential hiring.

Staffing has grown far faster than the population it serves. Before adding any more positions, show taxpayers why the current workforce is not enough.

3. Reevaluate long-term obligations — incentives, capital projects, and supplemental retirement costs.

These commitments tie taxpayers' hands for decades. Some are necessary, many are not. The Board owes the public a clear explanation of which ones deliver value and which ones should be reduced or eliminated.

The bottom line is simple: Government must live within its means, just like the families and businesses who fund it. Chesterfield residents are cutting back and they expect their government to do the same.

We are asking the Board to put taxpayers first, not by offering talking points about "low tax rates," but by doing the hard work of controlling spending.

Stop growing government faster than the community.

Rising assessments should not be treated like a blank check.

Make the hard choices.

Chesterfield can and should be fiscally responsible. but only if this Board decides to prioritize spending restraints.

Thank you.