

Good evening Board of Supervisors.

My name is Landon Edwards, and I am speaking tonight on behalf of Chesterfield Citizens for Responsible Government, or CCRG.

I am here to formally announce the launch of the CCRG website and, more importantly, to explain why we felt it was necessary to create it.

CCRG was formed by Chesterfield residents from across the county. Parents, retirees, business owners, and long-time taxpayers who share a common concern: a growing lack of transparency, public engagement, and fiscal discipline in county decision-making. The website is not a political project. It is a civic one.

Over the past several years, we have repeatedly seen major decisions brought forward with minimal public notice, limited supporting documentation, and little opportunity for meaningful citizen input. Large land purchases, long-term tax incentives, and significant capital commitments are often presented as a done deal rather than proposals open to scrutiny. Whether one agrees with the outcomes or not, that process erodes public trust.

The CCRG website exists to address that gap.

FIRST, it serves as a centralized, publicly accessible repository of information. We post source documents, budget data, timelines, and meeting materials so residents can understand what is being proposed, how much it costs, and how decisions align with historical spending and tax trends. We focus on facts, not rhetoric.

SECOND, the site provides analysis. Many citizens do not have the time or ability to comb through hundreds of pages of budget documents or board packets. We break down the numbers, compare them year over year, and ask basic but essential questions: Is this necessary? Is this affordable? Are there alternatives? And was the public meaningfully engaged before decisions were advanced?

THIRD, and most importantly, the website is about participation. CCRG has already grown to more than 200 residents who have asked to be notified of our posts and analysis. These are not activists looking to disrupt; they are citizens looking to be informed BEFORE - not after - decisions are made.

Let me be clear: CCRG is not opposed to growth, schools, or infrastructure. We are opposed to rushed decisions, opaque processes, and spending that outpaces reasonable metrics like inflation and household income without clear justification.

Our hope is that this website ultimately becomes unnecessary because transparency improves, community meetings become standard practice, and residents feel heard. Until then, CCRG will continue to do the work that many citizens believe is missing.

We invite every Supervisor, staff member, and resident to visit the site, review the information, and engage with us. Informed citizens are not a threat to good government; they are essential to it. The URL is CCRG-VA.ORG.

Thank you for your time.