



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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October 6, 2020

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Fitzgerald Proposes 2021 Comprehensive Fiscal Plan with No Tax Increase

PITTSBURGH – This evening, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald presented his ninth proposed budget to County Council along with the 2021 Comprehensive Fiscal Plan (CFP). The \$942.5 million operating budget reflects a near 2% decrease over last year's budget to ensure the county's continued stabilization with the expected impact on revenue. The budget also proposes no increase in the property tax millage rate for the 19th time in 20 years.

"I am again grateful to my Chief of Staff, the County Manager, the Budget Director and all of our directors for the work they do to ensure that we are spending residents' tax dollars wisely. Because of their work, we are able to propose a budget with no tax increase, even in the midst of a pandemic," said Fitzgerald. "Our conservative approach has allowed us to weather the impacts of COVID-19 on our alcohol beverage tax, car rental tax, hotel tax, gaming revenue and Court fees. We expect those impacts to continue into 2021. With Council's help, we took advantage of significant refinancing opportunity in the bond market and are able to continue investing in our infrastructure of buildings, roads and bridges. We also saw continued growth and new construction which ensures that the county remains on sound financial footing."

The proposed capital budget totals \$127.6 million and includes 64 different infrastructure and capital improvement projects. They include sustainable projects such as solar roofs in the parks, a sustainable maintenance area for Public Works District 5, expanded use of LED lighting, the addition of more electric cars, and continued funding for the net-zero parks project. The budget also includes road reconstruction and paving, continuation of the rehabilitation of our 3rd "Sister Bridge," and funding for landslide and lateral support repairs.

Some of the highlights include:

- The \$1.5 billion grants and special accounts budget includes several Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act grants to support efforts and activities around the pandemic.
- The county continues to address the needs of our most vulnerable populations; the budget reflects increases to Human Services and Health, both with a large community outreach.
- The CFP also proposes the creation of a new department, Children Initiatives, to provide support for a stable and dedicated network for children in Allegheny County, funded through public and private partnerships.

County Council will hold budget hearings on the proposed capital and operating budgets in late October. The county's Home Rule Charter requires that Council must adopt balanced annual operating and capital budgets 25 days before the end of the fiscal year.

The proposed Comprehensive Fiscal Plan is available for review on the Budget and Finance website at <https://allegHENYcounty.us/budget-finance/comprehensive-fiscal-plan.aspx>.

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