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City of Fairfax

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2019

Fairfax City is a vibrant and livable 21st-century community with a strong, sustainable economy that supports walkable, safe, and convenient access to the natural and built environment.

Perseverance During a Pandemic

Our Citizen Centric Report is normally produced and distributed earlier in the year; however, 2020 has been anything but normal. COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on our city, but our community continues to fight hard to maintain our way of life. Since the arrival of the global pandemic in March 2020, city residents, businesses, and government have risen to meet extraordinary challenges. We are adapting, and we will persevere until it is safe to return to our normal routines.



Mayor and City Council: (left to right) Mayor David Meyer; Councilmembers Joe Harmon, So Lim, Janice Miller, Tom Ross, Jon Stehle, and Sang Yi

Who We Are

Fairfax City has a rich history, dynamic present, and a promising future. Located centrally in Northern Virginia and within the Washington, D.C. metro area, the city is home to a diverse, close-knit community living in vibrant neighborhoods, with award-winning schools and parks, and an outstanding quality of life. The city continues to earn national accolades, including being named one of the healthiest cities in the country by *US News & World Report* in 2019. The city is governed by a mayor and six nonpartisan councilmembers who are elected every two years.

As a city represented by elected officials, it is vitally important to provide an annual report to our residents. This citizen-centric report highlights a number of areas that city residents find critical, including the city's financial health, comparisons to neighboring jurisdictions, and recent accomplishments in key areas like economic development, redevelopment, transportation, neighborhoods, and governance. The data shared in this report provide a high-level look at the city's direction and the investments being made to support residents and businesses in our community.

YEAR	Population	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Unemployment Rate	Average Housing Cost
2019	24,842	\$72,600	\$111,574	2.1%	\$512,032
2017	24,162	\$68,900	\$106,870	2.9%	\$496,279
2015	23,439	\$67,700	\$105,297	3.5%	\$480,877

2035 Comprehensive Plan. For more information, visit fairfaxva.gov/livablefairfax

STRATEGIC GOALS



Economic Development

Advance the economic health of the city



Redevelopment

Stimulate and support targeted redevelopment



Transportation

Improve the city's multimodal transportation system



Neighborhoods

Enhance the quality of neighborhood living



Governance

Be a model for successful municipal governance

Accomplishments FY2019

Noteworthy goals achieved in our city during the past year

Economic Development

- Collaborated with nine other Northern Virginia jurisdictions to market the region beyond the Commonwealth
- Strengthened the Mason/City town-gown relationship through programs like Mason Homecoming, Patriots in the City video series, and marketing material
- Awarded City Connected Grants to promote continued economic growth in the city by encouraging businesses that graduate from the MEC-Fairfax business incubator program to relocate within the city

Redevelopment

- Started construction on Point 50, a new shopping center to replace aging Fairfax Shopping Center
- Continued construction on Scout on the Circle, a new mixed-use development at Fairfax Circle
- Began construction on Fire Station 33

Transportation

- Awarded \$48 million in transportation funding (FY2019)
- Adopted a new residential sidewalk program (Jan 2019)
- Completed Roberts Road sidewalk project

Neighborhoods

- Created the annual Holiday Market and Liquid Chocolate event in Old Town Square
- Installed new playground equipment at Ratcliffe and Westmore Parks
- Initiated daily refuse/recycling collection service at 18 city parks
- Added three full-time fire medics and one fire administration recruitment and retention coordinator

Governance

- Supported recruitment and retention of city staff
- Enhanced the city's Senior/Disabled Citizen Tax Relief Program



Our public schools are owned by the city, which contracts with Fairfax County Public Schools to provide instructional services. Our city school board and superintendent oversee a system rich with innovation, including STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) labs, environmental education/living classrooms, laptops for each middle school student, and outstanding summer enrichment. City schools have more National Board-Certified teachers than any other pyramid (high school and its feeder schools), with teachers receiving reimbursement funds from the city after completing a rigorous two-year program. More information at cityoffairfaxschools.org.

City of Fairfax Statistics, Fiscal Years Ending

		2015	5-Year Trend	2019
	Gross Economic Output (GEO)	\$29,107,801		\$31,551,307
	Occupancy Rates: Office & Retail	89.91%		91.06%
	Net change in number of active business	-138		426
	Private Sector Construction (Comm & Res), Assessed Value	\$38,000,000		\$41,646,100
	Capital Investment in Public Infrastructure	\$25,297,317		\$32,420,751
	CUE Ridership	766,708		601,813
	Miles of Streets Repaved	21.6		20.9
	Average Fire Department Response Time	5:13		5:34
	Residential Recycling (tons per calendar year)	7,598		7,386
	Average Police Response Time	6:44		6:35
	Number of Residents Served by Parks and Recreation Program	5,903		6,375
	Number of City Council Meetings held	36		31
	Number of Community Representatives on Boards & Commissions	117		113

Housing Affordability + Revenue and Expenditure Breakdown

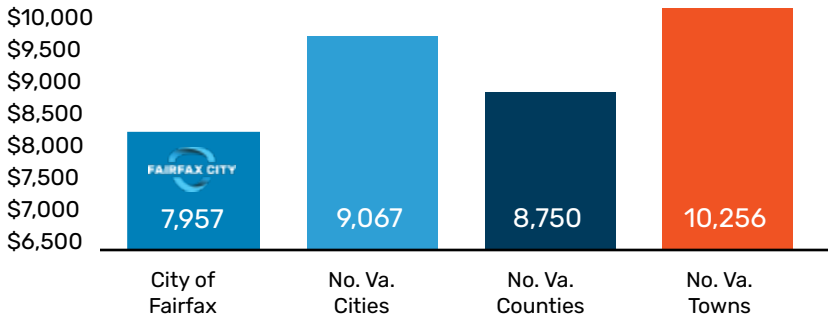


Received Certificate of Excellence in Citizen Centric Reporting, 2018, from the Association of Government Accountants

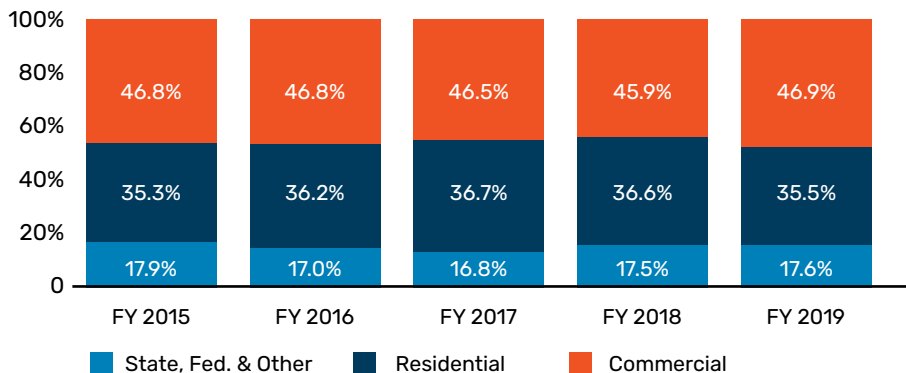


Residential affordability

(average taxes and fees paid per homeowner per year)



Annual Revenue: Commercial vs. Residential



26th
Consecutive
Year



39th
Consecutive
Year

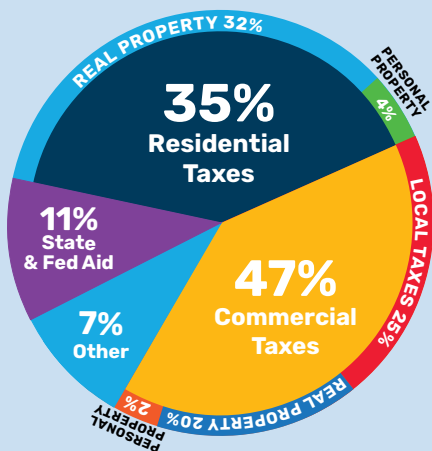
An independent audit was conducted by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, resulting in a clean audit opinion on the *Comprehensive Financial Report* for the year ending June 30, 2019.

Also in 2019, the city's AAA bond rating was maintained. Of the 38 cities in Virginia, Fairfax is one of only four with this highest rating. Search "CAFR" at fairfaxva.gov for complete financial information.

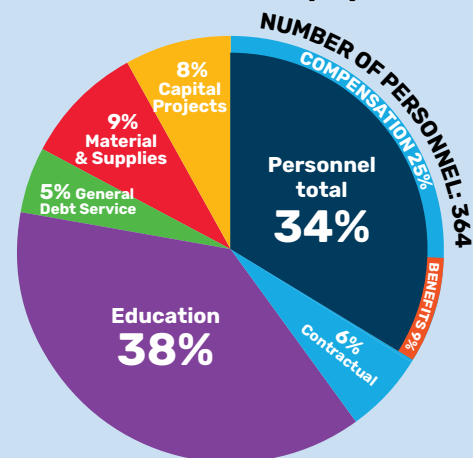


FY2019 City General Fund Revenues and Expenditures

\$142,770,783
Where does the money come from?



\$142,012,968
How is the money spent?



The above graphs represent the City General Fund. Learn more about the city's budget at fairfaxva.gov/budget.

Future Investments



Economic Development

- Partnering with George Mason University on the Innovation Placemaking Project
- Collaborating with Mason on the MEC 2.0 strategic planning process
- Developing and growing our business community with business support programs

provisions in the city's Zoning Ordinance to manage the orderly roll-out of latest wireless technology facilities (amendment adopted June 2019)



Transportation

- Continue design of Old Lee Highway Multimodal Improvements project
- Construct traffic calming measures on University Drive
- Widen sidewalks in two Old Town locations
- Complete design of George Snyder Trail
- Construct University Drive extension
- Design Northfax West Roadway
- Design Pickett Connector Trail



Redevelopment

- Increase the commercial tax base through redevelopment
- Prepare streetscape standards for Old Town and preliminary design for Main Street to guide infrastructure improvements (adopted July 2019)
- Modernize telecommunications



Neighborhoods

- Fund LED streetlight conversion project
- Address aging stormwater management infrastructure
- Contribute to a greater diversity of housing options



Governance

- Reserve 12 percent of General Fund revenues to retain AAA bond rating
- Standardize and improve processes
- Improve online services to provide better experience
- Improve efficiency by reducing redundant and manual efforts



Guidance for Future Planning

The city's *2035 Comprehensive Plan*, adopted in February 2019, will guide the city's growth and development over the next 20 years. Developed

with input from the community and other stakeholders, the plan provides a framework for residents and decision makers to conceptualize how the city should look and function, as well as the best methods and strategies to achieve the city's goals. The plan

includes an implementation guide to track progress on actions related to land use, transportation, housing, economic development, environment, public facilities, parks, arts, and historic preservation. View the plan at fairfaxva.gov/livablefairfax.

Live Life Connected

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