



Chesterfield Budget Advisory Committee

Providing community input into
Chesterfield budget priorities

Who are we?

- Bill Boerth (Chairman)
- Isaac Inyang (Vice Chairman)
- Stacy D'Artagnan
- Shreekant Dhopte
- Michael Howes
- Susan Layton
- Dan Schaffener

- 59 years of public sector management experience
- 97 years of private sector accounting and business experience
- We are a diverse range of residents who provide input from all facets of the Chesterfield community

What did we do?

Extraordinary access to Township leadership

- Jeremy Liedtka (Mayor)
- Rita Romeu (Committeewoman)
- Wendy Wulstein (CFO)
- Other Township Management personnel

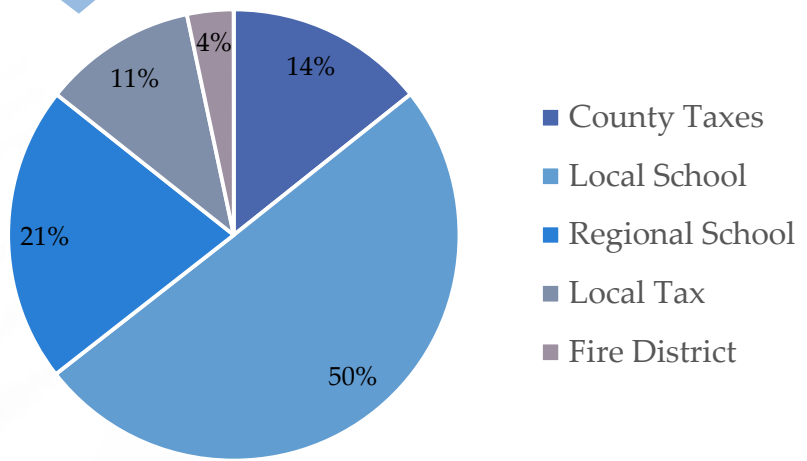
Some of the reports/data reviewed included:

- Audited financial statements
- Budget and revenue prep
- Municipal Data sheets
- Projected surplus and related tax rate information

Objective: provide recommendations to the township committee on budget priorities for the next three years

Our recommendations are formed from the perspective that the Township should provide the highest level quality of services at the lowest cost to the residents

The local Township budget amounts to 11% of your total tax bill



- Recommendation themes:**
- Chesterfield should continue to operate with a high level of transparency
 - Where possible, the Township should continue to seek to share services to reduce costs
 - Government should continue to focus on providing high quality services
 - Tax rates should be stable and predictable for residents

Enable a transparent government

- Adopt a robust pay to play ordinance for public contracts and election fundraising
- Establish additional digital communication methods to push information and education to the community about significant upcoming financial obligations (such as debt service or key votes)
- Continue quarterly or semi-annual meetings of a budget advisory committee as a means of looking at long term financial planning and community input
- Continue to utilize an RFP process for professional services to bring in new ideas and approaches
 - The Township Committee should signal its serious intent to change service providers when soliciting bids or proposals

Share services to provide better service at lower cost

- Consider discussions with other municipalities in close proximity to share police protection and other services
- Encourage Fire Districts to consolidate into a single Fire District
 - This could also enable EMS services to potentially run 24 hours by utilizing existing staff, expanding local EMS coverage
 - We understand that this recommendation is outside of the Township Committee authority, but it could have a significant impact on the community

Ensure stable and predictable local tax rates

- Adopt a prudent budget planning process that will minimize large fluctuations in the local tax rate
- Prudently plan for promotions and grooming of future leadership in the police force and DPW to ensure continued levels of service
- Create a capital improvement plan to ensure responsible allocation of the capital improvement funds
- Utilize \$1.3 million of surplus this year

Focus spending exclusively on core Township services

- Reduce subsidization of taxpayer funding for groups and events (e.g. Harvest Festival, Historical Society, etc.) with the goal of eliminating the use of property taxes to fund non-essential services
 - Assist these events through non-financial means where appropriate
 - This reduces the risk of being asked to fund all groups, and encourages community fundraising from interested attendees over taxation to the residents
- Approach the County Freeholders to bring the library into the County system, and free from the need for Township funding
- Consider hiring a part time administrator to enable efficient coordination of activities, and let the Township Committee focus on policy
 - This requires offsetting costs to ensure it does not add to the tax base

How can residents help?

- Be engaged and provide feedback to the Township Committee members
- Offer to help create additional means of communication (Facebook/Twitter/Email pushes) for the Township to provide pertinent information in addition to meetings and to what's on the Township website
- Join the fight for fair education funding
 - The largest single percentage of Chesterfield property taxes is the local and regional school tax. The biggest factor that contributes to this is the underfunding of state aid for education
- Get involved in the community!
 - Get involved in local and regional school board meetings and budget discussions
 - Attend freeholder meetings
 - Offer to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee
 - Volunteer time and offer services to the Township and outside organizations