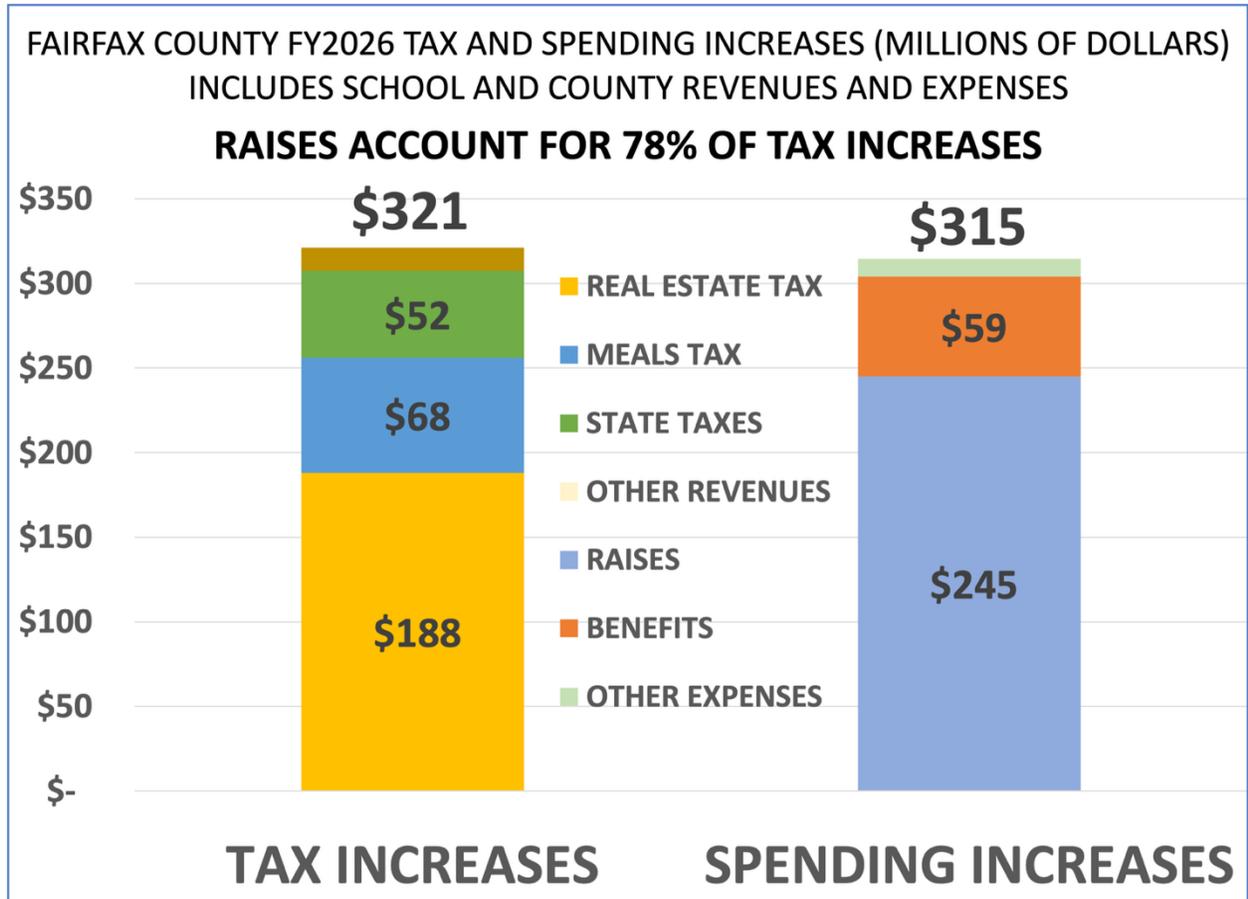


## FINANCIAL DISASTER COMING TO FAIRFAX COUNTY AND A PLAN TO REVERSE IT – December 2025

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A visually dramatic sight at night is the streak of light across the sky as material falling from space burns up in our atmosphere. This flash, a meteor, will cause damage if it strikes the earth, in which case astronomers call it a meteorite.

After many decades of Fairfax County creating flashes that were “look at us, we are excelling in so many ways,” and steady population and business growth, County government is causing flashes of tax increases to smash into our locality and cause damage, indeed, degrading the quality of life and desirability for businesses. The meteor may be a metaphor, but the coming damage will be real. And the worst part of it is the damage has already started.

Nine members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors do not care about containing costs. Their model is six northeast states – New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

Let's look at real property taxes on single family homes with small lots, twenty miles or so from business centers – suburban Washington, DC and suburban New York City. In the Centreville, Virginia area, taxes run \$3.00 to \$3.70 per square foot of assessed dwelling floor area. In Paramus, New Jersey, similar properties run \$5.50 to \$6.70 per square foot, or more than 80 percent more.<sup>1</sup> County Supervisors tell themselves our tax rates are reasonable, just because our rates are lower.

These neighbors to the north have already demonstrated the devastating effect of such high tax rates. From April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2024, these six northeast states lost a net 1.4 million people to domestic out-migration.<sup>2</sup> This domestic out-migration includes the most educated and productive residents - those who have the means to flee the high tax consequences of their local governments.

The total domestic out-migration statistic for these northeast states was masked by the net positive international in-migration of 1.42 million, nearly 20,000 more than domestic out-migration. International in-migration was part of the nearly 7.2 million people that the Census Bureau tallied for the entire USA during that 2020 to 2024 period,<sup>3</sup> attributed to the Biden administration's open borders policy.

In three years and three months beginning January 2020, 158 financial firms moved out of New York state, 56 of them to Florida.<sup>4</sup> In 2021 alone, the six northeast states cumulatively lost 421 single-establishment firms to out-migration, meaning single location businesses, to other states, and that was with New Jersey actually adding 89 firms.<sup>5</sup> These are likely small businesses. The statistic excludes businesses that leave the country, so the numbers reflect what happens when a business has a reason to stay in the U.S., just not stay in their original state.

Stephen Moore, writing in the New York Post on July 25, 2025, about research he published within *Unleash Prosperity*, found that so many people have left the northeast that, "...the Southeast is now, for the first time ever, the most economically dominant region of the country."

Moore cites reasons folks are leaving – crime, cost of living, better job opportunities, warmer weather, and high taxes. Of the ten states that lost the most population in the U.S. from 2015 to 2024, five are in this northeast group – New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Maryland also is in that group of ten, with more than 268,000 residents migrating to another state, a strong reason for also ignoring Maryland's counties as examples for Fairfax to follow.<sup>6</sup>

The losses have already begun. In that four-year period ending July 1, 2024, Virginia also lost more than 34,000 people to domestic out-migration. For just one year, July 2021 to June 2022, during the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, among a tally of net domestic migration for twenty-five local jurisdictions, including twenty-three in the larger northern Virginia region, the largest number was Fairfax County's domestic migration loss of 22,000.<sup>7</sup>

The effects of never-ending annual tax rate hikes that exceed personal income increases are clear. Six northeast states have proven that large population and business losses occur when exorbitant tax rates are imposed. The northeast model demonstrates the future for Fairfax County, that population and business losses will accelerate, shifting the County all too soon to an irreversible spiral of tax base losses and the subsequent need to impose even higher tax rates.

The Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance has identified numerous feasible reforms to spending patterns. When implemented, the net effects on the County's FY2026 \$5.7 billion General Fund budget, which includes \$2.7 billion for the school system, would be a reduction in the range of at least \$300 million in next year's budget and as much as \$1.55 billion additional reductions under initiatives that would require two or more years to implement.

These budget reforms would go a long way to reverse the negative effects that have already started, and they would make room for inflationary effects on expenses over which the County government has no control.

Reforms suggested by the Taxpayers Alliance include:

1. Freeze County salaries until the County publishes average salaries in the annual budget overview.
2. Stop increasing FCPS funding until SAT scores return to pre-COVID levels and until there is high achievement in all high schools instead of just a few. Return phonics and arithmetic drill to the critical K-3 grades.
3. Stop medical insurance rate hikes by campaigning against the consumption of highly processed foods, which cause costly chronic disease, and by ignoring the corrupt federal high-carb food pyramid, which leads to diabetes.
4. Return market forces to medical care. Use coinsurance where patient pays ten to twenty percent of cost, instead of fixed co-pay, where patient pays \$50 regardless of cost, so the patient pays attention to price. Require hospitals to post prices so patients can price shop.
5. Trade smaller retirement benefits for larger raises. Replace pensions (defined benefit) with 457(b) plans (defined contribution), the government version of 401(k) plans.
6. Implement school choice. Competition would improve schools more than money. School districts should provide vouchers for any student who leaves after attending at least one school year.
7. End net zero climate crisis spending, including electric vehicles and outdoor power tools.
8. Stop using bonds for ongoing County and school building maintenance. Pay for maintenance and repair from their operating budgets.
9. Reduce election costs and restore integrity with one-day elections and limited mail-in ballots.
10. Return FCPS to the six-period day. FCPS unnecessarily switched to seven periods in 1990.
11. Audit pension management, welfare rolls, and overtime..
12. Audit encumbered carryover expenses for last-minute use-it-or-lose-it spending.
13. Hold community reviews of County and school programs and administrative staffing.
14. Eliminate unnecessary administrative positions.
15. Use textbooks instead of computers.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com). Single family homes with real property taxes or computation method based on selling price posted to the listing.

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html>, Annual and Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024. Accessed October 23, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> BLS.gov, Firm Migrations in the U.S.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2023-asset-management-relocation-wall-street-south/>. Accessed October 23, 2025.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2023/article/firm-migrations-in-the-united-states-magnitude-and-trends.htm>. June 2023, Accessed October 23, 2025.

<sup>6</sup> Moore, Stephen, <https://nypost.com/2025/07/27/opinion/the-great-northeast-exodus-how-high-taxes-are-driving-away-billions/>. Accessed October 23, 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Clower, Terry, and others, Symptoms of a Struggling Region: A Path to Mediocrity, Capital Area Economic Forum, October 18, 2024.