

Alan J. McCarthy  
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## CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of the County Executive

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My fellow residents of Cecil County,

After weeks of deliberation and scrutiny of my FY2018 Proposed Budget, I was surprised by the events that took place on June 6, 2017 at the County Council's legislative meeting. The Council spent many hours reviewing specific expenditure line items in efforts to reduce the budget and reduce the tax increases that I proposed. By not approving the budget as amended, my original proposed budget becomes the FY2018 Approved Budget for Cecil County (Cecil County Charter Section 507(b)).

I remain committed to the budget I submitted to County Council. It is critically important that we position the County to take full advantage of the opportunities that will allow us to grow economically therefore providing the necessary services that our citizens demand and deserve. I and members of my staff have diligently provided members of the Council all the information and explanation regarding the elements and purpose of this fiscal plan. Honestly, I would have preferred the full support of all Council members, but nevertheless the County is poised to move forward.

If you are not familiar with my budget plan for FY2018, let me briefly highlight some key points:

- **COMMITMENT TO A BALANCED BUDGET** – The FY2018 Approved Budget does NOT use unassigned fund balance (our savings account) to balance the FY2018 budget. This is a big change for Cecil County and I am confident it is a fiscally prudent approach to continue sound, fiscal stability for Cecil County well into the future.
- **COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY** – The addition of much needed positions and fairly compensating public safety employees, whose job on a daily basis is to protect you and me, will continue to be important issues that will be monitored closely by my Administration. The support of our volunteer fire companies is critical. We need to continue to work together to meet the public safety needs of Cecil County.
- **COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION** – In support of lifelong learners, I will continue to stress the importance of funding education at all levels in Cecil County. I believe in the value of quality education: starting with the early years at Cecil County Public Schools, later years at Cecil College, and the supportive role of Cecil County Public Library. These services are critical to the solution to many of the other problems our County faces (drug abuse, unemployment, homelessness). It is my belief that well-educated children are more likely to become well-adjusted, productive, self-fulfilled residents.
- **COMMITMENT TO INFRASTRUCTURE** – Together, we are going to make improvements to Cecil County's roads in spite of the continued lack of support from the State. I continue to doubt the State's ability and intent to fully restore the Highway User Revenues to all counties in Maryland. We are going to have to make decisions that steer us away from dependency on State funding for infrastructure.
- **COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Cecil County is attracting new businesses who are making investments and creating jobs in Cecil County. I assure you that my Administration will continue to make decisions that support the momentum. This approved budget includes a commitment to the sewer infrastructure that Cecil has needed for many years.

I realize that I am increasing the cost to County citizens due to the increase in property taxes and the tax on income. This is a decision that I did not take lightly. It now becomes my job to take your hard earned dollars and make absolutely certain they are managed efficiently and invested in the community effectively. I want to thank all of you who came to a meeting, voiced an opinion on-line or in person; regardless of whether it was in support of or opposed to my proposed budget. It is very important that I hear, listen and understand your opinions about your County government. I also want to thank Cecil County employees who constantly strive to improve the services in Cecil County.

**NOW** is the time, and **THIS** is the Administration, that is committed to move Cecil County forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan J. McCarthy".

Alan J. McCarthy  
County Executive