

Minutes of the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland

April 21, 2026

Budget Work Session

Theodore J. Elder, president
Madison J. Bunting, Jr., vice president (Absent)
Caryn G. Abbott
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Eric J. Fiori
Joseph M. Mitrecic
Diana Purnell

The commissioners met with Budget Officer Kim Reynolds to conduct a work session to continue to review the Worcester County Departmental Operating Budget Requests for FY27, as presented to the commissioners during their March 17, 2026 meeting. The requested FY27 Operating Budget currently reflects estimated revenues of \$299,118,027 and requested expenditures of \$302,074,373.

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli reviewed the proposed FY27 Sheriff's Office Budget of \$21,558,575, representing an increase of \$2,455,901 or 13%.

Ms. Reynolds reviewed the proposed FY27 County Administration Budget of \$2,215,923, representing an increase of \$163,896 or 8%.

Commissioner Bunting left the meeting.

The commissioners recessed for lunch.

Acting Extension Director Jim Lewis reviewed the proposed FY27 University of Maryland Extension Agency Budget of \$388,318, representing an increase of \$105,577 or 37%.

Health Officer Becky Jones reviewed the proposed FY27 Health Department Budget of \$10,355,142, representing a decrease of (\$1,640,443) or 14%. This does not include the roughly \$3.2 million reduction in the required County core match, resulting from an unanticipated reduction in overall core services funding, as Ms. Jones had just recently received notification from the State of that change. Ms. Reynolds advised that the new figures will be included in the budget to be presented May 5, 2026.

Commission on Aging Director Executive Brandy Trader reviewed the proposed FY27 COA Budget of \$2,224,279, representing an increase of \$227,957 or 11%.

Board of Elections Director Jocelyn Abbott reviewed the proposed FY27 Board of

Elections Budget of \$1,620,414, representing an increase of \$13,054 or 1%.

State's Attorney Kris Heiser reviewed the proposed FY26 State's Attorney's Office Budget of \$4,903,913, representing an increase of \$317,331 or 7%.

Ms. Reynolds reviewed the FY27 Orphan's Court Budget of \$87,116, representing an increase of \$4,858 or 6%; Other General Government Budget of \$7,984,091, representing an increase of \$1,645,351 or 26%; Wor-Wic Community College Budget of \$2,775,142, representing an increase of \$67,974 or 3%; Other Natural Resources Budget of \$1,125,800, representing an increase of \$510,000 or 83%; Taxes Shared with Towns Budget of \$396,338, representing a decrease of (\$3,671,758) or -90% (due to the removal of the town's share of the County's income tax revenue, which the comptroller pays directly to the towns); Grants to Towns of \$8,757,557, representing an increase of \$1,955,387 or 29%; Interfund Budget of \$7,171,121, representing an increase of \$313,480 or 5%;

The commissioners answered questions from the press, after which they adjourned to meet again on May 5, 2026.