BACKGROUND

Allegheny County Council must pass a budget by December 6th. Right now, our Councilors are debating the budget proposed by County Executive Innamorato. They've held hearings and are accepting public comment. They may propose amendments to the County Executive's budget, which can adjust funding levels and impact what services and programs the County invests in next year. Once all amendments are finalized, County Council votes on the budget. A simple majority is required for most items, but for certain decisions—like the tax rate adjustment proposed this year—the budget requires a two-thirds majority, i.e., 10 votes, to pass.

Watch this video to learn more about the process.

The County hasn't increased its property tax rate for over a decade – and now it has a structural deficit in its operating budget. There's been no change in the County property tax rate since 2011, even though operating costs have increased. Allegheny County has been running on a structural deficit since 2021. Until now, this deficit was offset by $600M in pandemic relief funding that is ending.

County Executive Innamorato has proposed to save our county services by increasing the property tax rate by 2.2 mills in 2025. This rate change will ensure the County can continue delivering critical services that residents depend on while impacting the median Allegheny County home by just $15 per month (for owner-occupied residences).

Human services for our most vulnerable residents, our human services workforce, and our network of human services providers are all at stake. Human Services are primarily supported through state and federal funds which the County is required to "match", so every $1 in reduced County funding requires an approximate $5 overall cut to the Human Services budget. For example, a 1 millage tax increase would require a reduction in County funding for Human Services of $27M and an overall cut to the Human Services budget of $136M.

At a 1 millage tax increase, services the County would be forced to eliminate include:

- All Family Centers, basic needs support and evidence-based home visiting for 16,000 families
- All specialized services for 1,600 at-risk families with new babies, including nearly 650 families at very high risk for child welfare involvement.
- All out of school programs for 5,700 youth.
- All independent living programs like the 412YouthZone that serve 1,000 former foster, homeless, and at-risk older youth.
- All gun violence prevention and intervention programs serving 400 of our highest risk youth.

Even cutting the above programs in full would not provide the savings necessary to avoid a deficit. The County would have to make significant cuts to additional services such as:

- Emergency shelter for 800 youth and families and 3,400 adults.
- Rental assistance to prevent evictions for 6,500 residents.
- Home delivered meals for 3,600 seniors.
- Senior Centers serving 11,000 clients.
- KidsVoice legal representation for 2,200 children and youth with child welfare cases.
- Behavioral health services that insurance or Medicaid doesn't cover for 9,000 people.

Cutting the above services not only impacts Allegheny County's most vulnerable residents, but also the County's human services workforce and provider network. These services rely upon more than 150 service providers, collectively employing hundreds of staff, who would be impacted by cuts.