

# MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET AT A GLANCE

## FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

### TOTAL BUDGET

Increase of **\$17.4 million** or **6%** from the current fiscal year.

**\$311.9  
MILLION**

*"In an environment of extreme uncertainty, the FY2025-26 budget builds resilience while maintaining progress on the county's strategic priorities."*

– County Manager Travis Myren

### PROPERTY TAX RATE

This rate would increase the tax on a home valued at **\$500,000** by **\$147.50 per year**.



The recommended budget includes a property tax rate of **65.59 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation**—2.95 cents above the revenue-neutral rate of 62.64 cents.

### KEY COMPONENTS OF THE 2.95-CENT INCREASE INCLUDE:

- **1.94 cents** dedicated to **school planning and design services** for school bond projects.
- **1.01 cents** allocated for ongoing **county and school operational needs**.



### EDUCATION INVESTMENT

#### Per-student funding:

- **\$5,877** for Orange County Schools (up \$211)
- **\$8,491** for Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools (up \$274, includes special tax)
- **\$6.4 million** for school construction planning and design



#### Durham Tech – Orange County Campus:

- **3% budget increase** for non-teaching costs
- **29% more local use** since 2020-21

### REVENUE-NEUTRAL TAX RATE

The county's revenue-neutral tax rate is **62.64 cents per \$100 of property value**.

This rate would bring in the same tax revenue as last year, using the new tax base with 3 adjustments:

1. The tax base **increases** by including personal property, utility assets, and vehicles.
2. It **decreases** for expected value appeals.
3. A **2.52% natural growth** since the last revaluation adds **\$7,042,417** from the FY2024-25 budget.



### KEY FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Behavioral Health:** Keep two positions despite loss of grant funding.
- **Sheriff's Fleet Maintenance:** Add two mechanics, \$306,000 for parts; cut outside contracts.
- **In-Home Aide Services:** Add \$100,000 for 60 more hours/week and \$40,000 for respite care.
- **Housing Assistance:** +\$24,000 for Longtime Homeowners Assistance and \$70,000 to Emergency Housing Assistance.
- **Employee Pay:** All county employees get a 2% raise.



### STRATEGIC BUDGET GOALS

- **Minimize the tax rate increase**
- Create **budget flexibility** in anticipation of an economic downturn and potential federal reductions
- **Maintain county investment** in social safety net services
- Provide **continuation funding** to schools
- Invest in an **employee compensation package**
- **Align budget investments** with strategic plan goals



**ORANGE COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA

For more information, scan or visit  
[orangecountync.gov/Budget](http://orangecountync.gov/Budget)

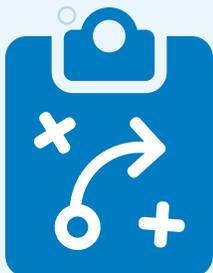
# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BUDGET

## FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

### What is Orange County doing to minimize the tax rate increase in this budget year?

**16 out of 27 departments** have proposed budgets that are **below their base budget**. Some examples of savings include:

- Information Technology decommissioned features and applications to **save \$266,837**.
- A countywide reduction in training and travel which **saves \$50,158**.
- Four vacant positions have been eliminated or unfunded to **save \$188,077**.
- Created an Emergency Management Billing position for \$65,225 which will generate an estimated **\$275,000 in billing revenue**.



### In uncertain fiscal times, how is Orange County investing in a social safety net?

Some examples include:

- **\$24,000 increase in Longtime Homeowners Assistance program** to offset the impact of the recommended tax rate increase; does not address increases due to valuation
- **\$70,000 increase in Emergency Housing Assistance program** through reallocation
- **\$25,000 increase in Partnership to End Homelessness Budget** to Continue Cold Weather Cot Program
- **\$100,000 increase in Department of Social Services In Home Aid** and **\$40,204 in the Aging In-Home Respite program**
- **\$62,000 in Master Aging Plan Balance** to Urgent Repair Program



### Are there any tax relief programs for low-income residents, seniors, or veterans?

There are **three property tax assistance programs** to help elderly or disabled homeowners, low-income residents, and builders who meet the required qualifications. For more details, contact the Tax Office at [taxassistance@orangecountync.gov](mailto:taxassistance@orangecountync.gov) or **919-245-2100**.



### How can residents provide input on the budget?



Residents are invited to participate in two public hearings:

- **Tuesday, May 13 • 7 p.m.**  
Southern Human Services Center  
2501 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill
- **Thursday, May 29 • 7 p.m.**  
Whitted Human Services Building  
300 W. Tryon Street, Hillsborough

