

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: vamahr@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 4:49 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Vienna Property Tax Rate

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Dear Council Members,

We are writing to encourage you to **lower** the Town property tax rate.

We noted, at the April 6th public hearing, people saying that they are concerned about being taxed out of their homes here. We recall, particularly, comments like these from people who set down roots, and thus invested, in Vienna decades ago. It seems to us that a town is its people, and so it behooves us to make it reasonably possible for our long-time residents to stay.

In addition, these are difficult economic times for all of us. We are asking the Town to tighten its belt, as we have to do at home, and help keep prices down for its residents by lowering the property tax rate. After all, aren't we in this together?

Thank you.

Two Town of Vienna

Residents

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Patricia Terrell <terrellpatricia@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 1:12 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: "Annex"

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I am joining what I hope is a chorus of Vienna citizens' voices in opposition to the current plan for funding this project.

As many folks are struggling with rising prices for basic necessities, it seems over the top and unnecessary to continue down this path.

I ask that the Council remove the \$300,000 Annex slush fund (funding future debt?) and reduce the tax burden by keeping increases to no more than the rate of inflation.

Your neighbors need this help; we're counting on you.

In closing, I thank you for your service on the Vienna Town Council (especially those long meetings and late nights).

Pat Terrell
205 Talahi Road SE

Sent from my iPhone

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Donna Crowe <donnacrowe64@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 12:37 PM
To: COUNCIL
Cc: Donna Crowe
Subject: Property Taxes

<p>CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.</p>

This is Donna Crowe. I have lived in my home on Cottage Street for over 23 years. Property taxes become more burdensome every year.

I'm writing to ask you to remove all of the \$300,000 Annex slush fund and work to reduce our overall tax burden by keeping our tax increases as low as possible.

Thank you.
Donna M. Crowe

Sent from my iPhone

Kozłowski, Shelley

From: Paul Turner <pturner404@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 8:10 AM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Property Tax Rate

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I viewed the recent discussion on the proposed property rate.

I have stayed in the town for over 40 years because of the fine services that the town provides. Up to this point I have felt that the town finances have been well managed. However, the recent proposed decision to build a pool (recently put on hold) and the decision to leave \$300,000 in the budget for who knows what puts a stain on the town's ability to justify the proposed Property tax rate. The town needs to come up with reasonable solution and cost for how to design the annex property preferable to town residents. Until then the \$300,000 needs to be removed from the budget so as to reduce the tax rate to offset rising property assessments.

Thank You

Paul Turner
404 Colin Lane, NW
Vienna,
VA

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Liz <edifrancisco@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 7:11 AM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Remove \$300,000

<p>CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.</p>

Please remove the \$300,000 line item for the pool/annex project and balance the budget.

Respectfully,

Liz DiFrancisco

434 Knoll St NW

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Liz <edifrancisco@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 10:14 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Remove \$300,000

<p>CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.</p>

Please remove the \$300,000 line item for the pool/annex project and balance the budget.

Respectfully,

Liz DiFrancisco
434 Knoll St NW

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Lauren Saadat <laurensaadat@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 6:54 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Tax Rate

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Dear Council Members,

I have been a Town of Vienna resident for more than 25 years. I am writing to request the removal of the \$300,000 Annex set-aside fund to reduce our overall tax burden. Whatever is ultimately decided for the Annex space, residents should not be burdened with additional taxes to support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lauren Saadat, 1116 Pekay St SW, Vienna, VA 22180

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Iris Gil <giliris1250@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 3:26 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Taxes

<p>CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.</p>

Dear Council members,

Thank you for all you are doing on behalf of all of us. I tend to think we made very good choices as you have stood up for what it's really important to all of us living in this beautiful town we call home. So thanks again!!

Now would you please help us not get anymore taxes than the on- going inflation rate? Any amount more than that will become a burden. Specially for those of us living on a pension. Help us keep those taxes down!! That will be such a relief for those of us(and seriously for everyone)trying to stay in our current homes.

Again, thank you for being our voices and advocating for what's truly important.

Sincerely,

Iris Gil
Sent from my iPhone

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Paul Atelsek <paul.atelsek@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 3:20 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Ditch the Annex Slush Fund

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Dear Town Council members,

I support Councilwoman Ramakis' proposal to lower the tax rate AND Councilman Springsteen's proposal to remove most of the \$300,000 budgeted for the Annex slush fund in order to reduce our tax rate and offset rising assessments.

My understanding is that removing MOST of the Annex slush fund would allow us to reduce our tax rate to 19.25. We can still do the Annex planning and install a few park benches, some trees, and maybe a shelter without the full \$300,000 reserve. Preferably eliminate the line item entirely and augment the DPW budget slightly to cover minor improvements, or if it must be earmarked for the annex leave only enough in that line item for the minimum DPW says you need to make the site useable. Give up on any ideas for the Annex which are going to be a major tax burden, going forward. Town residents clearly rejected that, and I appreciate Mayor Colbert's recognition and acknowledgement of both that and the divisiveness it created. Create a new reserve AFTER you've decided what you intend to do with the Annex. That way, you can tether the reserve size to the intended need, not to an already rejected proposal.

Our overall property tax increase for next year is 6.8%. Most of this tax burden comes from existing homes. 6.8% is a lot, especially for older and low-income residents living in legacy Vienna houses. The increasing property values do nothing to help them meet their rising cost of living, because it's an illiquid asset (unless you expect them to take out new/second mortgages to pay taxes). I agree with Councilman Anderson that costs are increasing. The cost of living was widely projected to get worse in coming years, even before the war. See <https://www.urban.org/data-tools/american-affordability-tracker>. In the face of this headwind, it would be unconscionable for the Town of Vienna to pile on by increasing tax rates more than absolutely necessary. Removing the slush fund would only mitigate the tax increase, not reduce taxes in absolute terms.

Councilman Baldwin's suggestion for Vienna residents to self-select for tax relief is a red herring. Town residents are not well informed about that program, not all who need it would qualify, and some might be too proud to avail themselves of it if they were informed and would qualify. Besides, property tax relief is not going to help the many working and middle income folks who can only afford to rent in Vienna. They too are paying the increasing costs of living in Vienna, their rents will increase when their landlords pass on their TOTAL increased property tax costs, and they too are your constituents. Don't burden those least able to afford it with that double whammy. We need more workforce housing in Vienna, not less.

Councilman Baldwin's point that revenue must increase to cover fair wages for Town employees is well taken. If tax rates MUST increase to cover salaries and the current level of services, fine. But I see no reason to increase them more than that, assuming employees are being fairly paid now. Property taxes should decrease to the extent possible and not increase beyond the rate of inflation. Unless there is a need for some major capital improvement or recapitalization I think the Town should adopt that as an ongoing goal. Don't gild the lily with our tax dollars.

Regardless of what you feel about the taxes, Town residents have spoken and we don't want something at the Annex that will be a major tax burden for decades. Let's remove this concept from the budget. I encourage the Town Council

remove all or most of the \$300,000 Annex slush fund from the budget, and work to reduce our overall tax burden by keeping our tax increases ideally no more than the rate of inflation.

Thank you all for your service and careful consideration of my comments. A special thanks to Councilwoman Ramakis for recognizing that the empty hearing room didn't mean apathetic residents, and for proposing an extension of time for constituents to provide input. Even if you don't receive many comments, that is more likely the result of busy lives in a crazy world and general disengagement, not a reflection of constituent indifference over our tax rates. Taxes matter to voters, and lower is better.

Paul Atelsek
1007 Mountfort Ct
Vienna, VA 22180

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: js4rester <js4rester@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 11:21 AM
To: COUNCIL
Cc: Cforrester1951@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed property tax rate

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We are for the removal of the \$300,000 Annex slush fund and working to reduce our overall tax burden by keeping our tax increases ideally no more than the rate of inflation.

Jonathan Forrester
1106 Redwood Drive
Vienna Va, 22180

Cynthia Forrester
304 Aponi Court
Vienna VA, 22180

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Mike Hines <mlhines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 11:16 AM
To: COUNCIL; Hines, Lois
Subject: Town of Vienna Taxes

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I would like to advocate for the town to remove all or most of the \$300,000 Annex slush fund and work to reduce our overall tax burden by keeping our tax increases ideally no more than the rate of inflation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mike and Lois Hines
112 Harmony Dr SE, Vienna, VA 22180

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: K KM <kyle.kmullane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 9:13 AM
To: Mayor
Cc: Springsteen, Howard; Ramakis, Jessica; Nash, Dannel; Francis, Doug; Baldwin, Roy; Kozlowski, Shelley; Clerk
Subject: Tax Rate - Suggestions

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Good morning Town of Vienna Council,

I am writing to propose specific adjustments to the budget to achieve a \$0.19 per \$100 assessment rate. To reach this goal, approximately \$415,000 in savings must be identified.

I suggest removing the fitness and aquatic center/annex budget line item, which would provide \$300,000 in savings. For the remaining \$115,000, I recommend reviewing the overtime account number 41002 for further reductions. Specifically, I suggest looking at administrative expenses within the police budget and the events, arts, and culture line items associated with account 41002.

I look at budgets for townhome communities and in my current profession. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Kyle Mullane
401-489-8616

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Jeramie Kopp <jeramie.kopp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 8:16 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Remove the Annex reserve fund from the budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Vienna Town Council,

I am writing before the Friday, May 1st public comment deadline to urge you to remove all or most of the \$300,000 Annex reserve fund from the budget. Our property taxes are rising 6.8% — well above the rate of inflation — and this burden falls primarily on existing homeowners, not new development.

Removing the Annex fund would allow the tax rate to drop from 19.50 to 19.25 cents per \$100 of assessed value, providing meaningful relief without eliminating the town's ability to plan or make near-term Annex improvements. This reserve exists to offset future losses from a project that has not been defined, approved, or fully costed out, and keeping it in the budget signals a financial commitment residents never agreed to.

Please remove this fund, keep our tax increases in line with inflation, and close the door on open-ended Annex spending before it becomes a decades-long burden.

Sincerely,
Jeramie Kopp
1106 Ware Street SW
Vienna, VA 22180

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Oonagh Deasy <oonagh325@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 8:15 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Taxes

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I believe our tax rate in Vienna is too high and has been increasing too rapidly. I strongly request that the council vote to remove all or most of the \$300,000 Annex slush fund and work to reduce our overall tax burden by keeping our tax increases ideally no more than the rate of inflation. Thank you.

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Jennifer Kopp <jenniferaugust@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 8:06 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Please reduce our tax rate by removing the Annex slush fund.

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Dear Vienna Town Council,

I am writing to provide public comment ahead of the Friday, May 1st deadline regarding the proposed property tax rate.

Our overall property tax burden is increasing 6.8% next year. This increase falls disproportionately on existing homeowners, as new home assessments account for only a small portion of the overall rise. Property taxes should not increase beyond the rate of inflation, and a 6.8% jump significantly exceeds that benchmark.

I strongly urge the Council to remove all or most of the \$300,000 Annex reserve fund from the budget. As Councilmember Howard noted, doing so would allow the town to reduce the tax rate from 19.50 to 19.25 cents per \$100 of assessed value — returning approximately \$200,000 or more to taxpayers.

The town can still proceed with Annex planning and temporary fixes without holding a \$300,000 reserve to offset future losses from a facility whose long-term costs remain undefined. Keeping this fund in the budget effectively commits residents to decades of financial exposure for a project that has not been fully vetted or approved. Now is the time to close the door on open-ended Annex spending before it becomes a permanent tax burden.

Please reduce our tax rate by removing the Annex slush fund. Respect the financial limits that inflation sets on what residents can reasonably absorb.

Thank you for your service and for accepting this public comment.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kopp
1106 Ware St

Thank you,
Jennifer (She/Her)

*** Brevity and misspellings courtesy of my mobile device***

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: LEWIS GLASENER <lew0kitch@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 7:19 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Reduce our taxes. Get rid of annex slush fund.

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Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Dennis Rice <dennisrice52@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 7:11 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Annex slush fund

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There is no reason for this slush fund so please remove from budget.

Also since assessments are way up the Town Manager should be able to present a budget that is equal to or no more than more than inflation.

If he needs help in where to cut tell him to feel free to reach out to me.

Sent from my iPhone

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Peter Murtin <pxmurtin@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 7:08 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Request to Reduce "Annex" Slush Fund and Limit Tax Increases

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Dear Town of Vienna Council Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask the Town Council to remove all or most of the approximately \$300,000 budgeted for the Annex slush fund (previously Aquatics division) and to prioritize efforts to reduce the overall tax burden on residents.

In particular, I urge the Council to work toward keeping current and future property tax increases at or below the rate of inflation. Many residents are feeling the cumulative impact of rising costs, and careful restraint on discretionary spending would send a strong message that the Town is committed to fiscal discipline and affordability.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to the Town of Vienna. I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,
Peter Murtin
414 Center St S

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Darren Parsons <dparsonsva@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 6:04 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: Public Hearing Tax Rate

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Thanks for your efforts on the town council and for taking my feedback on the proposed tax rate.

I would like to note that our taxes have increased over 20% over the last 3 years due to rising assessment values. These property tax increases have become a pattern, not a one-off situational budgetary need. While inflation obviously applies to our town expenses, the question becomes why are we being taxed above inflation with regularity. Promoting a luxury indoor pool while ignoring this property tax feature was unfortunate.

Given that our rich town does little to participate in government or protest these increases, please don't mistake the silence for approval. It seems to me the visceral opposition to the highly burdensome special interest pool has woken lots of Vienna who now want the course corrected. On a positive note, maybe the majority of Vienna has confidence in our government (you) and can generally leave the decision-making safely to the council. I think that is because you listen when the course needs correction, and now is one of those times!

Please remove all or most of the \$300,000 fund previously called the Aquatics Division. We want planning for the Annex, but we do not support anything that will require decades of operating losses so significant that we need to set aside money now. A budget for Annex planning is reasonable. Let's create a plan for it rather than having a slush fund carried forward from the pool to build financial discipline to subsidize a pool or similarly tax burdensome upgrade to the land.

Having a stated goal that we try to limit property tax increases to the rate of inflation would also go a long way. If we have to raise more than inflation, let's convince residents why it is worth it.

Thanks,
Darren Parsons
118 Locust St SW

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Kate French <katefrench01@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 5:40 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: \$300K for Annex

<p>CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.</p>

Dear Town Council,

Please remove most of the \$300,000 Annex fund and work to reduce our overall tax burden by keeping our tax increases no more than the rate of inflation.

Since the \$300K was budgeted to offset future aquatics center losses, it would stand to reason that a much smaller amount can now be budgeted for minor improvements to the Annex area (once the library construction is complete) or for planning.

Sincerely,

Kate French
808 Cottage St. SW

Sent from my iPhone

Kozlowski, Shelley

From: Nancy Logan <njlogan1029@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 5:38 PM
To: COUNCIL
Subject: \$300k in budget for annex

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Dear Council members,
Please be respectful and prudent financial stewards and not bestiw burden onto your fellow citizens. Do not add this into the budget.

Thank you.

Nancy Logan
410 Millwood Ct SW, Vienna, VA 22180

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead