

Dear Alexandria Homeowner, Condominium Owner, Business Owner, Renter,  
Concerned Citizen and Voter,

I am writing to ask you to join us in stopping another huge property tax increase in Alexandria this year, and supporting a "3% Makes Sense" Compromise. This 3% Compromise strikes a balance between last year's spending level and this year's cap of 6.4% that City Council adopted on March 22, 2005. Our "3% Makes Sense" Compromise is an immediate short-term one-year solution that would allow this year's FY'06 Budget to grow 3.5% over last year, resulting in a city-wide tax bill increase of 3%. There is also an additional \$10 million (or 2% more) available for city services should the emergency arise.

Please read the attached Petition and Fact Sheet for more information and further explanation.

Our objective is to give the City Council the political support it will need to say "no" to 5% of the 8% increase in spending the City Manager and Staff proposed in its FY'06 Budget submission on March 8th.

We ask you to please:

- (1) Sign the attached Petition, and Mail it in today.
- (2) Forward to your family/friends/neighbors' email list this email and the attached Petition & Fact Sheet;
- (3) Sign up 10-to-25 family members, friends and neighbors to help us get to our goal of 5,000 petitioners.
- (4) Urge your Citizens or Civic Association to adopt in April the Resolution that is being circulated to them by another group of citizens in Alexandria, calling for a 3% increase in city spending over last year.
- (5) Do your own tax bill calculation so you will know exactly how much you would owe under the "3% Compromise" and "City Council Cap of 6.4%". You need to understand that your taxes will always be lower under the 3% Compromise than the 6.4% City Council Cap; but taxes will be much higher than 3% if your property assessment increased more than the average of 21.2%. Here are the 5 steps we urge you to take to do your own calculations:
  - a) Go to the City of Alexandria Real Estate website  
[http://ci.alexandria.va.us/city/research/rea\\_search\\_by\\_address.pxe](http://ci.alexandria.va.us/city/research/rea_search_by_address.pxe)
  - b) Find your 2004 and 2005 "Total Assessed Value" by entering your street number, selecting  
your street name, entering "Search" and then clicking on "Property Details".
  - c) Calculate the property taxes you paid for 2004 by multiplying your 2004 Total Assessed Value times the 2004 tax rate of 0.00995 (i.e, \$0.995 per \$100 of assessed value).
  - d) Calculate the property taxes you would pay in 2005 by multiplying your 2005 Total Assessed Value
    - 1) times 0.0086 to determine your tax bill under the "3% Compromise"; and
    - 2) times 0.00915 to determine your tax bill under the "6.4% City Council Cap."

e) Calculate your 2005 tax bill increase by subtracting the 2004 tax bill from the 2005 tax bill; and calculate the percentage increase by dividing the difference between 2004 & 2005 by what you paid in 2004. The results are often shocking, especially when you also calculate previous years & see huge increases annually.

(6) Email us at [3PercentMakesSense@Cordia.com](mailto:3PercentMakesSense@Cordia.com) with your recommendations stating where you believe the city could cut costs or defer program spending; and

(7) Consider making a financial contribution to this effort so we may print & mail more petitions, put a notice in the Alexandria Gazette, and maybe even buy bumper strips and yard signs. ALL contributions will be spent on getting to a 3% Compromise. Make your check payable to "Lou Cordia" and mail it with your petition.

Please act today. Time is short. City Council votes on the budget and tax rate on May 2nd.

Thank you in advance for your help!!!

Sincerely,

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