

Carroll County Government Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Message

In many ways the Fiscal Year 2009 budget process was one of transition. In recent years, much of the emphasis of county efforts in the budget has been on capital projects to address infrastructure and facility needs. In large part these projects were funded by one-time revenues made possible by the housing boom. Those projects are now nearing completion or underway, which means that the one-time costs of construction are being replaced by on-going operating costs of operation. The housing boom is over along with growth in related revenues. These changes were anticipated and planned for.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget process began with already slim margins in our Operating Plan and little flexibility. Changes by the State made during the Special Session reduced that flexibility even more, and changes in the economy and costs added even more pressure. Other than addressing the operating impacts of our efforts in the Capital Budget, the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget is focused on maintaining not adding services.

The decision making process was driven by our assessment of the economy and revenues, and a set of core values:

- We are committed to fiscal responsibility
- We strive to build economic development
- We support the preservation of our county's heritage
- We will pay for quality education
- We will act as stewards of our environment
- We will work to ensure a good quality of life for county residents

The budget process was open and available to anyone who was interested. From the first overview sessions, through all the work sessions, and all the way to the final decisions, the process was open to the public, broadcast live and rebroadcast on Cable Channel 24, and available on the county website. The information, the debates and the decisions were available during the process and are still available today.

Thank you for your interest in the budget. We hope that you will take the time to understand the budget and the choices that have been made.