

Wilmington, Delaware  
April 16, 2026

#0224

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Johnson**

**WHEREAS**, on Tuesday, March 24, 2006, New Castle County Executive Marcus Henry made his budget address, which included proposed a property tax increase of 17.2% for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilmington’s property owners contribute to both municipal and county tax structures. A substantial increase in county tax obligations would have a compounding effect on working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and small business owners who already face significant economic pressures; and

**WHEREAS**, for many Wilmington residents, property taxes may exacerbate housing affordability challenges, increase the risk of displacement, and create spillover effects for tenants. Small businesses in Wilmington, which are critical to the City’s economic vitality and neighborhood stability, would also incur increased operating costs that could hinder growth, hiring, and long-term sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington City Council recognizes the importance of adequately funding essential county services, including public safety, infrastructure, and social programs. The Council of the City of Wilmington respectfully requests that the Council of the County of New Castle give consideration to alternative strategies that are minimally disruptive to residents’ economic stability.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that this Legislative body urges the New Castle County Council to oppose the proposed 17.2% increase in county property tax rates for Fiscal Year 2027.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, as our residents contend with rising costs for essential services across sectors, the City of Wilmington encourages the New Castle County Administration and Legislative body to reconsider the scope and timing of the proposed increase due to its potential adverse impact on Wilmington residents, businesses, and overall economic stability.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution is being presented by City Council for Council’s review and approval. This Resolution urges the New Castle County Council to oppose the proposed 17.2% tax increase for FY2027. With consideration to the substantial new tax obligations many households are facing due to the recent reassessment and inflation more generally, that the County Council prioritize alternative revenue strategies to address budget shortfalls in FY2027.