



GEORGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Public Budget Hearing FY 2026

September 08, 2025 at 10 am

Presentation:

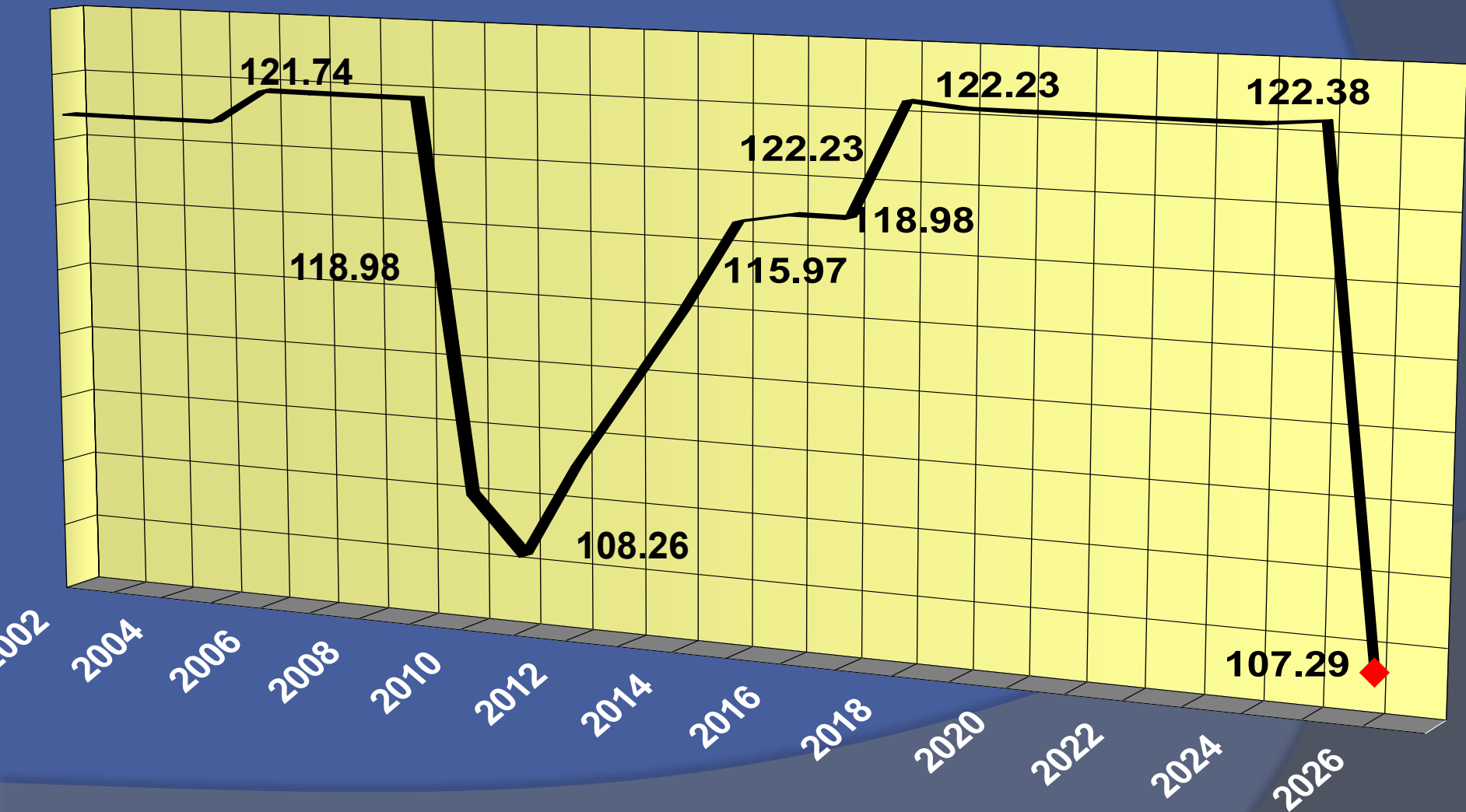
- Supervisor Frankie Massey- President
- Supervisor Kelly Wright- Vice Pres.
- Supervisor Larry McDonald
- Supervisor Larry Havard
- Supervisor Henry Cochran
- Chancery Clerk Cammie Byrd
- Comptroller Penny Anderson
- Community Develop. Ken Flanagan

Let's start with the...

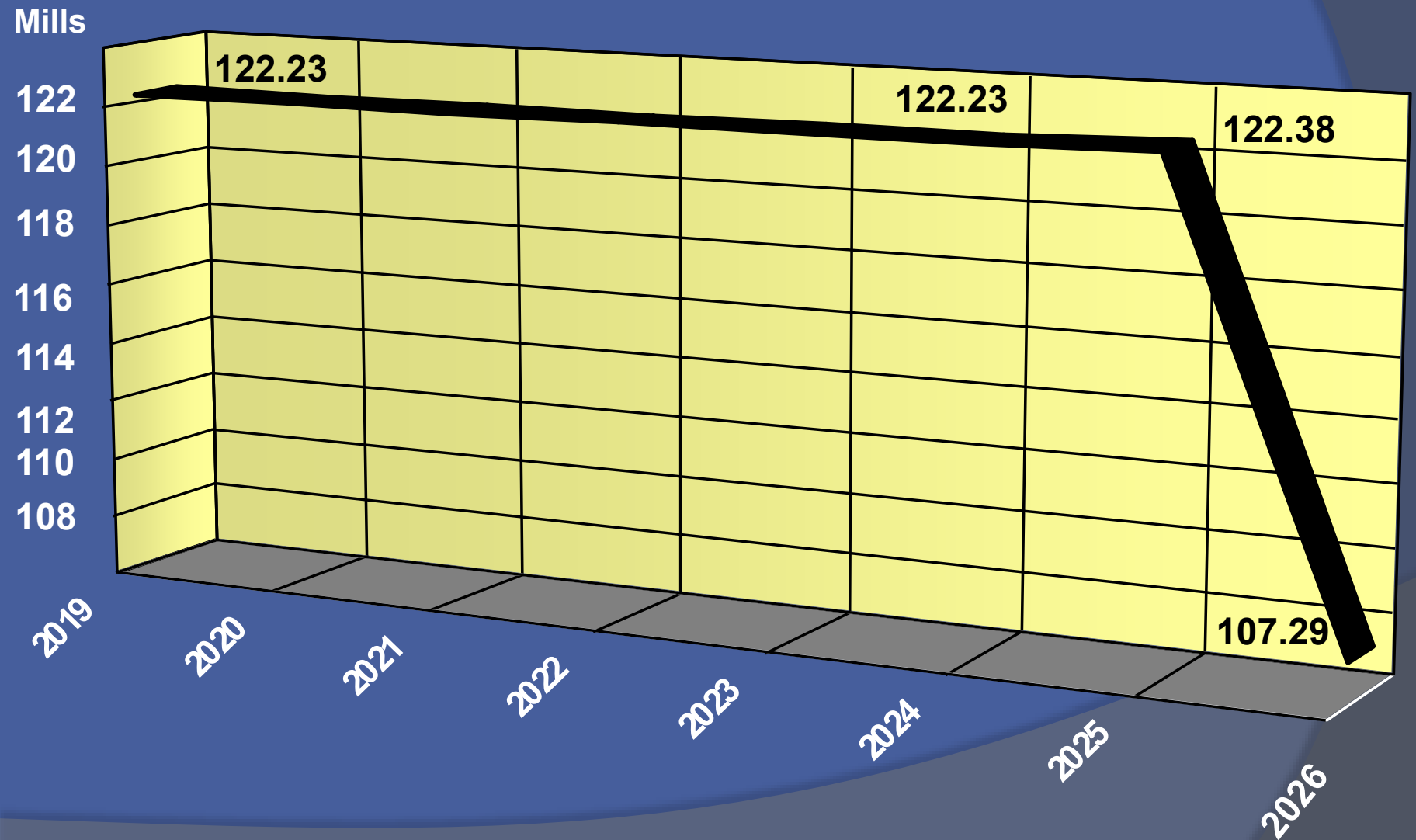
Largest

drop in millage rate in 25 years

County-wide Millage = 25 yrs



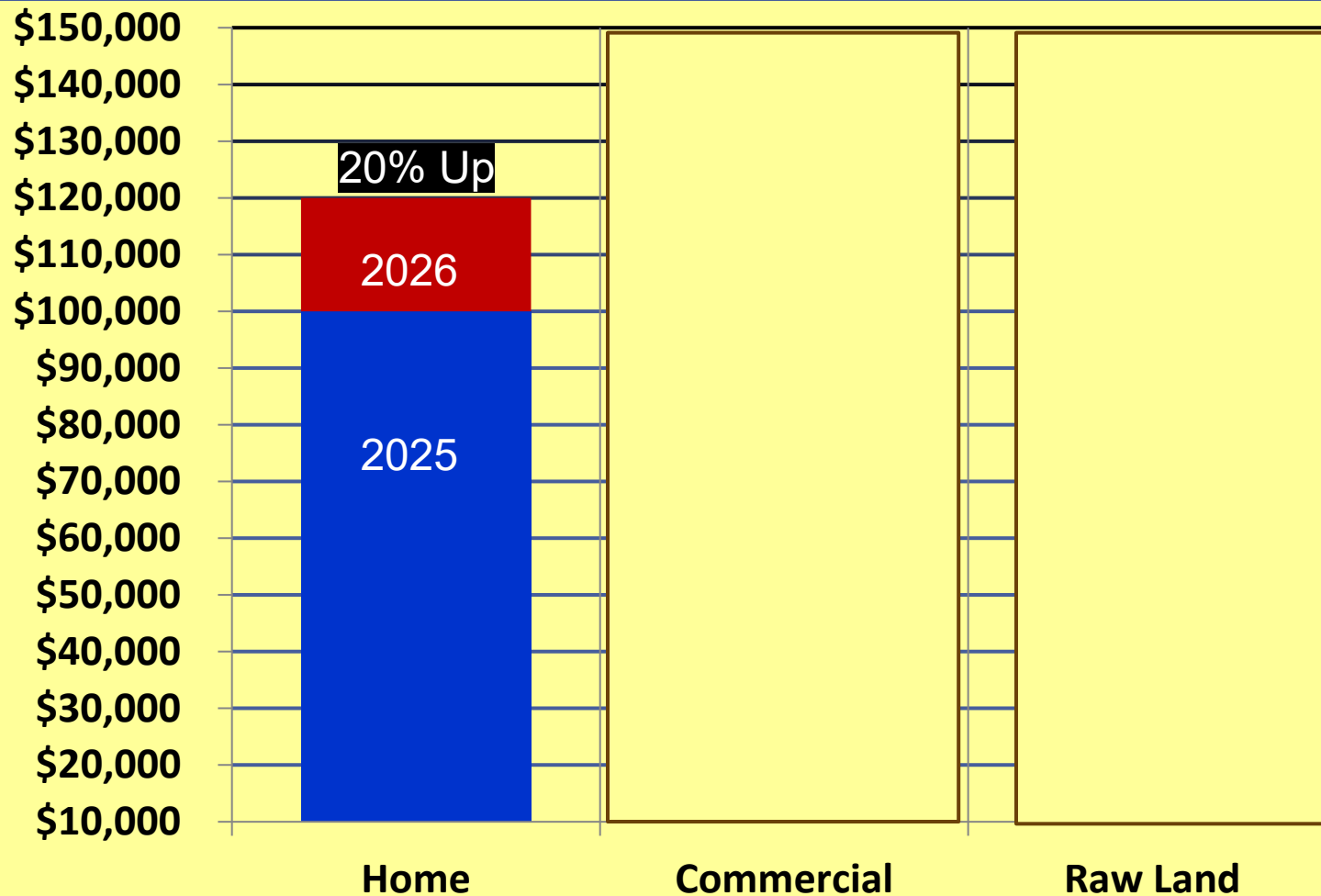
County-wide Millage = 8 yrs



BUT,

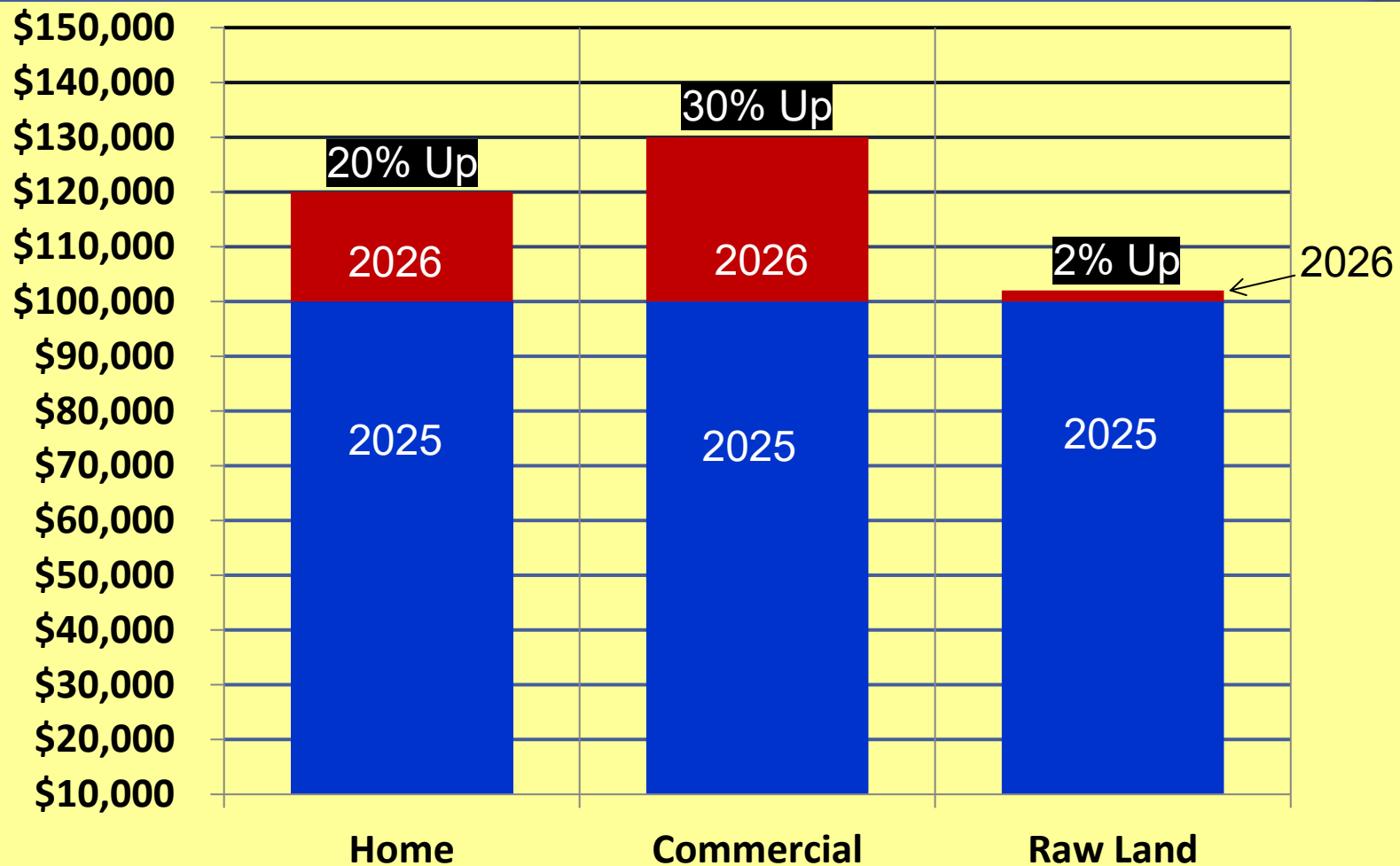
**MS Dept. of Revenue (DOR) increased
all property values through the
Index & Land Classifications**

Dept. of Revenue increases on Index & Land Classifications



Example: \$100,000 in accessed home value.

Dept. of Revenue increases on Index & Land Classifications



These are real local land samples but...
the range will change per property.

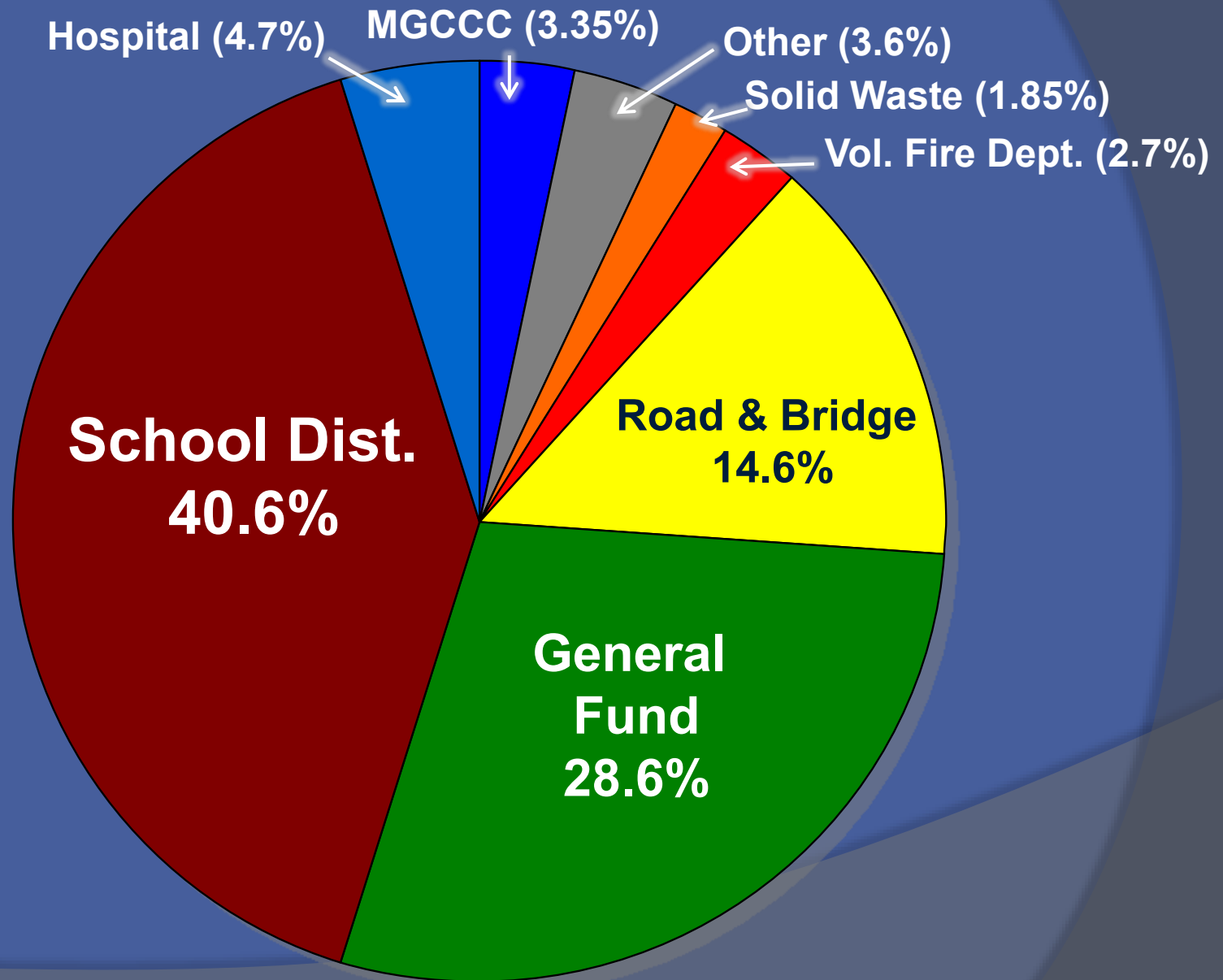
Dept. of Revenue increases on Index & Land Classifications

- The only way to off-set these mandatory State increases was for Supervisors to deeply cut the County's millage rates. The millage rate is used in-part to calculate a tax bill. A property's value is the other major billing factor.
- **NOTE:** This mandatory increase will not affect the **"Disable Exemption"** for a resident's primary home.
- **NOTE:** This mandatory increase will not affect the **"Senior Citizen Home Exemption"** for residents 65+ in their primary home.

County-wide Millage = 25 yrs

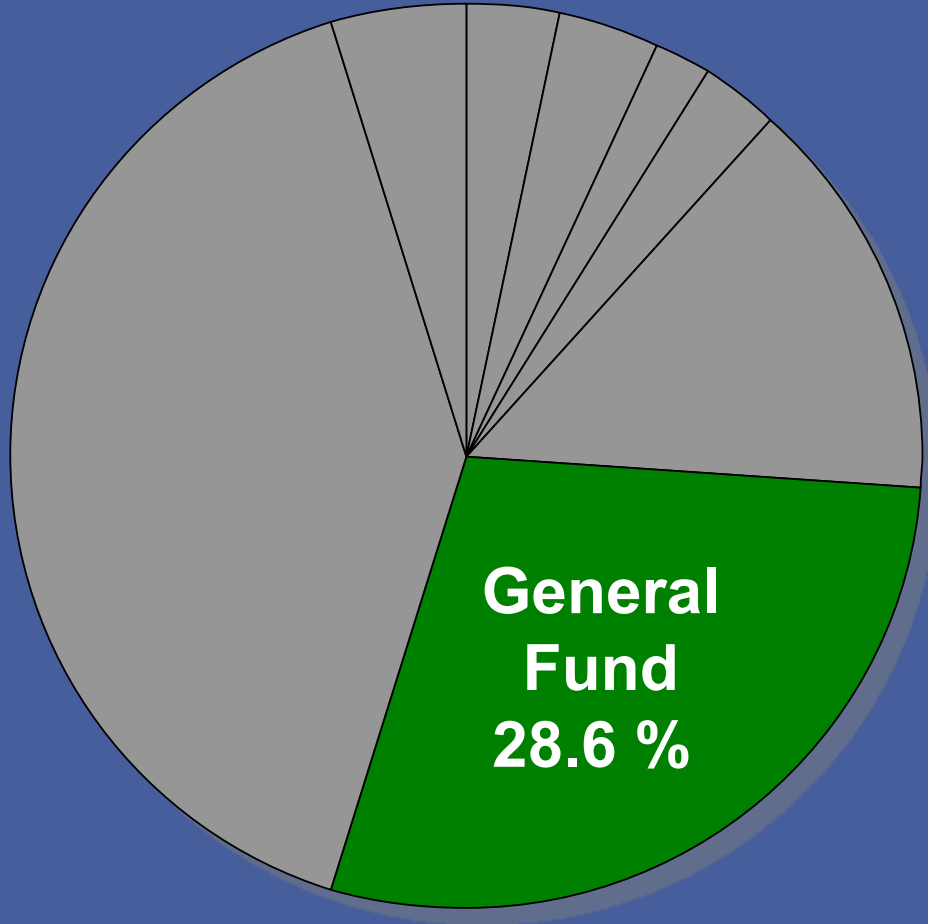


107.29 Breakdown



107.29 Millage Breakdown

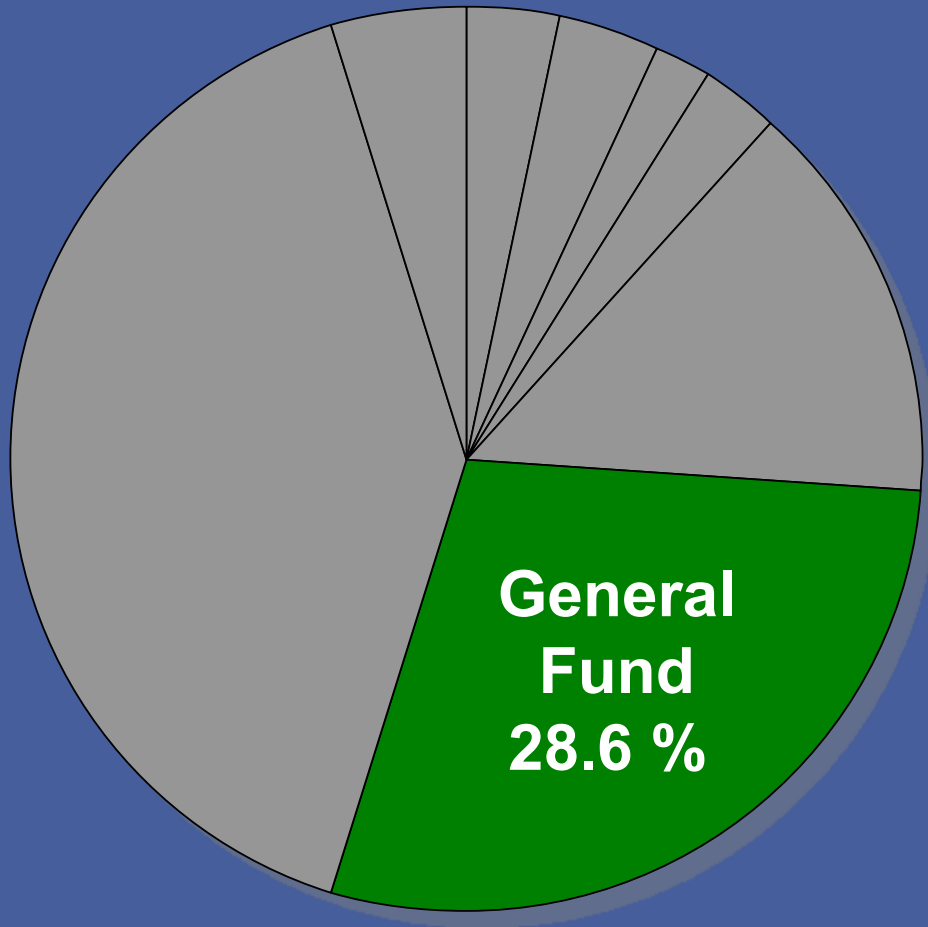
General Fund



- Deep cut to the General Fund of almost 6 mills:
- FY 2026- 30.69 mills
FY 2025- 36.43 mills
FY 2024- 36.43 mills
- Lowest amount in 25 years, previous low was in 2002 at 31.69

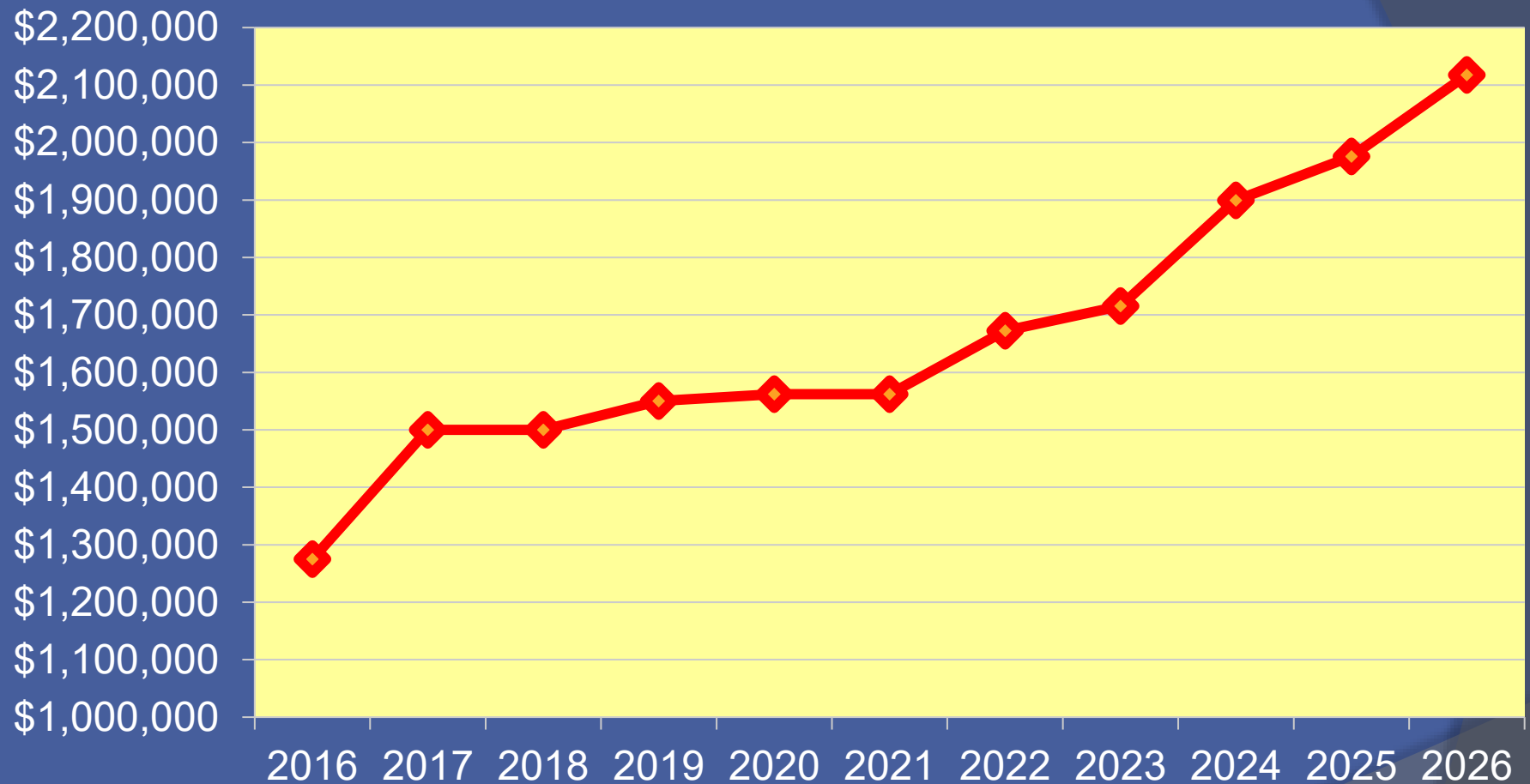
107.29 Millage Breakdown

General Fund



- All County Courts
- Board of Supervisors
- Bldg. & Grounds
- Chancery & Circuit
- Coroner & Constables
- County Jail
- County Employees
- Elections
- Emergency Reserve
- Economic Development
- Extension Service
- Sheriff Depart.
- Tax Collector
- Veterans Affairs

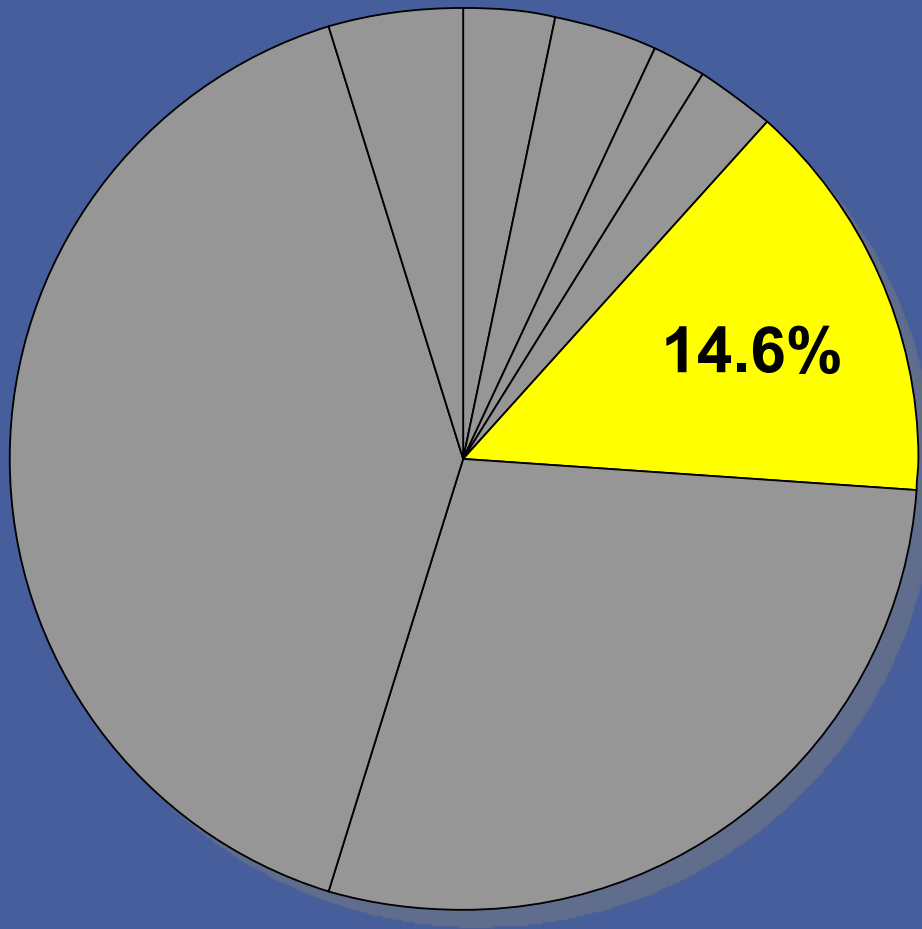
General Fund - Sheriff Dept.



- **\$2.1** Million Sheriff Dept. budget, **first time in County history**
 - This budget does not include County's Jail funds.

107.29 Millage Breakdown

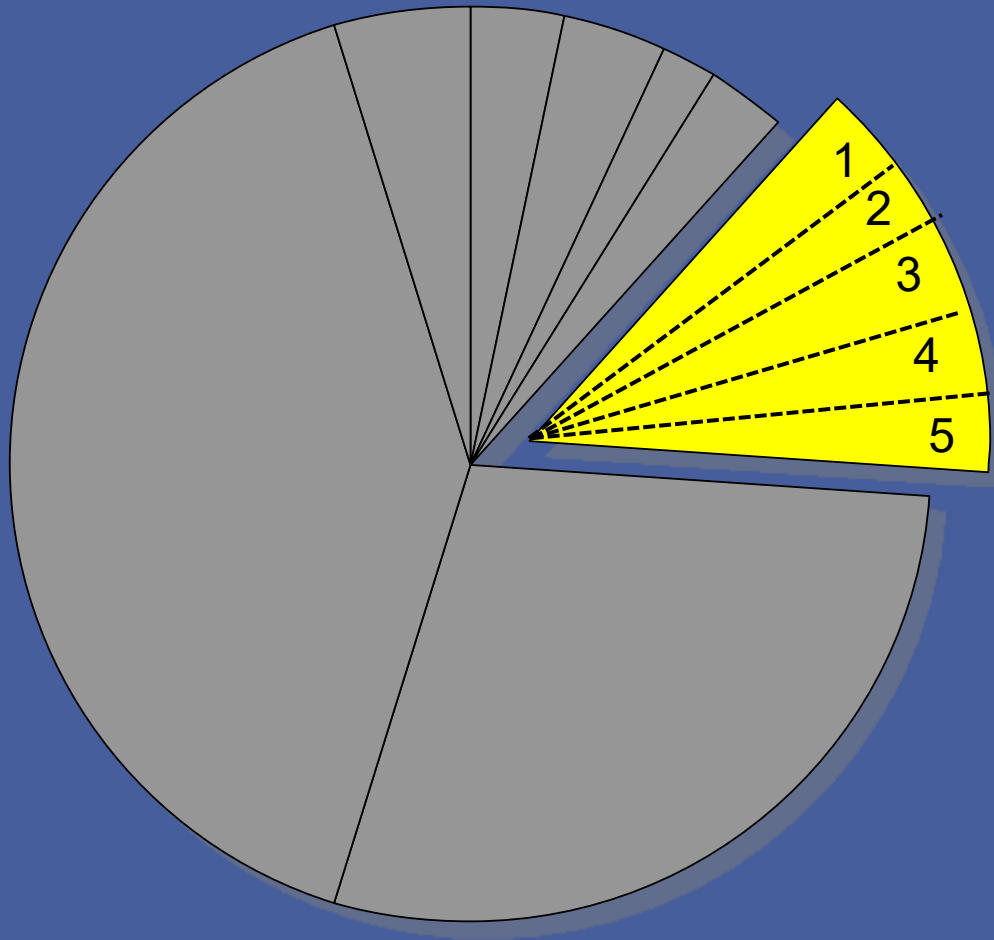
Road & Bridge



- *Major drop in road millage to **15.65** from **19.15** mills*
- ***3.5** mill decrease for FY 2026*
- *Lowest level in Road & Bridge millage in **26** years*

107.29 Millage Breakdown

Road & Bridge



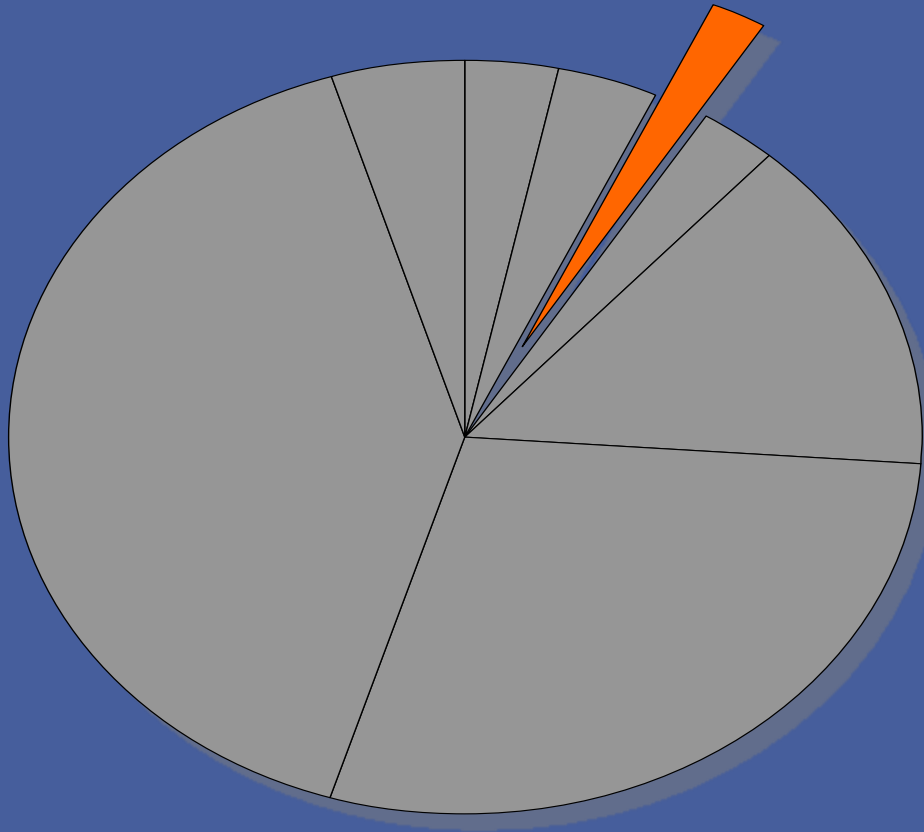
- The **15.65 mills** is then divided evenly between all five districts
- Each district road fund will receive **3.13 mills** for Maintenance and Bridge/Culvert funds.

Road & Bridge has dropped
from **26.70 mills** to **15.65 mills**
over the last 26 years.



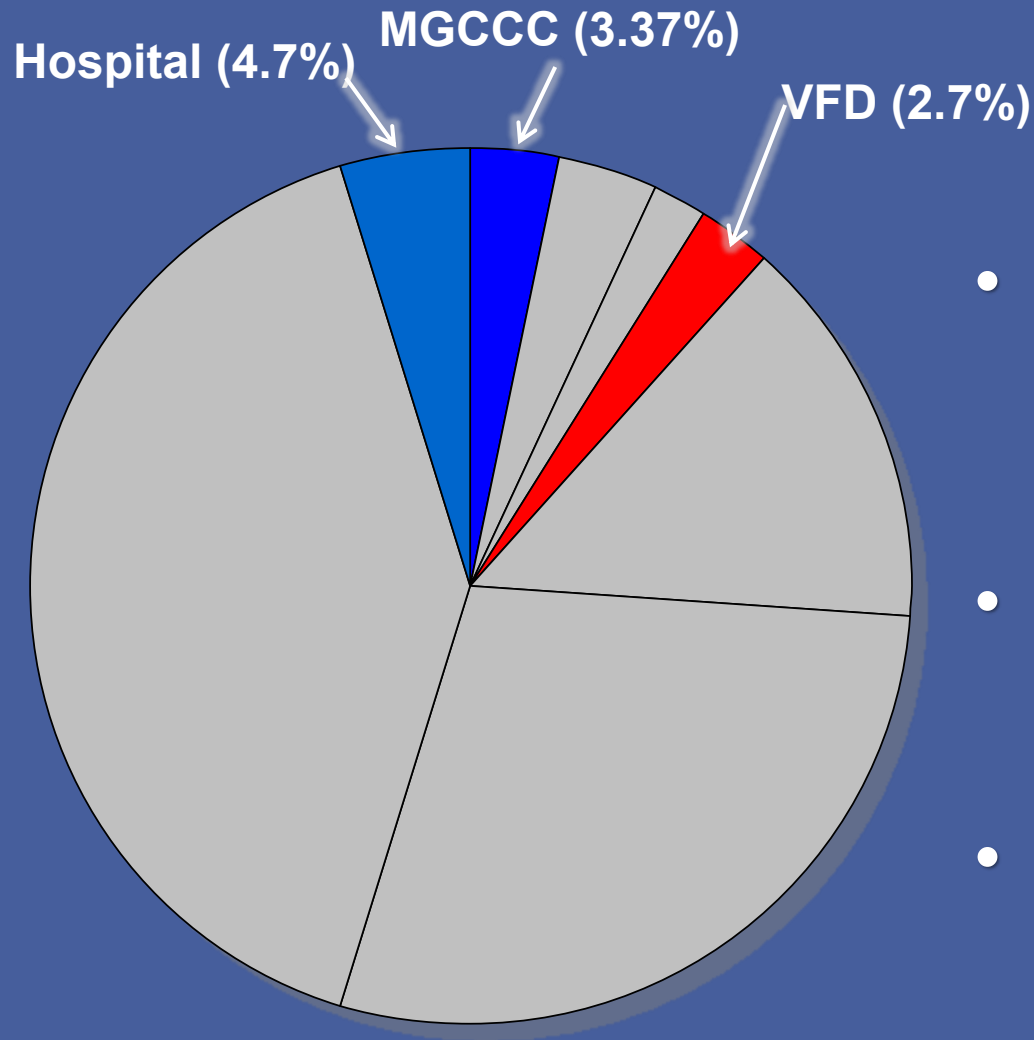
107.29 Millage Breakdown

Solid Waste Dept.



- **2 mills** restored in FY 2026 for contingency fund & maintenance
- In 2023, the entire 2 mills cut and moved to General Fund.
- Household service & routes have and will remain the same

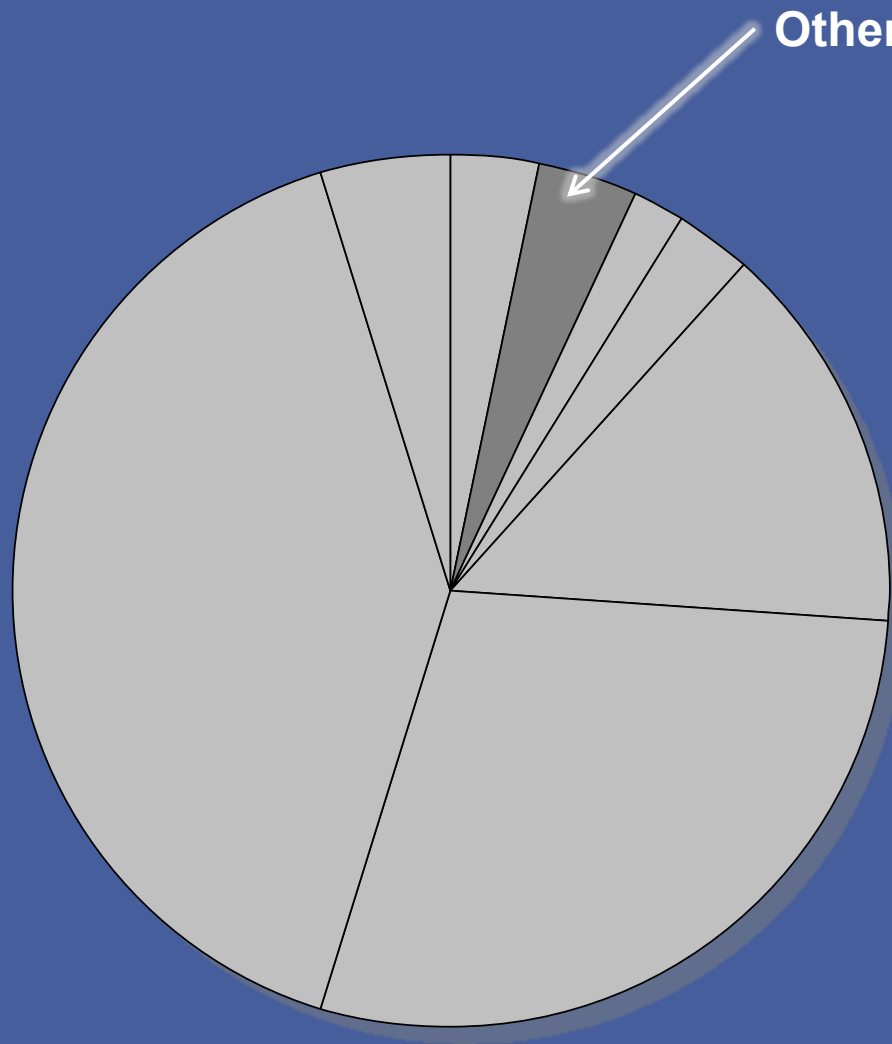
107.29 Millage Breakdown



More Pieces

- George Regional Health System
- Same millage rate (**5 mills**) but increase in funding
- MGCCC- George Co. Campus
- Lower millage (**3.62**) but increase in funding
- GC Volunteer Fire Department
- Same millage rate (**2.92**) but increase in funding

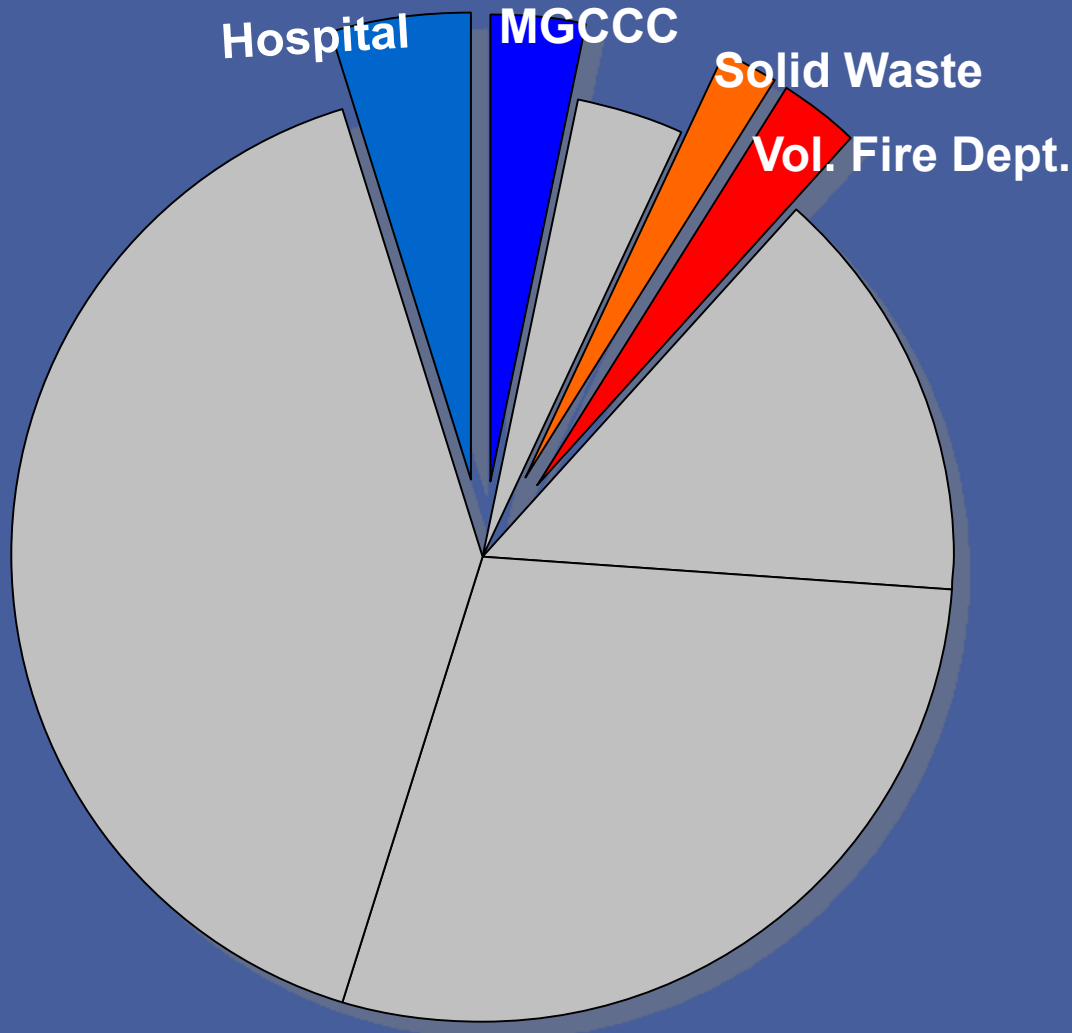
107.29 Millage Breakdown



Final Pieces

- “Other” smaller category:
 - Lucedale Library- **1.00**
 - Reappraisal- **1.00**
 - Mandatory Fund- **1.00**
 - PHWD Dist.- **0.87**
- Almost exactly the same as FY 2025

107.29 Breakdown



Comparison

Board's historic
15.09 mill drop in 2026
is equal to combined
millage of:

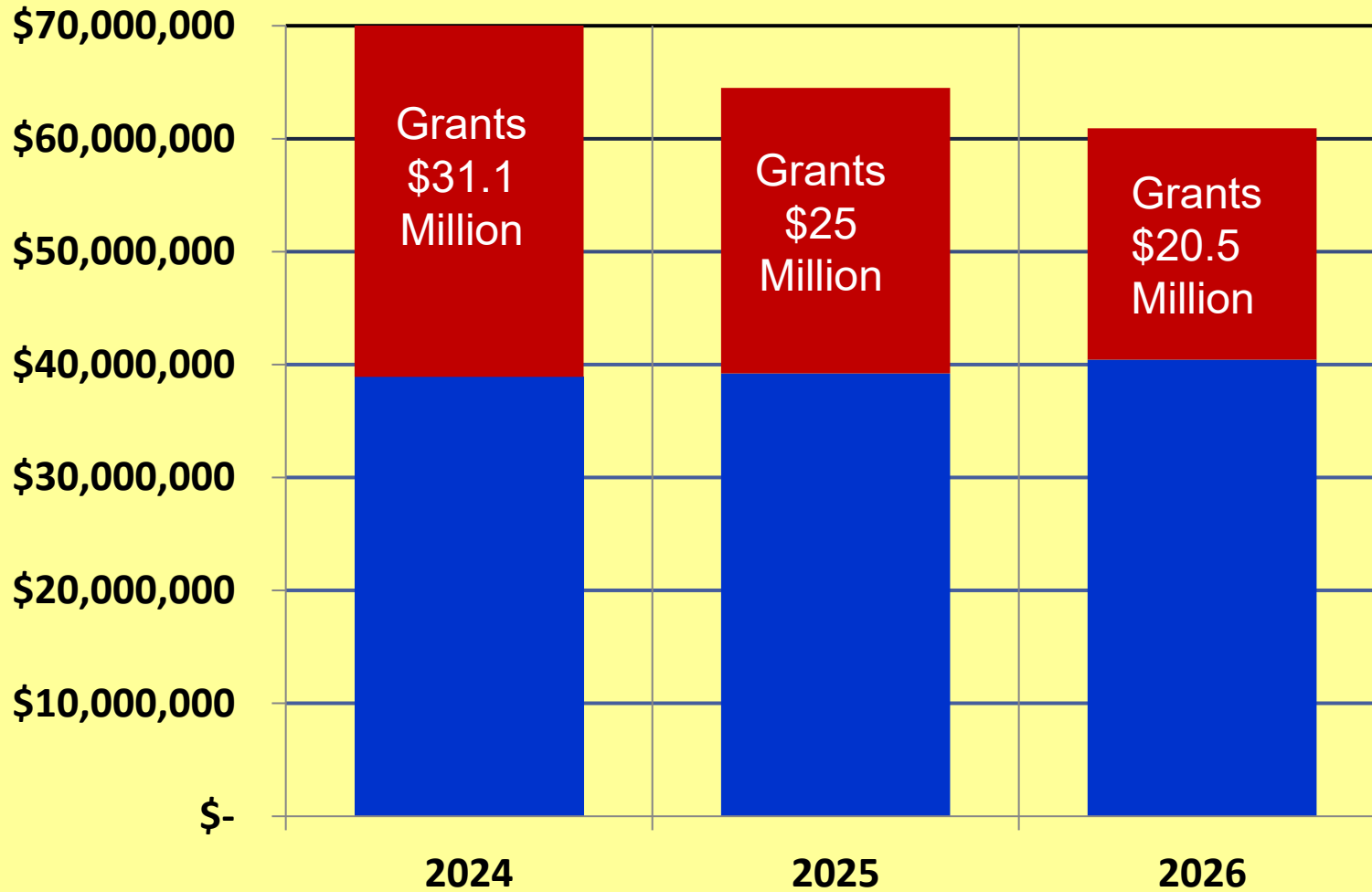
- Hospital Bond
- MGCCC
- Solid Waste
- Vol. Fire Dept

A big budget factor is...

Grants !

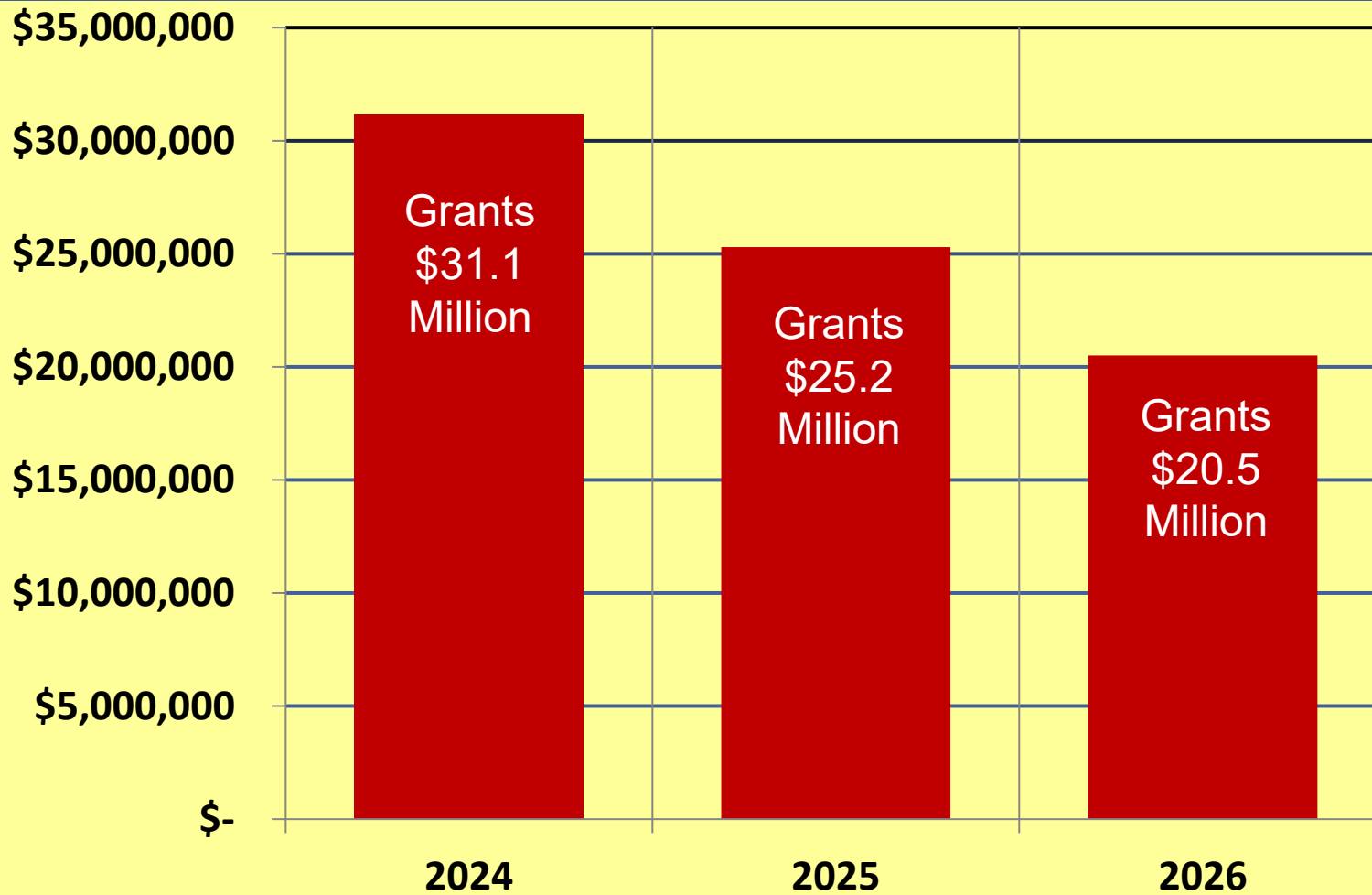
Estimated **\$20.5 Million** in 2026

County “Revenue” Budget



Grants drop due to no FEMA hurricane funds & less federal Merrill Bridge funds in 2026

County “Grants” Budget



This decrease is actually a positive!
No Hurricane funds and Bridge funds spent

Grants !

Projects from FY 2025

Grant- Federal Hwy. Administration (MDOT)

New Merrill Bridge



Grant- Federal Hwy. Administration (MDOT)

New Merrill Bridge



Grant- Gulf Coast Restoration Funds (MDA)

Old Hwy. 63 North- Paving & Stripping



Grant- COPS Grant (US Justice Dept.)

New 911 Dispatch Center



Layout Rendering
Ordered Aug. 2025

Grant- Gulf Coast Restoration Funds (MDA)

Grain Elevator & River Road Improvement Project



May 2025

Grant- State/County Fire Rebate

New VFD Pumper Trucks



Aug. 2025

Grant- State Funding HB 603 & SB 2468 (DFA)

East Wilkerson Ferry Road Improvement Project



Sept. 2025

Grant- State Appropriation SB 2468 (DFA)

Five Beat Fire Hydrant Project



Grant- American Rescue Plan Act (US Treasury)

New Soccer Complex



Sept. 04, 2025

Grant- State Appropriation & Private Businesses

New Railroad & Trucking Expansion in Industrial Park



P-4

SHEET
DATE
BY
CHECKED
DATE
BY
APPROVED
DATE
BY

PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION



GEORGE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK RAILROAD EXTENSION

GEORGE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK
GEORGE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI 39452
FOR GEORGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Public Information

- **NOTICE: GRAPHS & CHARTS ARE SAME SCALE**

All graphs & charts for millage in this presentation are set to the same numerical standards as previous budget presentations. Residents can directly compare past charts with current.

- **NOTICE: DATA BASED ON FY2026 SUMMARY SHEET**

This presentation is based on the budget summary sheet prepared by the County's Finance Dept. and used throughout the year by the Board. The summary uses the same standards from previous years.

- **NOTICE: VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

This presentation and several past FY Budget Presentations are posted on the County's website under the "Board" and "What's New" pages.

georgecountyms.com

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS