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To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Breton, Andrew S. - City Council](#); [Brown, Whitney H. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Opposition to ORD. 2025-207
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I write in opposition to Ordinance 2025-207, which seeks to amend City Code § 26-355 to establish a tax rate of \$1.20 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2026.

Since 2018, the first full year in which I owned my house and the assessed value recalculated to my purchase price, my real estate taxes have **compounded almost 12%** per year. This year, they increased 20%. Our 2026 proposed taxes are twice what we paid in 2018, having done no improvements on our house other than replacing ancient HVAC systems with more efficient ones and converting to natural gas from heating oil.

Richmond codifying a tax increase will ensure that the city capitulates growth to the surrounding counties. The headline number is a psychological barrier for those considering moving to the city with an eye towards home ownership. It will also continue the rise in rental rates. Richmond real estate taxes are currently at least 25% higher than any county within 35 miles of the City:

Locality	Real Estate Tax Rate/per \$	100 % Difference
Richmond City	1.20	
Chesterfield County	0.89	-25.83
Henrico County	0.83	-30.83
Hanover County	0.81	-32.50
Goochland County	0.53	-55.83
Powhatan County	0.75	-37.50
Charles City County	0.76	-36.67
New Kent County	0.67	-44.17
King William County	0.84	-30.42
Amelia County	0.51	-57.50

	\$	
Dinwiddie County	0.79	-34.17
	\$	
Sussex County	0.48	-60.00

Many surrounding counties are by and large growing faster than Richmond. Richmond city residents like us and my neighbors, who consider ourselves a vital source of growth for the City, send our children to public schools and are active in the school and wider community are being put in the position of voting with our pocketbooks to leave the city.

I urge you to oppose this tax increase and keep our property taxes low, stable, and strive to eventually meet parity with our neighboring counties lower rates.

George Ross Parman
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