

Opposing Proposed Federal Budget That Would Harm Northern Virginia

Background:

The Republican Administration released a budget blueprint for Fiscal Year 2018 (“proposed federal budget” or “Trump budget”) on March 16, 2017. The Stephen S. Fuller Institute for Research on the Washington Region’s Economic Future at George Mason University (“the Institute”) has conducted an analysis of President Trump’s proposed federal budget and has found that “[t]he net direct effect of the Trump budget, if implemented as proposed, would result in” the following across the Washington, D.C. region:

- [A] decrease of between 20,000 to 24,600 federal jobs, taking between \$2.3 and \$2.7 billion of federal salaries out of the economy;
- [A] decrease of between \$800 million to \$1.2 billion in federal procurement spending, resulting in a loss of up to 12,000 private sector contractor jobs, and;
- [A] decrease of \$1.1 billion in federal grants in the Washington region;

More specifically, the Institute has also estimated that under the proposed federal budget, Northern Virginia stands to lose anywhere between 500 and 3,600 federal jobs and \$21 million in federal grants. The Institute further predicts that “[t]he direct effect of the proposed Trump budget on federal activity in our region will have a noticeable effect on the region’s economy and could undermine growth in the upcoming years.”

For example, the proposed federal budget includes removing all federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which is based in Arlington, Virginia and it explicitly calls for “approximately 3,200 fewer positions at the [Environmental Protection Agency],” an agency that engages in the critical task of protecting our environment and that employs many Northern Virginia residents.

The proposed federal budget includes deep spending cuts to numerous federal agencies that employ residents of Northern Virginia, including, among others, the State Department and USAID, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Such cuts will result in many Northern Virginia residents losing their jobs at some or all of the aforementioned federal agencies in which they perform important work on behalf of the nation.

The proposed 2018 Federal budget is not in the best interests of Virginia’s citizens or the country and should not be adopted.

Therefore, be it resolved that: the 2017 Virginia Eighth District Democratic Convention:

1. Opposes the proposed federal budget as it would harm the economy and citizens of the Washington, D.C. region generally, including Northern Virginia.
2. Encourages Democrats to hold elected officials accountable should they actively and/or passively support budgetary policies such as this that are harmful to Northern Virginia.