

**For Internal Use Only**



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

*On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City*, the mission of the Budget and Appropriations Committee is to analyze and oversee the continuing operations, efficiency, and functions of Baltimore City government.

The Committee provides regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, periodically analyzes the budget reports and activities of those agencies, and maintains a high level of fiscal accountability in City government.

As a result of its analysis and oversight, the Committee will recommend reforms to improve the operations of any of these agencies; through legislative, administrative, and/or budgetary improvements.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020  
5:00 PM**

**VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING**

**TO BE TELEVISED ON CABLE TV 25**

***Council Bill #20-0528***  
**Annual Property Tax – Fiscal Year 2021**

**TAXPAYERS' NIGHT**

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### **BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS**

Eric Costello – Chair  
Leon Pinkett – Vice Chair  
Bill Henry  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer  
Shannon Sneed  
Danielle McCray  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### **CYBERSECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Eric Costello – Co-chair  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer – Co-  
chair  
Sharon Green Middleton  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

Zeke Cohen – Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke – Vice Chair  
John Bullock  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Leon Pinkett  
*Staff: Jennifer Coates*

### **EQUITY AND STRUCTURE**

Bill Henry – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett – Vice Char  
Danielle McCray  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

### **EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS**

Robert Stokes – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett – Vice Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke  
Zeke Cohen  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### **HEALTH**

Kristerfer Burnett – Chair  
Bill Henry - Vice Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke  
Edward Reisinger  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### **HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

John Bullock – Chair  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer – Vice  
Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Zeke Cohen  
Ryan Dorsey  
Bill Henry  
Shannon Sneed  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*

### **JUDICIARY**

Eric Costello – Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke – Vice Chair  
John Bullock  
Leon Pinkett  
Edward Reisinger  
Shannon Sneed  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

### **LABOR**

Shannon Sneed – Chair  
Robert Stokes – Vice Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke  
Bill Henry  
Danielle McCray  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

### **LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

Kristerfer Burnett – Chair  
Danielle McCray – Vice Chair  
Ryan Dorsey  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer  
Shannon Sneed  
*Staff: Jennifer Coates*

### **LAND USE**

Edward Reisinger - Chair  
Shannon Sneed – Vice Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke  
Eric Costello  
Ryan Dorsey  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Leon Pinkett  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett – Vice Chair  
Zeke Cohen  
Danielle McCray  
Leon Pinkett  
Shannon Sneed  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*

### **TAXATION, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Sharon Green Middleton – Chair  
Danielle McCray – Vice Chair  
Eric Costello  
Edward Reisinger  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*  
- Larry Greene (*pension  
only*)

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Ryan Dorsey – Chair  
Leon Pinkett – Vice Chair  
John Bullock  
*Staff: Jennifer Coates*



## BILL SYNOPSIS

**Committee:** Budget and Appropriations

**Council Bill:** 20-0528

---

### Annual Property Tax – Fiscal Year 2021

---

**Sponsor:** *President Scott at the request of the Department of Finance*

**Introduced:** *May 11, 2020*

**Purpose:**

**For the purpose of** providing a tax for the use of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; providing for estimated billings pursuant to State law; and setting the semiannual payment service charge for that period.

**Effective:** On the date it is enacted.

---

### Agency Reports

**Not Applicable**

---

### Analysis

**Current Law**

I. Article VI – Board of Estimates

Section 3 et seq.

Baltimore City Charter

II. Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland (Section 10-210 – Tax – Property Article)

III. State Tax-Property Article, Section 10-204.3

## Background

This Ordinance proposes a tax rate of \$2.248 on every \$100 of assessed or assessable real property in Baltimore City and a tax of \$5.62 levied on every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of:

1. Personal property; and
2. Operating real property as described in the State Tax Property Article – Section 8 – 109C.

The proposed tax rate is the same as proposed in fiscal year 2020.

Per State law, the Constant Yield Tax Rate for Baltimore City for fiscal year 2020/2021 must be advertised. As required, the advertisement was placed in the Baltimore Sun newspaper on Saturday, May 16, 2018. **A copy of the ad is attached.**

This hearing is also referred to as “**Taxpayers’ Night.**”

**Taxpayers’ Night** provide the residents of Baltimore City the opportunity to share comments and concerns about the City’s budget.

Note: The Committee/Council members listen to the speakers/citizens but do not answer and/or respond to questions or comments during the hearing.

## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** The Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Property Tax is the same rate as last fiscal year.

**Information Source(s):** City Charter, Annotated Code of Maryland and State Law and Council Bill Numbers 19-0387 and 20-0528.

## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:**

**Information Source(s):** City Charter, Council Bill 19-0387 and Council Bill 20-0528.

Analysis by: *Marguerite M. Currin*  
Marguerite M. Currin  
Direct Inquiries to: 443-984-3485

Analysis Date: May 22, 2020

# BALTIMORE CITY NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of Baltimore City proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2020, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 2.99% from \$38,890,146,197 to \$40,051,659,846.
2. If Baltimore City maintains the current tax rate of \$2.248 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 2.99% resulting in \$26,110,827 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$2.1828, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$2.248 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 2.99% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$26,110,827 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. The hearing will be held remotely via video and audio teleconference. For information on how to view the video conference or listen via audio, or to provide testimony into the conference, please visit the City Council's web page at [www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com) or use the following link: <https://bit.ly/baltimoretaxpayers>. This page also contains information on registering for public comment.

Participants who join the video conference will be enabled to speak. Speakers will be allowed to address the Council for two (2) minutes. Public comment may also be made by emailing [marguerite.curnin@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:marguerite.curnin@baltimorecity.gov). All electronic comments must be submitted by 1:00 PM on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Comments received will be read by Baltimore City Council staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call the Office of Council Services at 443-984-3485 or visit the Council's web page at [www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com), for further information.



Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young talks the Democratic nomination for mayor on June 2. Young is shown talking to Gov. Larry Hogan on April 24 in Baltimore.

## MAYOR

From page 1  
June 2 primary to hold onto his seat. He argues he's been the "steady hand" that Baltimore needs as it deals with estate after crisis.

The mayor is asking voters to give him a shot at a full, four-year term so he can not only help the city recover from the pandemic, but carry out his vision for Baltimore.

Some are inclined to do so. There are residents loyal to him based on his two decades of work on the City Council, people who remember him going to great lengths to resolve their water billing issues and broken street lights — the kinds of small problems that make their lives harder. But he's confronting an electorate increasingly fed up with the status quo and Baltimore's intractable problems, particularly the relentless number of shootings and homicides. Several candidates point themselves as political outsiders with fresh ideas for how to disrupt the cycle of violence that has continued unabated during Young's time in office.

A Baltimore Sun/WYPR-TV/University of Baltimore poll conducted in late February showed him lagging and his campaign commitments would carry on that Young can't count on incumbency for a boost in the crowded race. They also took note of some of his verbal gaffes, which have become a harbinger of his past since he's become mayor.

Coronavirus-related shutdowns and social distancing guidelines hamper all candidates, drastically changing how to run for office. But while Young's opponents have found ways, and time, to campaign, Young says he can't. He cannot guarantee this week at a debate, after his ringing phone interrupted the video conference call.

"The show, I'm still running the city," he said, after being asked to make his plans. The last daily calls with the county coroner of Maryland's largest jurisdiction are held frequent news briefings, headed by his health and police commissioners.

It is no longer possible for his campaign to hold \$1.6-million-a-day fundraisers, and definitely not possible to knock on voters' doors. Some of his signature nonprofit initiatives have been put on hold, too.

At least for now, the coronavirus is all-consuming and career-defining.

"I loved four more years to continue moving the city forward," he says, "and do the good things that we've done."

Young still sees himself as an underdog. He grew up in East Baltimore, the 8th of 10 children, working a series of jobs throughout his teenage years before landing at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He started out working part-time, serving food, before moving over to the cafeteria and then rising up to management.

He got involved in the Democratic Party early, leading industrial political organizations and waiting for a shot at the job.

That shot came in 1994, when he was selected to fill a vacant 2nd District council seat. Young won the seat in his own right during the next election.

He moved up the ranks via yet another political shuffle. After then-Mayor Sheila Dixon refused to 2007 as part of a plan deal in a corruption investigation, then-Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake ascended to her office and the council members unanimously selected Young to lead them. Dixon is now one of the five mayor candidates challenging Young.

As council president, he pushed for police officers to wear body cameras and led the creation of a dedicated fund to support grassroots youth organizations. The driving forces of his work, he says, are the needs of the city's poorest residents, its children and its elderly.

As mayor, he set his priorities as "jobs and justice." He launched a data-driven campaign to clean up the city, making significant progress toward a goal of clearing a steep backlog of 20 requests and filling 1,000 potholes. He also headed Police Commissioner Michael Harrison to roll out ideas for boosting public safety adopted from cities like Chicago and New Orleans.

Young is paid \$200,000 a year. He has had heated questions over his living arrangements, such as council president and mayor. He previously collected a homebased tax credit of about \$1,000 on a rowhouse in East Baltimore he doesn't live in, and in December said he would return

**Bernard C. "Jack" Young**  
Age 61  
Superior Mayor of Baltimore (July 2010-present), City Council president (2006-2010), City Councilman (1996-2006).  
Education: Northern High School, Community College of Baltimore.  
Family: Wife of 28 years, Barbara. Two adult children.

This was 10 years after he led reporters on a tour of his home, even showing them a drawer full of underwear, to answer questions about his residency.

Young always knew, still catches heat for off-the-cuff comments. When asked last winter about the city approaching 300 homicides in 2019, he bristled. "I'm not committing the murders," he said, "and that's what people need to understand." Shortly after, he worried — without evidence — of his wife used to hiding girls.

For some voters, these kinds of comments represent a dearth of leadership and are a sign he's not up to the job. Others believe he's unfairly targeted by the media, and say they appreciate that he has remained in the spotlight over two decades steeped in politics.

"He speaks directly to the people," said supporter Pamela Barrett, 32.

Young complains that coverage of such comments overshadows his accomplishments, including his role he played in buying the historic Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course. When the city and the Storch Group, which owns the track, were tied up in a lawsuit, the new mayor approached the company's president at the 2019 Preakness. He talked about a fresh start, which led to the successful acquisition.

Also, he reminds voters, he's the mayor who finally opened recreation centers on Saturdays.

What may be freshest in voters' minds, however, is how he responded to the coronavirus upended their lives. Other candidates are campaigning on what they would do when faced with a crisis, Young gets to act.

Young's early efforts — including teaming up with Baltimore's world-renowned hospitals, instituting a living wage and opening a testing site in the city's hardest-hit ZIP code — earned him praise. Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House Coronavirus Task Force commended him publicly, along with the mayors of Philadelphia and Washington, for working with their communities to "rely change the curves in these areas."

Still, some city voters have said that when they think of the man with leadership during this crisis, they think of Republican Gov. Larry Hogan rather than Young.

There, in a decisive moment Thursday, Young became one of three local executives to reject Hogan's decision to fill the state's stay-at-home order. The mayor dismissed the governor for not doing more to get jurisdiction the testing kits they need.

No matter what other counties decide to do about reopening, Young called the city his responsibility. "I don't want no damage to be on my hands."

Sheryl Gilchrist, his deputy chief of staff for operations, credits the mayor with surrounding himself with a good team. "He listens to sound advice and makes decisions based on data," she said. "That's leadership in these times."

But Young's also comes in for criticism during the pandemic from advocates for the city's homeless population. They're protesting at his bedside, and even outside his home, to demand he take stiffer action to protect the people who don't have shelter during a nationwide stay-at-home order.

Young's administration is currently sheltering about 400 homeless people in hotels.

The mayor had to reverse his 2018 budget proposal to account for the coronavirus economic blow, engaging unions because loss of revenue may lead to pay freezes, furloughs or layoffs.

And gone from the budget is Young's plan to open five additional district-level, crime-fighting centers for a total of nine just two more will have to do. He had to eliminate a grant-reversal request halting his election to clean up the city.

If he gets those next four years in City Hall, perhaps he can turn back to his plan.

Covering Maryland: Alary Miller

THE BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP

Insertion Number: 3 x 20.45

Advertiser: Baltimore City Council

Section/Page/Zone: BSE11/A010/Generic

Publication Date: 05/16/2020

Color Type: B&W

Description: Balti City Council - Real Property

Baltimore City Council

This Electronic Tearsheet serves as confirmation that the ad appeared in a Baltimore Sun Media Group Publication on the date and page indicated. Exploiting or repurposing any content displayed or contained is prohibited.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 20-0528  
(First Reader)**

---

Introduced by: The Council President  
At the request of: The Administration (Department of Finance)  
Introduced and read first time: May 11, 2020  
Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Annual Property Tax - Fiscal Year 2021**

3 FOR the purpose of providing a tax for the use of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for  
4 the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; providing for estimated billings pursuant to  
5 State law; and setting the semiannual payment service charge for that period.

6 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That for  
7 the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, a tax is levied and imposed for the use of the  
8 Mayor and City Council of Baltimore on all property in the City of Baltimore (except property  
9 exempt by law), as follows:

10 (a) except as otherwise specified in item (b) of this section, a tax of \$2.248 is levied and  
11 imposed on every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of real property; and

12 (b) a tax of \$5.62 is levied and imposed on every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of:

13 (1) personal property; and

14 (2) operating real property described in State Tax-Property Article § 8-109(c).

15 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this tax shall be paid and collected in the  
16 manner prescribed by law including the provisions of Section 10-210 of the Tax-Property Article  
17 of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland.

18 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That for the period July 1, 2020, through June  
19 30, 2021, the semiannual payment service charges to be imposed under State Tax-Property  
20 Article section 10-204.3 is 0.33%.

21 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
22 enacted.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.