

Ordinance Number 76, 2025

County Council Action to Override or Strike the Executive's Veto of November 26, 2025

PURSUANT to Article II, Section 1C1 and Article VIII, Sections 5 through 6 of the Home Rule Charter, County Council hereby overrides or strikes vetoes outlined in the Executive's veto letter dated November 26, 2025, as follows:

(A) County Council hereby moves to override or strike the Executive's vetoes to the final Budget Ordinance passed by County Council on November 20, 2025:

(1) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 60, "2026 Gaming Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 3), to fund Black Wall Street by \$249,990.

Motion to Override: Failed 4-3 (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski)

(2) County Council moves to **strike** the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 60, "2026 Gaming Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 4.1), to reduce Municipal Projects by \$250,000.

Motion to Strike: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(3) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 60, "2026 Gaming Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 4.2), to increase Diverse Erie (DEIC) by \$250,000.

Motion to Override: Failed 4-3 (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski)

(4) County Council moves to **strike** the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 60, "2026 Gaming Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 5), to reduce the Gaming Fund Budget by \$380,190 and to override the increase of \$380,190 to the General Fund Budget.

Motion to Strike: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(5) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 62, 2025, "2026 Pleasant Ridge Manor Operating Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 2), to adjust budget to the original Pleasant Ridge Manor budget proposal, increasing the budget by \$1,533,750.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(6) County Council moves to **strike** the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 64, 2025, "2026 American Rescue Plan Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 2), to decrease the Municipal Infrastructure by \$528,055.

Motion to Strike: Passed 4-3 (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski)

(7) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 64, 2025, "2026 American Rescue Plan Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 3), to increase Public Safety Asset Grants by \$71,000.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(8) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 64, 2025, "2026 American Rescue Plan Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 4), to increase DEIC Fund by \$250,000.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(9) County Council moves to **strike** the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 64, 2025, "2026 American Rescue Plan Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 6), to reduce the 2026 American Rescue Plan Fund Budget by \$207,055 and override the increase of \$207,055 to the General Fund Budget.

Motion to Strike: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(10) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 5), to reinstate the Human Relations Bureau, as originally submitted \$329,436.

Motion to Override: Passed 6-1 (Bayle)

(11) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 17), to increase computer equipment by \$250,000.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(12) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 20), to increase computer equipment and software expense by \$313,185.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(13) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 32), to increase Summer Youth Jobs Program by \$263,190.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(14) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 33), to increase Booker T. Washington Center by \$25,000.

Motion to Override: Passed 6-1 (Bayle)

(15) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 35), to increase Martin Luther King Center by \$25,000.

Motion to Override: Passed 6-1 (Bayle)

(16) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 36), to increase Urban Erie Community Development Center by \$25,000.

Motion to Override: Passed 6-1 (Bayle)

(17) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 38), to increase ARP Fund by \$207,055.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(18) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 39), to increase Pleasant Ridge Manor by \$1,533,750.

Motion to Override: Passed 5-2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

(19) County Council moves to override the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 43), to increase Gaming Fund to cover by \$380,190.

Motion to Override: Failed 4-3 (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski)

(20) County Council moves to **strike** the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget," as amended (Action Sheet 45), to amend tax millage to 6.94 mills and adjust Fund Balance appropriated. Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Home Rule Charter, the budget as adopted by Council must be a balanced budget with no planned deficit. The Administration's illegal vetoes have upset the balanced budget by introducing a planned deficit which increased expenditures to an amount greater than the total of estimated income and cash reserve. Further, a veto of the tax levy and/or millage rate eliminates the tax revenue and reduces the budget to zero (0).

Motin to Strike: Passed 4-3 (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski)

(21) County Council moves to strike the Executive's veto of Ordinance No. 66, 2025, "2026 Real Estate Tax Levy," to amend tax millage to 6.94 mills and adjust Fund Balance appropriated. Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Home Rule Charter, the budget as adopted by Council must be a balanced budget with no planned deficit. The Administration's illegal vetoes have upset the balanced budget by introducing a planned deficit which increased expenditures to an amount greater than the total of estimated income and cash reserve. Further, a veto of the tax levy and/or millage rate eliminates the tax revenue and reduces the budget to zero (0).

Motion to Strike: ~~Passed~~ (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski)
This Ordinance to override or strike the Executive's veto of November 26, 2025, shall be effective immediately, this 8th day of December 2025.

Attest:

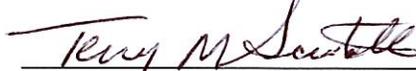


Karen Chillcott

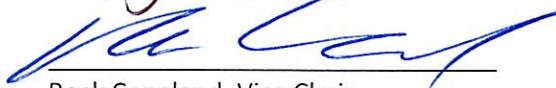
County Clerk

Date: 12-8-25

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE
COUNTY OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA



Terry M. Scutella, Chair



Rock Copeland, Vice Chair



Charlie Bayle



Chris Drexel



Andre Horton



Ellen Schauerman



Jim Winarski



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Brenton Davis,
Erie County Executive

November 26, 2024

Erie County Council
140 W 6th St
Room #114
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Chairman Scutella and Council Colleagues:

The administration presented Erie County Council with an honest budget containing **no** tax increase, which Council has opted to alter against the advice of the Administration. This pathway created the proposal of a tax increase by County Council as well as the elimination and reduction of programs, services and personnel.

Because the Administration does not believe many of these changes are in the best interest of the tax payers of Erie County, I have no other recourse but to **VETO** these proposed changes, to ensure the proper functioning and effective administration of Erie County Government.

With this letter, I am returning the budget with vetoes and line item reductions, designating each budget fund and actions sheet, as follows:

Gaming Fund

Action Sheet #3 – Vetoing the appropriate of \$249,990 to fund Black Wall Street. The Administration feels as though there has been no justification provided for the use of the funding to this organization. Without a plan for use being vetted prior to the award the Administration believes that the award would be improper.

Action Sheet #4.1 – Vetoing the reduction of \$250,000 to municipal projects line item. This funding is critical for the individual municipalities throughout Erie County to make necessary investments to address the aging and ineffective infrastructure. This program has a proven track record and has been the basis for transformational change.

Action Sheet #4.2 – Vetoing the increase of \$250,000 in funding to Diverse Erie. This organization has received substantial funding from Erie County and has and continues to demonstrate an ineffectiveness in selecting projects that substantially benefit community.

Therefore, it is not in the best interest of the taxpayers of Erie County to provide additional funding to this organization.

Action Sheet #5 – Vetoing the appropriation \$380,190 of Gaming Fund Balance. Since we are not going to fund these additional grants through the General Fund this appropriation will not be necessary.

Pleasant Ridge Manor Fund

Action Sheet #2 - Vetoing the increase transfer of \$1,533,750 to Pleasant Ridge Manor operations. The Administration has been vocal in its opposition to continue to fund this operation in this fashion without any checks and balances on its method of operation. County Council, as the board for Pleasant Ridge Manor, has opposed an outside evaluation of the problems leading to this accumulation of the \$13.5 million dollar debt to Erie County. Therefore, the Administration opposes this transfer until these issues are properly addressed.

ARPA Fund

Action Sheet #2 – Vetoing the decrease \$528,055 of Municipal Infrastructure Funding. This funding is critical for the individual municipalities throughout Erie County to make necessary investments to address the aging and ineffective infrastructure. This program has a proven track record and has been the basis for transformational change. This is the sole mechanism for the outlying municipalities to receive support from Erie County for their critical needs.

Action Sheet #3 – Vetoing the increase in funding of \$71,000 to Public Safety Grants. The Public Safety Organizations have received adequate funding through the proposed budget of the Administration. Additional funding is unnecessary.

Action Sheet #4 - Vetoing the increase in funding \$250,000 to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Fund. The DEI Commission has received substantial funding from Erie County for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Projects. That organization continues to demonstrate an ineffectiveness in selecting and funding projects that substantially benefit the community. Therefore, it is not in the best interest of the taxpayers of Erie County to provide additional funding at this time.

Action Sheet #6 - Vetoing the Transfer to the General Fund of \$207,055. ARPA funds are to be used for the advancement of Erie County. Placing it in the General Fund is not an effective use of this money.

General Fund

Action Sheet #5 – Vetoing the reinstatement of \$329,436 for funding of the Human Relations Commission. This commission has not functioned properly since inception, costing the tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars for a limited return. It is also a duplication of services already provided to our citizens by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Human Commission.

Action Sheet #17 – Vetoing the increase of \$250,000 for additional computer equipment in the Information Technology Department. The IT Department is currently in transition. An assessment of the needs for new equipment can be assessed as this process materializes. The new administration can request a supplemental appropriation at that time.

Action Sheet #20 – Vetoing the increase of \$313,185 for additional computer equipment in the Court’s Information Technology Department. The Administration does not believe that this equipment upgrade is necessary at this time.

Action Sheet #32 – Vetoing the addition of \$263,190 of funding for the Summer Jobs Program. Despite several years of the Administration requesting the revamping of the largely unsuccessful Summer Jobs program, the organization implementing the program has failed to provide effective results. The administration believes that continuing to fund this program without a written plan to redesign the program for measurable outcomes would be necessary for future positive results.

Action Sheet #33 – Vetoing the addition of \$25,000 of funding for the Booker T. Washington Center. The Administration feels as though there is not adequate accountability for how the funding has been used in past years. The Administration believes that funding a program without proper accountability would be unjustified.

Action Sheet #35 – Vetoing the addition of \$25,000 of funding for the Martin Luther King Center. The Administration feels as though there is not adequate accountability for how the funding has been used in past years. The Administration believes that funding a program without proper accountability would be unjustified.

Action Sheet #36 – Vetoing the addition of \$25,000 of funding for the Urban Erie Community Development Center. The Administration feels as though there has been no justification provided for the use of the funding to this organization. Without a plan for use being vetted prior to the award, the Administration believes that the award would be improper.

Action Sheet #38 – Vetoing the transfer of \$207,055 From ARPA to the General Fund. The Administration believes that this money should remain in the ARPA fund for use on projects that will benefit the taxpayers of Erie County. The money should be leveraged as the Administration has done with it’s prior ARPA investments.

Action Sheet #39 – Vetoing the transfer of \$1,533,750 from the General Fund to Pleasant Ridge Manor. The Administration has been vocal in its opposition to continue to fund this operation in this fashion without any checks and balances on its method of operation. County Council, as the board for Pleasant Ridge Manor, has opposed an outside evaluation of the problems leading to this accumulation of the \$13.5 million dollar debt to Erie County. Therefore, the Administration opposes this transfer until these issues are properly addressed.

Action Sheet #43 – Vetoing the transfer of \$380,190 from the Gaming Fund to fund additional Grants to Other Organizations. The Administration vetoed several of the Grants to Other Organizations and believes that those that remain should be funded by fund balance.

Action Sheet #45 – Vetoing the Proposed Tax Milage increase to 6.94. This tax millage increase is not necessary under the proposed budget plan. The County of Erie has a healthy fund balance (taxes already paid by the citizens) that is available to use as an alternative to tax increases. This strategy has been used in 9 of the last 12 budgets, but is not always spent, as demonstrated by the 2025 budget. Therefore, the current tax milage of 6.61 is appropriate to fund this year's budget and possibly produce a surplus.

Veto of Real Estate Tax Levy Ordinance - This tax levy increase is not necessary under the proposed budget plan. The County of Erie has a healthy fund balance (taxes already paid by the citizens) that is available to use as an alternative to tax increases. This strategy has been used in 9 of the last 12 budgets, but is not always spent, as demonstrated by the 2025 budget. Therefore, the current tax milage of 6.61 is appropriate to fund this year's budget and possibly produce a surplus.

I encourage you to sustain these vetos and line-item reductions as I believe they are all in the best interest of the citizens of Erie County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brenton D. Davis".

Brenton D. Davis
Erie County Executive