Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)
FY27 Recommendations and School Board Commitment

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1. ***Strengthen*** **public trust by improving transparency, clarity, and accountability in the school budget process so families and residents can clearly understand funding decisions.**

   Key School Board Commitment

   - Conduct a 10-year efficiency and operational study using an independent auditor.
   - Proactively explain budget line items that increase more than 10% year-over-year.
   - Adopt clearer naming conventions for budget line items.
   - Establish annual community budget surveys to track understanding, priorities, and trust.

2. ***Advance*** **coordinated advocacy to address state funding gaps, unfunded mandates, and limited local revenue capacity.**

   Key School Board Commitments

   - Advance legislative priorities addressing state funding gaps and unfunded mandates.
   - Partner with the Board of Supervisors to explore viable local revenue options.
   - Research comparable counties (Henrico, Chesterfield) for innovative funding approaches.

3. ***Stabilize*** **and strengthen the workforce by prioritizing competitive compensation for teachers, school-based administrators, and support staff.**

   Key School Board Commitments

   - Advocate for state compensation funding that keeps pace with inflation and regional competition
   - Increase compensation for teachers, school-based administrators, and support staff to remain competitive in the regional labor market.

4. ***Support*** **long-term enrollment stability and student success by investing in programs that attract and retain families in Stafford County.**

   Key School Board Commitments

   - Invest in specialty programs and workforce development opportunities.
   - Center public schools in Stafford County's brand identity and County Strategic Plan.

5. ***Improve*** **clarity, consistency, and alignment in school funding communication to stakeholders.**

   Key School Board Commitments

   - Assign clear ownership of budget messaging to the Communications team.