

From: [R&W Kochan](#)
To: [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE Adopting the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget - LCC Meeting 11/15/22
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To be read and entered into record at 11/15/22 Luzerne County Council meeting

For Luzerne County Council to even consider approving the 2023 budget under an inept County Manager, during times of extreme inflation, and when the County has received \$113M as part of the American Rescue Plan, clearly shows how out of touch Council is --- not to mention the gross mishandling of last week's election which should be Council's #1 priority rather than allowing the usual passing of the buck to the already overloaded DA's office for investigation.

As lifetime residents and taxpayers of Luzerne County, we expect Council to act responsibly and revert back to the 2022 budget with *no tax increase* as recommended by County Controller Walter Griffith.

Rather than find *new* ways to spend from the American Rescue Plan --- which each of us has *already* paid for by the way --- Council should *reduce* our taxes and at the very least not increase them. If the County has already squandered their \$1.2M Election Integrity grant with the worst election in our history, then you better sell the voting machines. Cancel the contract. Replace mail-in drop boxes with in-person, same day voting with pen and paper. Use that money for legal defense over the election because you sure need it.

And if that's not enough, use some of the \$113M Rescue money to rescue the election integrity of this County by obtaining proper guidance and set-up of voter and election services, but also with a fresh *redo* of the recent midterm election which also includes the services of an objective election attorney, and for the litigation that is certainly forthcoming after this inexcusable and disastrous handling of the midterm election. It should be noted we do *not* support increasing the budget for voter and election services. Ensuring election integrity can be accomplished by hiring qualified, experienced persons with proven success, along with proper training and administration of employees.

We, the taxpayers will no longer accept out-of-touch, irresponsible actions of Council. We noted which members were noticeably absent from participating in the special Election Board meeting last night which clearly indicates the lack of concern for every citizen's most basic rights. We WILL remember your actions at election time and hold each of you responsible and accountable for the condition of Luzerne County government.

Walter & Robyn Kochan
Dallas Twp.

The county was allocated \$113 million from the American Rescue Plan and must start deciding how the money will be allocated, although it does not have to commit to a plan until the end of 2024.

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