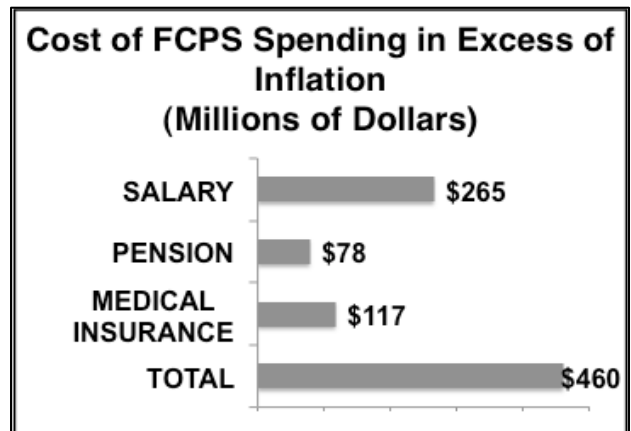
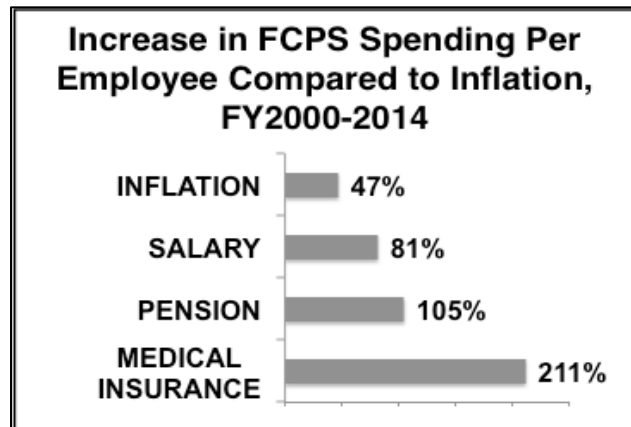
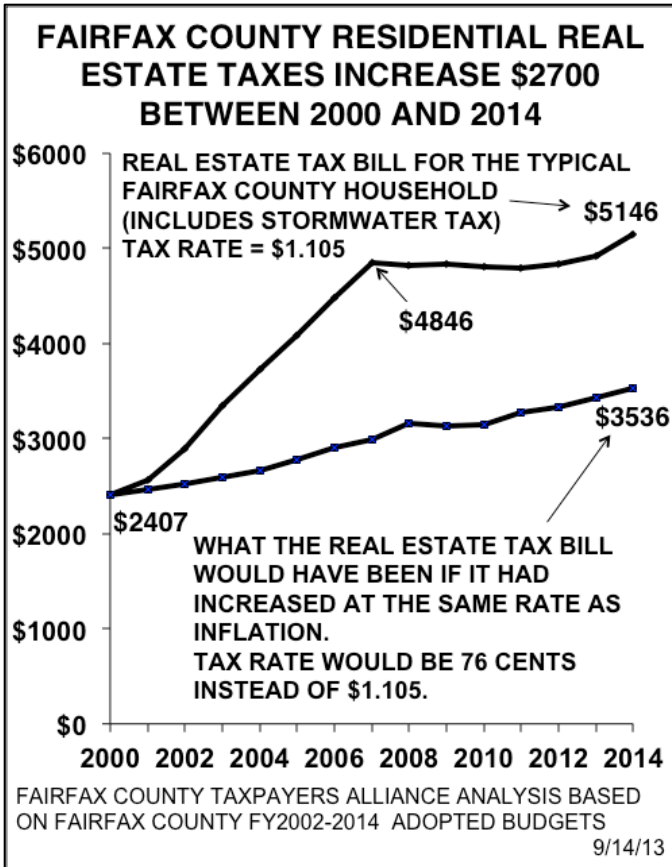


## Fairfax County Public Schools: High Taxes for Low Achievement



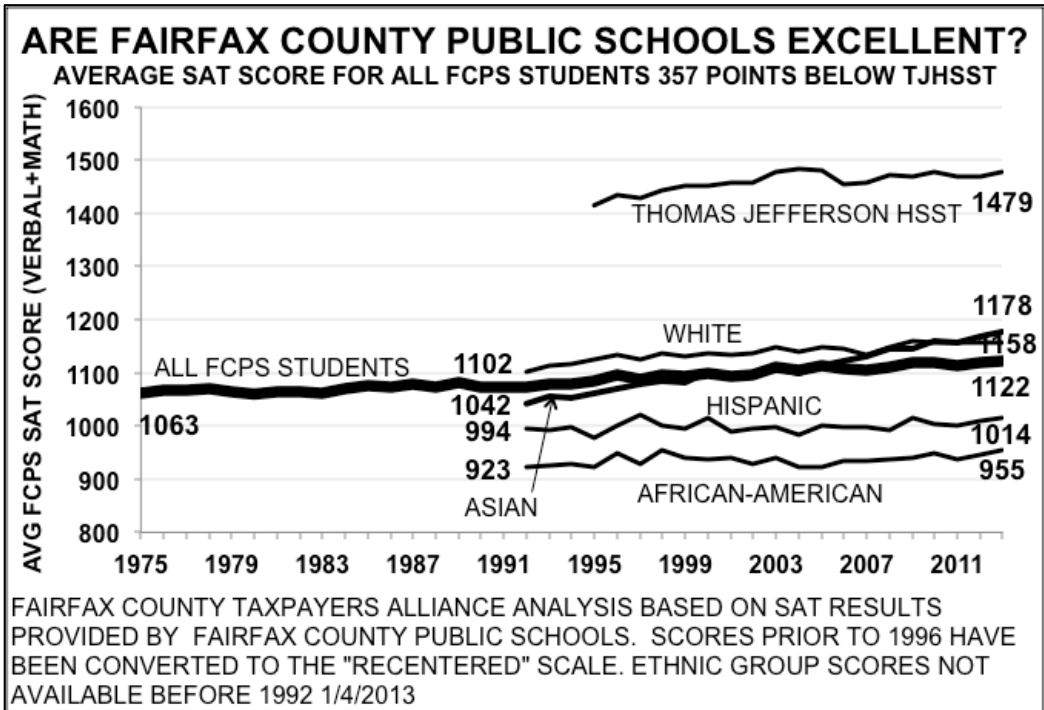
Between Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 and 2014, Fairfax County real estate taxes for the typical homeowner increased \$2700 (114 percent), from \$2407 to \$5146. Inflation over that period was 47 percent.

Between FY2000-14, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) per-employee spending for salaries, pensions, and medical insurance increased 81 percent, 105 percent, and 211 percent, respectively. Pensions allow retirement after 30 years at 75 percent of salary and have an annual inflation-related increase. Medical insurance plans have zero-deductible in network with maximum out-of-pocket costs as low as \$500.

If between FY2000-14 FCPS had limited per-employee salary, pension, and medical insurance spending increases to inflation, the savings in salary, pension, and medical insurance spending would have totaled \$460 million.

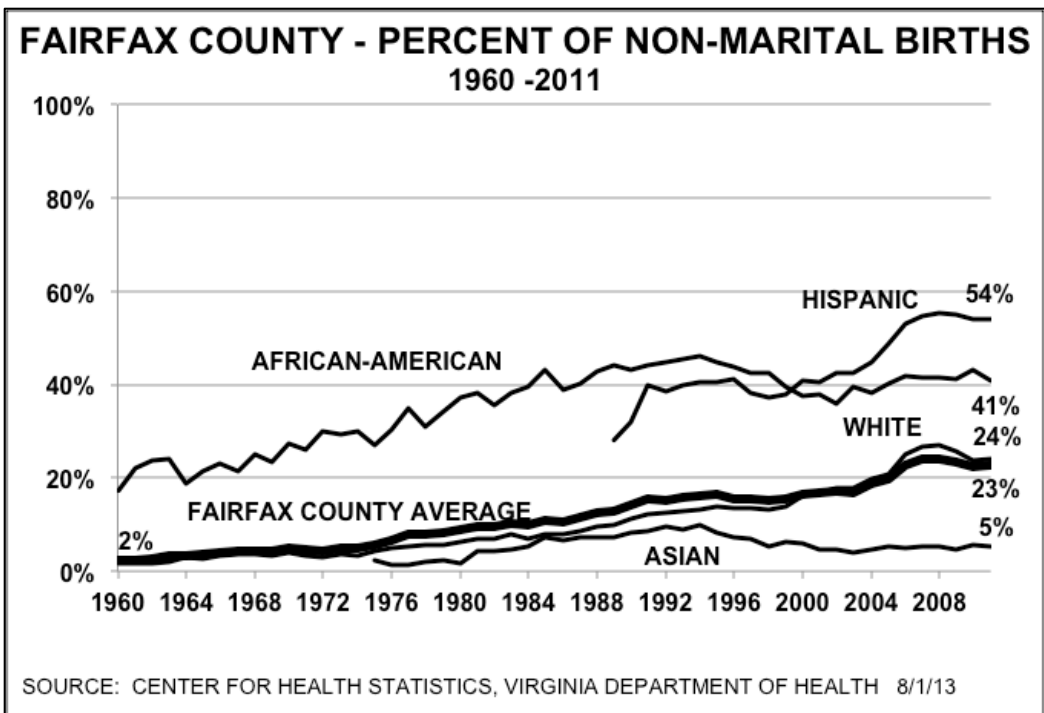
Since each penny of the real estate tax rate provides the County with \$20 million of revenue, the \$460 million equates to 23 cents of the current \$1.105 real estate tax rate and costs the homeowner about \$1000.

According to the 2013 ACT college admissions test, only 54 percent of FCPS seniors were prepared for college. See other side for SAT results.



Are Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) excellent? The administration says "yes," because the FCPS average SAT score (1122 in 2013 for verbal plus math) is above the national average. However the FCPS score is at the 69<sup>th</sup> percentile, compared to the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile for the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and

Technology, which *is* excellent. Also there is no improvement in Hispanic and African-American scores, indicating the ineffectiveness of FCPS programs for disadvantaged students, despite extra funding for those programs.



If more funding does not improve academic success, what does? A common answer is strong families. One indicator of strong families is a low out-of-wedlock birthrate. In the SAT graph, above, Asians are the most improved, now out-performing whites. Asians have also maintained the lowest out-of-wedlock birthrate, five percent in 2011. Even among

whites, the out-of-wedlock birthrate has increased from two percent in 1960 to 24 percent in 2011.

(Over)