

Joseph Lorusso – Candidate for Controller

Financial Analysis of Chesco's 2025 Budget



Vote our team: Deana Wang–Treasurer, Alissa McGrory– Clerk of Courts, Tom Hatzidais–Coroner, Chris Thomson–Prothonotary



In picture from left to right: Tom, Deana, Joe, Alissa, Chris

Unelected Exec. Branch running budgets vs Elected Row
Offices: **TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION** (Again)!
WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED! CHESCO'S VOTERS NEED A VOICE.



Contact me: Votejoelorusso@gmail.com
www.chescodeservesbetter.com

See us on FB, Instagram, and Tic Tok

Expanding Government – More Tax Shocks



No Financial Watchdog, I and our group will be your eyes and your Voice to stop the wasteful spending & save Chesco's future.

- Chesco's budget: **\$513 M in 2021 to \$730 M in 2025.**
- Increased **42%** (almost 3x the inflation rate).
- Large percentage went to Personnel i.e. *new Executive Branch.*
- No measurable productivity gains or Service Improvements.
- Definition of a **Bloated Government.**
- Have we seen tangible Quality of Life Improvements? Are you better off?
- ***This spending pace is not sustainable without future TAX SHOCKS!***
(and there is no one to stop them – Josh Maxwell, Marian Moskowitz – and executive suite).

Six Reasons Chester County is being undermined of its Potential



1) Expanding Government, Payroll deficit (reason why hastily passed 13.47% tax increase). *Are you better off?*

New Executive Branch, (CXO) unelected, unaccountable costing >\$500k/yr.

2) Government was expanded on Covid, Amer. Rescue \$ – now gone.

3) Capital Expenditures – increase 34%, unsustainable and using debt to finance.

4) Grants (40% of Budget) materially reduced – No Plan.

5) Tax Base is slowing (Rating Agencies noted).

6) More Debt (\$79 Million next 5 years), higher interest cost = tax increase. *You can't live off credit for long—and neither can Chester County.*

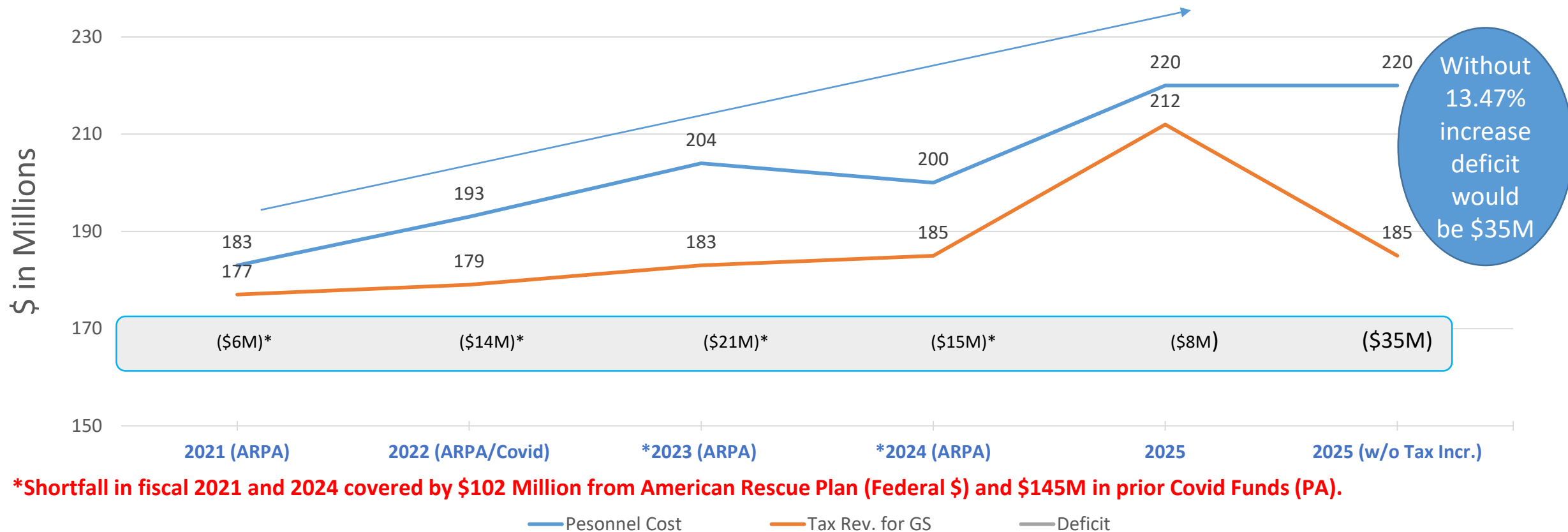
Major Tax Increases are Inevitable unless we address issues with Common Sense and Clarity.

No one in Govt is standing up to stop them, I will be that aggressive VOICE.

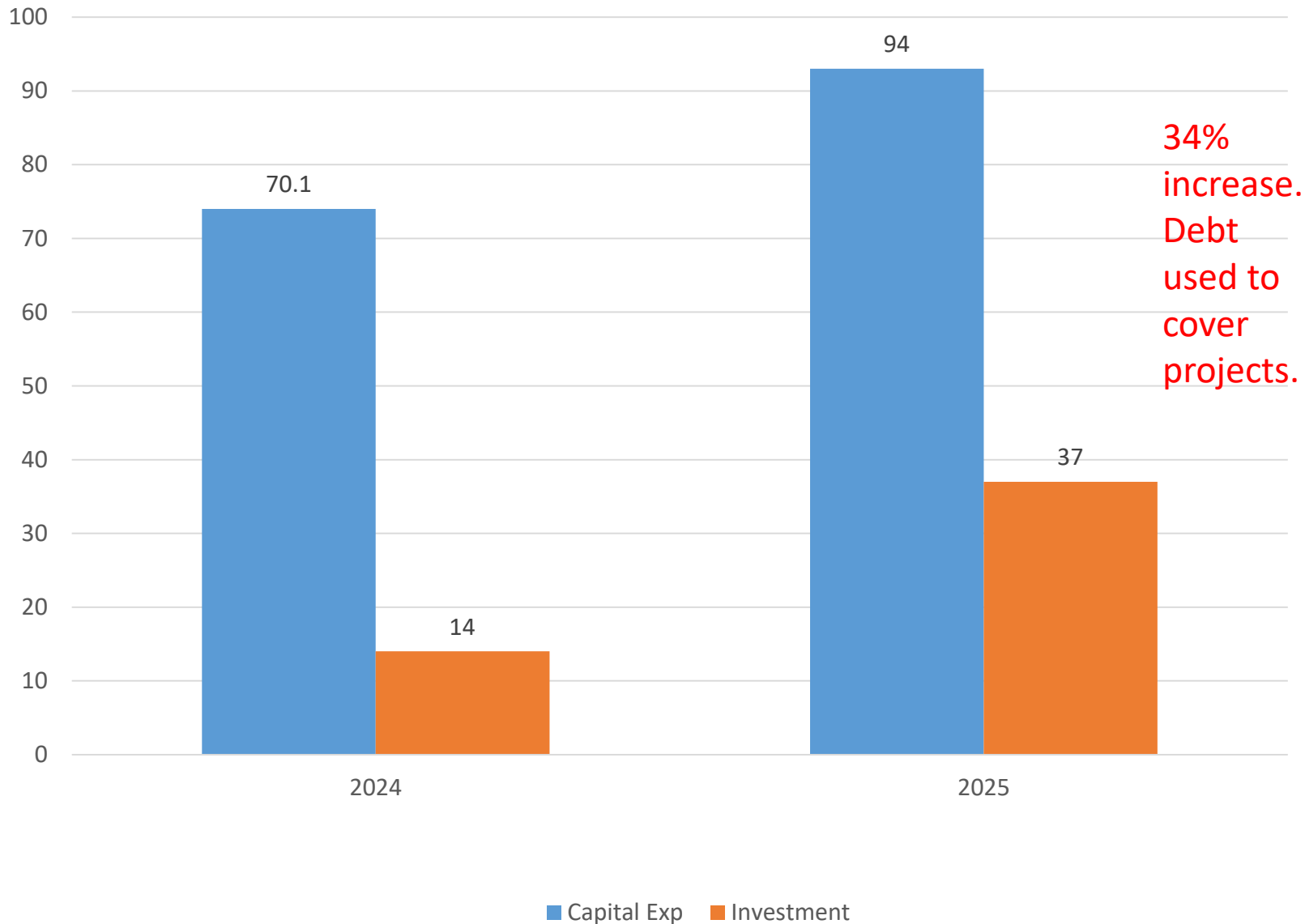
- We have a strategy to put Chesco first – our 9 point program on page 12.

Chester County Payroll Deficit

We covered using Covid and ARPA for payroll - then in 2025 ***Hastily Raised*** Taxes to Cover Potentially Historical Payroll Deficit.

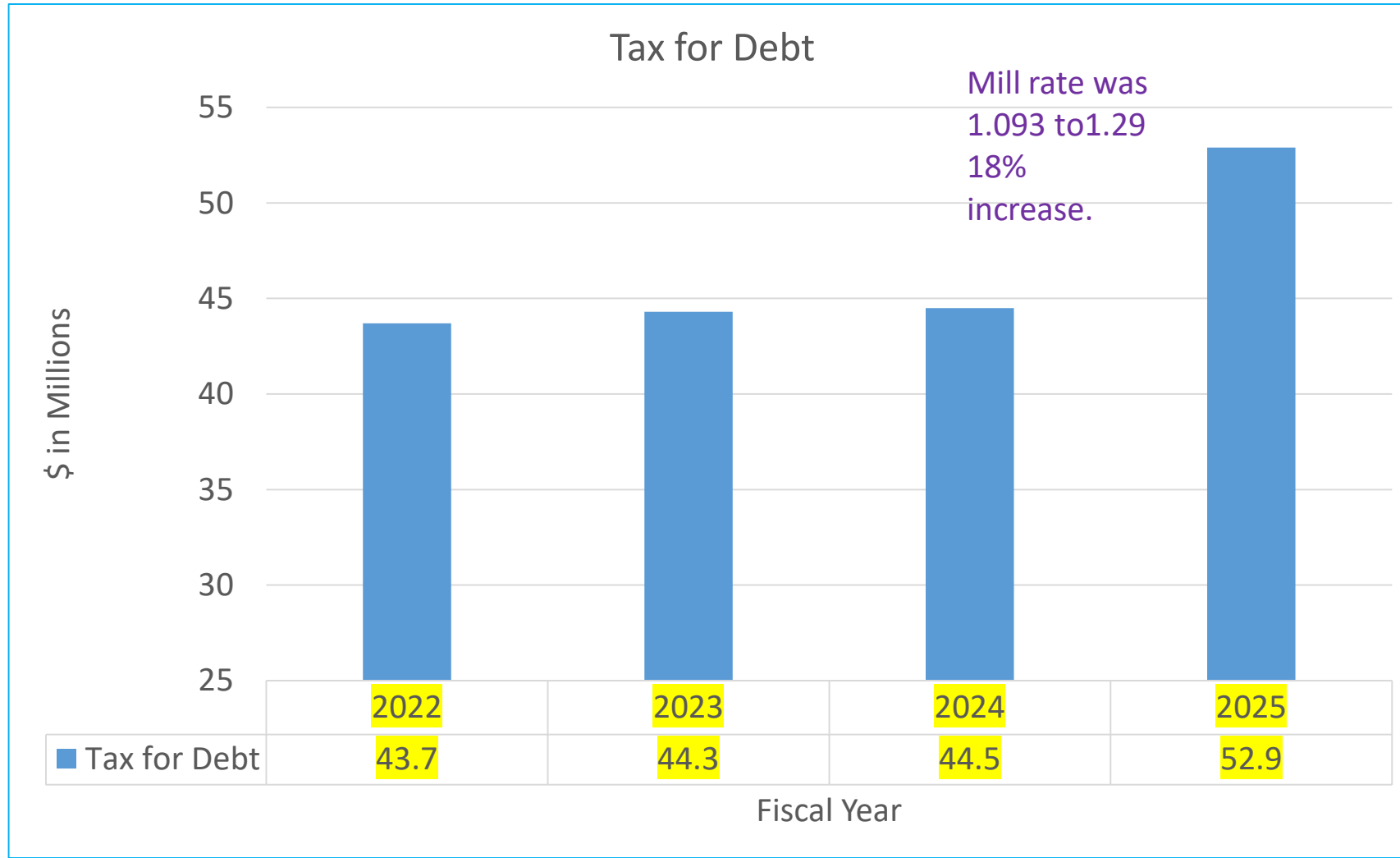


Capital Expenditures are Increasing Unsustainably – Growth is funded by issuing New Long Term Debt



We Increased Taxes in 2025 to Pay for Rising Debt Burden

This is a separate tax you pay – they increased it 18%.

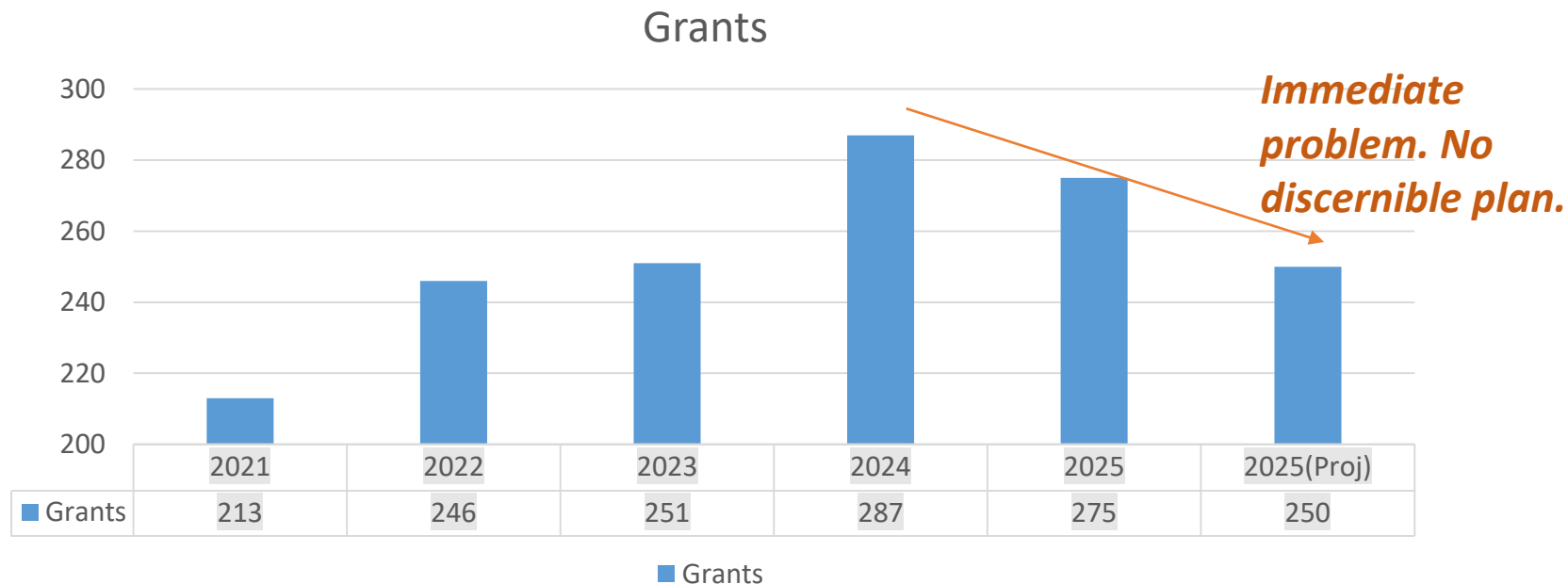


Debt Burden to Fund Expensive Projects.

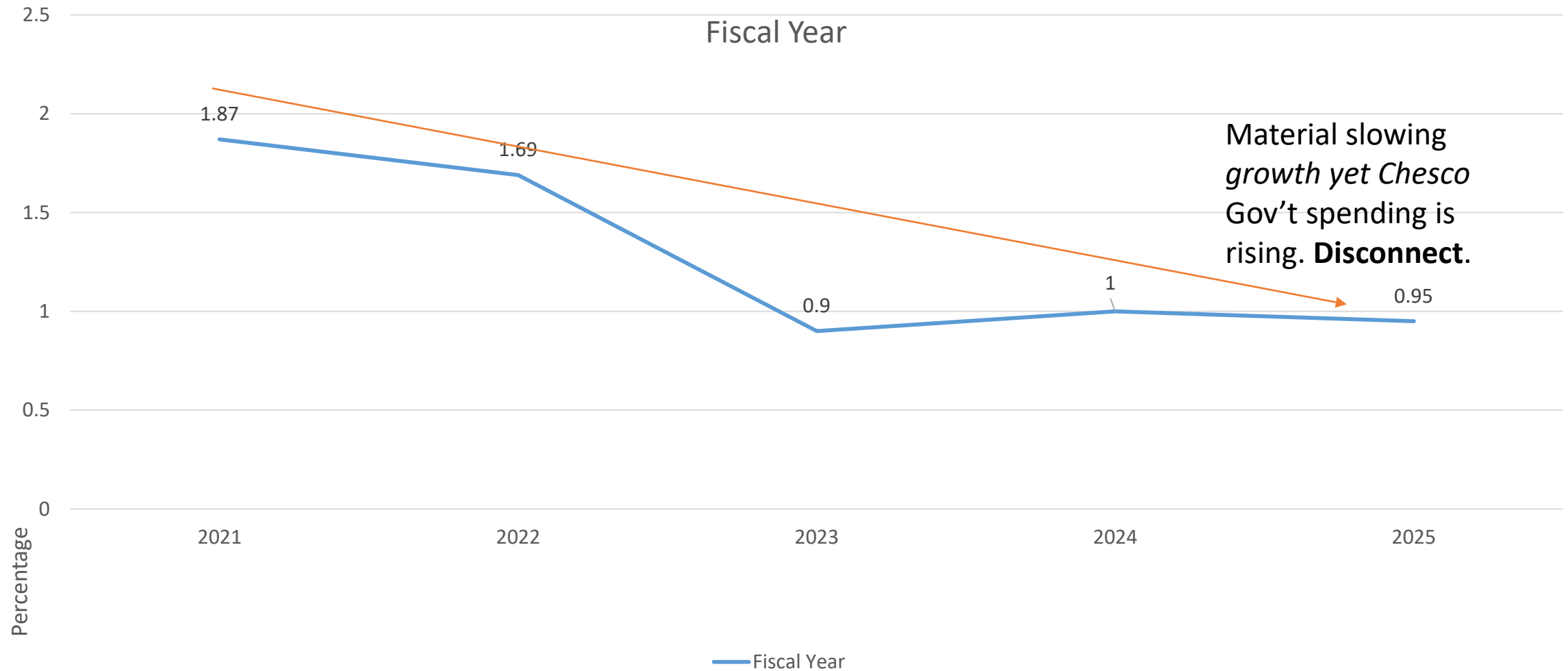
- Issued \$80 Million New Debt in 2024 of which \$58.4 Million used to Refund Debt from 2014.
- **No money to pay off the maturing debt.**
- Fiscal 2025 to issue new debt of \$25 Million mostly for Trails and Open Space.
- **2025 budget says they plan to borrow \$79Million in next 5 years.**
- With interest the total debt burden will approach \$700 Million. Historically high level.

Grants are shrinking

- Grants make up 40% of Chesco's Budget – critical revenue source.
- Covid and American Rescue Plan boosted Grants.
- Starting in 2025 Grants are being reduced; No Plan to cover.



Slowing Growth of Tax Base



Here's a breakdown of Chester County's population from 2020 to 2025:



- Chester County saw steady growth, adding over 26,000 residents between 2020 and 2024.
- There are many population studies but one organization projects a dip. The [Center for Rural Pennsylvania, which partnered with Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs](#), estimates population trends in PA. Chesco's population decline in 2025 could be attributed to many factors but one discussed is **the High Cost of Living in Chesco and the rise in taxes; that will continue due to the expense of a growing government sector**. Chesco is also projecting a slow down in growth (see graph on pg. 11). The Rating Agencies have also noted a slowing growth rate in their reports.

Year	Population Estimate	Annual % Change
2020	534,413	—
2021	536,474	+0.39%
2022	545,823	+1.75%
2023	549,784	+0.73%
2024	560,745	+1.99%
2025	556,076 (projected)	-0.83%



Summary – Commissioners are now hiding behind Unelected Executives - running County not elected officials (Row Offices)
TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION (Again)

- Higher taxes to fund an expanding Payroll & **New non-elected Executive branch (CEO, CXO, promote to COO costing >\$500k).**
- Higher borrowing to fund projects that should be scaled back.
- Higher debt service (interest on the debt) to pay for projects.
- Debt Service tax increase in 2025 for growing debt burden.
- No Plan to cover reduced Grants funding that is 40% of budget.
- **THIS ELECTION IS IMPORTANT FOR CHESCO'S FUTURE.**



Solutions: *We are the only Candidates with Solutions to Save Chester County*

- 1) **ELIMINATE** the new Executive Branch (save \$500K).
- 2) **Ensure Payroll spending Can Not exceed Taxes Collected.**
- 3) **Budget Review Board** – Representatives from each area that has a veto right. (currently no check on Commissioners, they pass whatever they like).
- 4) **Competition vs Corruption**: ALL contracts must go out for competitive bidding, No Exception for “Professional Services” i.e. law firms that give big donations (at least a \$5M saving).
- 5) **Cancel all County Credit Cards** to end abuse i.e. Prothonotary.
- 6) **Require that all Contractors hire Chesco’s youth as apprentices to learn a trade** – Coatesville, Parkesburg, Oxford and Spring City for example.
- 7) **Create an environment for Chesco citizens to thrive** as entrepreneurs, existing businesses, & hard working families – by reducing tax burden, responsive to requests (cut red tape).
- 8) **Fund programs for our most needy First** (vs. expensive pet projects) i.e. seniors, meal programs for children, individuals & families suffering from the disease of drug and alcohol addictions.
- 9) **Cancel and Desolve the “Human Relations Commission”** – attack on small business & residents.

Concern: If we don’t win “they” will be emboldened to continue on this dangerous and reckless financial path. Let’s send a message that Chesco wants Common Sense back in its Government.



I believe Chesco's Unimaginable Potential is within our Reach (but we have to act – here are my fundamental beliefs)

- You should Keep Your Money, not pay to Fund Executive hiring and waste.
- I **Unashamedly** Reject Excessive Taxes & Corrupt spending.
- I say NO - to the current Go Along to Get Along mentality and attempts to silence of our voices.
- I firmly believe in Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, & Freedom of Enterprise.
- *I will get Gov't Back to live within its means and Lighten Everyone's Tax Burden.*
- We shouldn't have families and senior struggle to pay rising property taxes.
- I support Apprentice Programs for our Youth & Helping our Most Needy.
- I believe in *Encouraging Entrepreneurs, Supporting Local Businesses, & keeping Families and our Youth Here to Live and Thrive.*
- Let's unite to have Chesco realize its **Unimaginable Potential** – it starts Now with this Election.



Joseph Lorusso - Controller Candidate

www.chescoderservesbetter.com (Chesco deserves better)

- Background: MBA – Finance, own an Investment Management firm, community involvement.
- Controller: pays bills and tracks vendor contracts, audits CC offices, prothonotary, Dept of Aging, Prison system, Sheriff's Office.
- Seat on Retirement, Salary review and Prison Boards.
- Recent Issues: Botched payroll with new vendor cost CC \$1M to fix.
 - Hired insider law firm – former Comm. Kickland called out publically.
 - Pension Fund was overdrawn \$1M, penalties likely paid to fix.
 - History of mismanagement headed by Inexperienced and Unqualified people.
 - Office lacks leadership – I have the background to correct & fix the issues.

We Need You!

We need 100,000 votes to win that is 26% of all voters or 67% of Republicans.

Please donate so we can get the message out to all of Chesco. **Go to:**
ChescoDeservesBetter.com
(see our coming fund raiser – you are welcome to attend, also sponsorship is available – no minimums).

**Thank you -
God Bless America and
Chester County.**

