

Management & Budget

Good morning. I have a few comments to make about the document which came with my recent tax bill, which explains how our county government functions, with a rundown of the departments' cost to the taxpayer, which seems to only list the costs, not including grants or other revenue. I remember this being discussed and I was glad to see it. Of course my eyes flew immediately to the ACC and it's listed as costing the taxpayer a whopping annual \$21.82M. That's just wrong.

As you know, I've been sitting here for going on 6 years since the last legislature tried to sell the CHHA and the ACC, listening and learning. I was sitting here last month when the figure of 5 ½ million was bandied about in public hearings and other meetings about the budget, referring to what should be in the 2026 budget for the ACC. As far as I can understand, the reason that it isn't in the budget is because our county manager believes that revenue will pay for most of it. What isn't covered by revenue is supposed to be paid by our consultant, Infinitecare. According to that contract, all the costs are covered, so it doesn't need to be in the budget. The reality is that the county is still paying for the shortfall and there is apparently no mechanism in place to enforce the contract. The shortfall, according to the ACC's monthly reports, varies from around \$500k to \$100k, and there have even been a few months when we broke even. What with other expenses of the ACC, such as fixing elevators and paying taxes for example, I would believe a figure of 5-6 million is close to the real annual cost of the ACC to the taxpayers. Not 21 million.

This taxpayer really doesn't like being lied to, like most folks, and these numbers look like something being misrepresented as what it isn't. It would be great if the legislature would direct the manager's office to stop the partisan bs about the ACC being such a terrible burden for the taxpayers, more than any other county department, instead of the precious health resource it is for our community's elderly and disabled residents. It is incredible to me that we continue to do business with a company that is so far out of compliance with the financial obligations they undertook, not to mention their incompetence, as demonstrated by the ACC's 1 star rating, lousy surveys, and numerous citations and penalties. The facility has fared much worse with Infinitecare than it ever did under county management. Let's fix that. 2026 would be the perfect year for this legislature to start proceedings to divest the ACC from its enterprise fund status.