

Fairfax County, Virginia <http://www.wtopnews.com/?sid=1500694&nid=25>

Fairfax County is telling more than 9,000 county employees to take Jan. 2 off - without pay - to save \$2 million. The supervisors and their staff will also go without pay for that day. Fairfax County is \$60 million short for 2009 spending and could be half a billion dollars short for 2010.

All county agencies are also being instructed to trim their budgets another 2 percent, just to catch up on current spending. There is also a freeze on the purchase of new cars and any training.

The furlough could affect everything from access to your library, to whether anyone answers the phone at the supervisor's office. Emergency personnel will be exempt from the furlough.

Gainesville County, Georgia <http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=214100>

Commissioners approved a resolution from Interim County Administrator Charley Nix for county employees to take their unpaid one day a month furlough day at the same time.

County workers get a total of nine furlough days until the end of the fiscal year next June; Nix said it will save the county around \$1.8 million.

Nix hopes to save a total of \$4.47 million to prevent a projected \$4.45 million deficit brought on by low revenues because of the unstable economy.

The following is a list of dates when all Hall County Government offices are scheduled to be closed, in addition to holidays already scheduled:

Oct. 31, 2008	Nov. 26, 2008	Dec. 26, 2008	Jan. 20, 2009
Feb. 16, 2009	March 16, 2009	April 27, 2009	May 26, 2009
June 22, 2009			

Prince George's County <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/28/AR2008092802171.html>

About 6,000 Prince George's employees will have to bear the brunt of the county's \$57 million deficit by forgoing two weeks' worth of salary -- and they can thank the county's leadership. The deficit didn't develop overnight, and County Executive Jack B. Johnson (D) and the County Council should have done more to anticipate the shortfall. The cause of the budget gap -- sagging property values -- is clear. A workable solution that will sustain the county through the rough economic times ahead is less obvious.

The furloughs will eliminate about one-third of the deficit. The remainder will come from budget cuts. Mr. Johnson initially wanted union leaders to renegotiate employment contracts, which call for pay increases of 6 to 8 percent this year. He said that if unions had agreed to 3.5 percent increases in pay, the county wouldn't have had to furlough anyone. Union leaders countered that county officials knew the economy was slowing when they signed off on the pay increases. A group of Prince George's unions is suing the county, saying that furloughs violate the union contracts for county workers and that Prince George's doesn't face a budget deficit because the county has a roughly \$40 million surplus in its rainy-day fund.

One thing is clear: The deficit is real and likely to worsen. Though county officials are overstating to say that they're legally prohibited from dipping into the rainy-day fund, it's wise to leave the fund untouched. Union officials could have done more to compromise; they made the conscious decision to risk furloughs by insisting on such generous pay increases. Still, two weeks of forced leave is an extreme remedy, and even with careful planning furloughs will affect county services.

A major constraint on the county's budget is TRIM (Tax Reform in Maryland), which prevents the county from raising property taxes without a referendum. Unsurprisingly, county residents have been reluctant to approve increases, and they are less likely to do so in times of economic turmoil. Prince George's has already instituted hiring freezes and halted many new projects; its budget is lean. The county may have to consider paring its payroll, which became bloated when property tax revenue was soaring. One thing is certain: Furloughs may be necessary this year, but they're also a temporary measure that postpones needed fiscal reform.

Council Chairman Samuel Dean said Tuesday the county faces an emergency budget shortfall of \$57 million, and the furloughs are needed to prevent layoffs.

"We believe it is more advantageous to citizens to maybe lose a day wage every two weeks as opposed to not having a job at all."

Several hundred county workers attended Tuesday's council meeting to protest the decision, which will require them to take unpaid leave by mid-June.

The workers noted that the vote was taken less than 24 hours after the plan was first unveiled by County Executive Jack Johnson, and they contested claims that it wouldn't affect public safety.

Montgomery County, MD <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=75800&catid=158>

Last month Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett proposed a two-day furlough of about 10,000 county employees to help balance the current budget. He says the furlough would save about \$6 million. Police, fire and other essential services would not be affected. Leggett says additional furlough days and other cuts might be needed to balance the budget for the fiscal year that begins next July.

Rising fuel prices, declining home sales and stagnant job growth are being blamed for a projected \$250 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2010. Dates for the furloughs have not been determined, though Leggett said in a memo to the County Council president he would wait until fall to schedule them.

City of Chicago <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/city.managers.furloughs.2.783291.html>

Chicago aldermen agreed Tuesday to share the pain of Mayor Daley's mandatory furlough plan for city managers amid warnings that layoffs -- and other sacrifices from union employees -- will be next.

In 2002, the mayor asked union leaders to choose between five unpaid furlough days and deferred pay raises to erase a \$115 million budget shortfall. When they refused, 517 of their members were laid off. Ten years earlier, Daley laid off 782 employees.

The \$3.6 million furlough plan advanced by the Finance Committee will require aldermen and all other 2,000 non-union employees earning more than \$75,000-a-year to take three unpaid days off by Dec. 31. One thousand non-union workers earning more than \$55,000-a-year will take two furlough days.

Whenever there's a financial crisis, Daley asks union leaders to agree to unpaid furlough days as an alternative to layoffs. Their answer is always the same: No. It would set a dangerous precedent.

The same scenario could play out this time -- especially since union leaders have been told that no amount of furlough days would be a guarantee against layoffs.

"They don't want to set a precedent. But, this is an unprecedented year," Johnson said.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported Sunday that Daley's preliminary 2009 budget is expected to include the largest shortfall in recent memory -- more than \$400 million according to some sources -- setting the stage for service cuts, employee layoffs, unpaid furlough days or a combination of the three.

The mayor has already tied his own hands by promising to hold the line on property taxes on the heels of last year's record increase.

City of Rocklin, CA <http://www.rocklin.ca.gov/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=147&targetid=1>

In observance of the holiday season, the City of Rocklin public offices will be closed from December 26, 2006 until January 2, 2007. Emergency services will continue to be provided at full staffing levels.

City Manager Carlos Urrutia, said "Emergency services will be provided by the City, but routine services will not be available during the four furlough days. Traditionally, the number of routine calls handled by the City during this period is low. The furlough saves the City money and allows employees the opportunity to spend time with their families."

City of Stockton, CA

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081011/A_NEWS/810110325

Stockton's assistant and deputy police chiefs demanded in a memo to City Manager Gordon Palmer on Wednesday that they be exempted from deficit-reducing furloughs imposed on ranking officials and proposed citywide but reversed their position Friday and said they are willing to participate.

Assistant Police Chief Blair Ullring and Deputy Chiefs Mark Helms, Eric Jones and Tammie Murrell said in the memo that "the nature of our duties and our type of work are not conducive to the furlough program," which they said was thrust on them without consent, reducing their wages to about what police captains are paid.

Stockton "has violated our rights as Peace Officers in the State of California," the memo said.

After meeting Friday with Palmer, Ullring said his group's complaint was not that a furlough had been ordered but that it had been ordered without what he described was adequate consultation.

"We're willing to participate because we understand the issues related to the city and the problems that are associated with it," he said. "That's really what it comes down to."

A citywide furlough would likely close City Hall and other offices for several days around Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The city has estimated the combined savings of citywide furloughs or of equivalent reductions at about \$2.8 million.

The city this month began reducing the pay of Palmer, Mayor Ed Chavez, council members, City Attorney Ren Nosky, deputy city managers, the police and fire chiefs, and other department heads by about 5.8 percent, ordering 12 days off without pay this budget year, Human Resources Director Dianna Garcia said. Other unrepresented employees - including the assistant and deputy police chiefs, whose base pay annually ranges from \$119,568 to \$165,216, the city said - had 10-day furloughs imposed on them, a salary reduction of about 4.9 percent, she said.

Sacramento, CA <http://cbs13.com/local/sacramento.city.workers.2.844953.html>

City leaders have ordered unrepresented Sacramento city workers to take a monthly furlough without pay starting next year. The mandatory furloughs come as the city faces a growing budget crisis, with millions of dollars of deficits and budget cuts looming, but city leaders hope the new move can stave off layoffs for city workers.

All workers who are not represented by unions will be required to take one unpaid day off each month starting January 1, 2009, which amounts to a five percent pay cut and will save the city \$1.75 million over six months, according to officials. The hiring freeze will stay in effect, and the city manager will have to sign off on any travel, food, training, or equipment expenses.

City Clerk Shirley Concolino implemented a similar plan with her staff months ago.

"Initially, they were a little leery about it, but now they're loving it," Concolino said. "In fact, they said, if we could do this in good times, we would, because they're loving the day off."

Mayor Fargo is also taking a ten percent pay cut to her own salary, which will reduce her pay to about \$100,000.