

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 END OF SESSION SUMMARY

Overview

The 2023 General Assembly Session opened on an upbeat note, with the Democratic majority welcoming the new Moore Administration, anticipating a much more collaborative working relationship than that experienced in the previous eight years under the popular but term-limited Republican Governor, Larry Hogan. Also contributing to this newfound energy was the re-opening of the legislature to the public after two years of complete or partial closure due to the pandemic.

Change was also in the air for the 188-member House and Senate, with the swearing in of 38 new delegates and eight new senators. The Montgomery County Delegation, now by far the State's largest after the latest round of re-districting, welcomed three new House members and three new colleagues from Howard County that also represent parts of Montgomery County, bringing the Delegation total to 35. More changes occurred as the Session progressed, with the departure of four veteran Delegation members who were offered State government roles by the Moore Administration. Senator Susan Lee became the Secretary of State, Delegate Eric Luedtke took the job as the Governor's Chief Legislative Officer, Delegate Kirill Reznik accepted a senior management position in the Department of Human Services, and Delegate Kumar Barve will be appointed to the Public Service Commission. Appointments to replace these long-time stalwarts of the General Assembly remain a work in progress.

Despite the "newness" accompanying the 2023 Session, nothing stopped members of the legislature – veterans and those newly sworn in – from tackling major policy challenges, several of which were attributed to unfinished business from the previous year. They also passed a responsible budget, reflecting an understanding that while this year's budget remained sound from recent years of federal stimulus, the State's economic outlook portends change is coming. Overall, the public good was advanced again this year, with help from the Montgomery County Delegation, whose members actively engaged in advancing an agenda that would improve the lives of their constituents and other residents and businesses around the State.

Budget

Although the fiscal 2024 budget that passed this year was not as flush with cash as last year's fiscal 2023 budget, there were still opportunities to secure funding for one-time capital projects and the legislature balanced the operating budget with relative ease. To avoid sooner-than-expected dependence on the State general fund in the coming fiscal years for the State's share of the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*, in this year's budget the legislature increased a future funding reserve from \$500 million as proposed in the budget as introduced to \$900 million to fund the program beyond fiscal 2024. These funds were transferred from \$500 million that had been set aside as an earmark for future transportation spending, a move that was made necessary in part to cover the additional costs resulting from a change in the eligibility criteria

for students receiving free and reduced-price meals. This change in eligibility criteria substantially increased the State funding necessary to support the Compensatory Education program within the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* this year and in future years. The ability to initiate this transfer was made possible by a new authority granted to the legislative branch that for the first time allowed the legislature to add and/or transfer funds within the State operating budget. Several nonprofits across the State also benefitted from the legislature's new ability to re-allocate funding (*see* the list of Montgomery County nonprofits that received operating grants below).

On the local front, under the leadership of the Montgomery County Delegation chairs Senator Ben Kramer and Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, the efforts of the 35-member delegation resulted in a projected \$218 million of new State capital investments that will be directed to projects located within the County. This figure does not include the preauthorization of \$32 million in State capital funds that will need to be appropriated in the fiscal 2025 and fiscal 2026 capital budgets (*see* Attachment 1). The capital funding is in addition to an estimated \$1.1 billion in State aid to support Montgomery County Public Schools, the County's libraries, and its public safety and transportation efforts. This reflects an \$79 million increase over last year's State aid allocation (*see* Attachment 2).

Highlights of projected fiscal 2024 State infrastructure investments in Montgomery County include:

- \$43 million for transportation, including additional funding for the buildout of the County's bus rapid transit (BRT) system, the North Bethesda Metro Station north entrance, the Bowie Mill Bike Trail, and Burtonsville Commuter Parking. (*See* discussion of additional funding for BRT under the Transportation section.)
- \$94 million for K-16 education, which includes several major Montgomery College projects and funding for the Montgomery County Public Schools capital improvements program (which does not reflect any allocation of the remaining \$98 million in "Built to Learn" funds earmarked for County public school construction).
- \$20 million for hospitals and other health facilities located in the County.
- \$25 million for parks and playgrounds and other community projects located within the County's borders.
- \$8 million for North Bethesda Redevelopment, including the new University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing in North Bethesda.

Operating grants for nonprofits located in Montgomery County, authorized by the Legislature for fiscal 2024:

- Boulanger Initiative (Strathmore) – \$500,000
- Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children – \$150,000
- First Generation College Bound – \$100,000
- Kim Lamphier Bikes Program – \$50,000

- Manna Food Center – \$150,000
- Olney Theatre – \$1 million
- Up County Food Hub – \$50,000

Broadband

In 2021 the General Assembly passed [SB 66/HB 97](#), *Department of Housing and Community Development - Office of Statewide Broadband - Established (Digital Connectivity Act of 2021)*, which imposed major responsibilities on the State and local governments to address the digital divide and ensure that every resident has access to reliable, high-quality, broadband internet service at an affordable price, and the devices and training necessary to use internet resources. This year's State budget bill allocates \$171 million of federal funding for fiscal 2023 to support the goals of the 2021 legislation, including: (1) \$100 million to support the federal Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program; (2) \$95 million for the federal Network Infrastructure Program; (3) \$45 million to wire public housing projects; and (4) \$24.2 million to expand broadband connectiveness for hard to serve households.

The most significant bill relating to broadband expansion this year was requested by the Governor and would have created a subtraction modification from the State's individual and corporate income tax for federal broadband grants and exempted broadband network equipment from the State sales tax. On its way to passage, the General Assembly amended the bill, [HB 551](#), *Office of Statewide Broadband - Study of Broadband Expansion Incentives*, to require the Office of Statewide Broadband to study how the State can incentivize broadband to expand infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities and best deploy federal broadband infrastructure grants.

Cybersecurity

Last year the General Assembly passed a complex package of bills relating to cybersecurity that, among other things, established: (1) the Cybersecurity Preparedness Unit in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to assist local governments in preparing for and responding to cybersecurity incidents ([SB 754](#)); (2) the Statewide Reporting Framework administered by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) ([HB 1205](#)); (3) the Local Cybersecurity Support Fund ([HB 1205](#)); and (4) the cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Unit in DoIT to coordinate efforts with State, local, and regional governments ([SB 812](#)).

This year the General Assembly appropriated \$161 million for cybersecurity efforts, including \$7.2 million for the Local Cybersecurity Support Fund, and passed two more bills to expand the State's approach to cybersecurity threats. The first bill, [SB 801](#), *Economic Development - Cybersecurity - Cyber Maryland Program*, creates the Cyber Maryland Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to increase the cybersecurity workforce in the State. The second bill, [HB 969](#), *Public Service Commission - Cybersecurity Staffing and Assessments (Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Act of 2023)*, requires the Public Service Commission to take a variety of steps to address cybersecurity threats facing public utilities. The fiscal 2024 budget includes \$690,000 and \$360,000 to implement [SB 801](#) and [HB 969](#), respectively.

Education and Early Care

Following last year's investments in child care provider stabilization, the County's child care champions in the legislature sought to provide consistency from year to year for families enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program. [House Bill 495/Senate Bill 350](#), *Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations*, prohibit the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) from increasing the copayment levels or reducing the reimbursement rates or the income eligibility requirements in effect as of January 1, 2023, for the Child Care Scholarship Program unless certain conditions are met. These include a requirement that MSDE notify the General Assembly that the changes are not implemented until the completion of the regular legislative session immediately following the submission of the notification, or the Board of Public Works approves budget reductions for the program.

In an effort to incentivize students to pursue careers in the teaching profession and increase the recruitment and retention of teachers and school-based mental health professionals, [HB 1219](#), *Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023*, delivers financial support to prospective teachers through the Teacher Development and Retention Program, which will award stipends to students who pledge to work for at least two years in a high-needs school, grade level, or content area in which there is a shortage of teachers. The bill also expands a loan assistance program within the Maryland Higher Education Commission to include mental health professionals who provide mental health services in public schools. The bill also creates a dashboard to track demographic and other information relating to teacher recruitment, retention, and diversity. Finally, it establishes an alternative pathway to meet minimum requirements for an early childhood education certification to ensure there is an adequate supply of prekindergarten teachers as demand is anticipated to rise under the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*. Contingent on enactment of [HB 1219](#), the fiscal 2024 State budget includes \$10 million for the Teacher Development and Retention Fund and \$5 million for the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment program to support public school teachers and mental health professionals working in public schools.

[House Bill 770](#), *Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Various Policies and Prekindergarten Enrollment and Funding - Alterations*, makes changes that have become advisable as implementation of the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* has moved forward over the past few years. The bill expands the definition of a Tier 1 child to include homeless youth, which enables those children to enroll in prekindergarten without cost to the family. In the 2023-2024 school year only, the bill includes in Tier 1 children who are four years old and whose families earn between 300-600% of the federal poverty level who also have a disability or are from a home in which English is not the primary spoken language. Correspondingly, these children are included in the prekindergarten enrollment count for purposes of determining the program amount to be funded by the State and local governments in fiscal 2023 and in fiscal 2024. The bill adds one school counselor certified by the Maryland State Department of Education, designated by the Maryland School Counselor Association, to the Maryland Consortium of Coordinated Community Supports, and changes the teaching requirement for assistant principals who are on level three of the career ladder from 20% of working hours required to be spent teaching in a

classroom to 20% of working hours participating in classroom activity involving direct interactions with students. The bill goes into effect as soon as it is enacted.

PreK through Grade 12

[Senate Bill 559](#), *Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Annual Appropriation*, requires the Governor to include \$12,050,000 in the annual budget bill for the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) In-Classroom Breakfast Program beginning in fiscal 2025. The MMFA program is a joint effort of the Maryland State Department of Education, local boards of education, and eligible nonpublic schools that provides funding for in-classroom breakfast for all students in schools where 40% or more of the students qualify for free and reduced-price meals. The General Assembly added \$2.25 million to the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal 2024 to support the MMFA program.

[House Bill 448](#), *Nonpublic Education - Placements of Children With Disabilities - Teacher Salaries (Teacher Pay Parity Act)*, requires a nonpublic school in which a child receiving special education services is placed to pay teacher salaries that are equivalent to local public school salaries, phased in over a three year period beginning in fiscal 2024, and establishes rules governing the State and local cost share. The fiscal 2024 State budget includes \$3 million to support this salary enhancement.

The General Assembly added \$2,000,000 to the Governor's fiscal 2024 budget to provide compensation for local coordinators that are required by the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*, with funds distributed in the same wealth equalized manner as the State's per pupil foundation program. A bill that would have required each county board of education to provide \$150,000 for the salary for its *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* coordinator in fiscal 2025 and 2026, [House Bill 1196](#), *Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation - Funding and Independent Evaluation - Alterations*, failed in the waning moments of session.

Community Service and Civic Engagement

One of the Governor's key initiatives this session was enhancement of community service and civic education options for youth and young adults as an alternative to immediately pursuing post-secondary education or career technical training after high school. To implement the Governor's initiative, the General Assembly passed [SB 551](#), *Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)*. This bill establishes the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to develop model community service and civic education programs and oversee activities of the Maryland Corps Program and Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

The bill creates two pathways for service placement: (1) the Maryland Service Year (MSY); and (2) the Young Adult Service Year (YASY). The MSY pathway will provide professional development, mentoring, job training, financial literacy education, and other support to young adults. The YASY pathway will provide service placements to youth within three years after high school graduation. The State budget includes a deficiency appropriation of \$4,456,405 for fiscal 2023 to support immediate implementation of the emergency bill and an appropriation

of \$13,657,296 to support community service and civic education programs in fiscal 2024, with \$11,353,000 specifically designated to implement the new service year options.

Elections

The State continues to navigate the impacts of the first statewide vote-by-mail elections that were implemented for the 2020 election cycle during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide a safe way for voters to participate. That experience and broader concerns about the integrity of elections and voting rights in general inspired legislators to pass an extensive package of bills during the 2021 and 2022 sessions to address a variety of issues relating to absentee ballots, early voting centers, ballot drop boxes, ballot canvassing, procurement of elections equipment and materials, responsibilities of the State Board of Elections and local boards of elections, and voter outreach and education (see [End of Session Summaries for 2021 and 2022](#)).

One of the 2022 bills, [SB 163](#), *Election Law - Ballots - Processing and Reporting Procedures*, was vetoed by Governor Larry Hogan. The bill would have allowed local boards of elections to begin canvassing of absentee ballots earlier, allowed voters to correct honest mistakes of omitting signatures from ballot envelopes, and ensured accurate counting of absentee and provisional ballots. The General Assembly considered these issues again this year and passed similar bills, [HB 535/SB 379](#), *Election Law - Ballot Issuance, Processing, and Reporting Procedure and 2024 Primary Date*.

[House Bill 535 /Senate Bill 379](#) require that local boards begin canvassing absentee ballots eight business days before the first day of early voting rather than the Wednesday following Election Day. The vote tabulation may not begin until the polls open on Election Day and results may not be released until polls close. The bills also create a process to allow a voter to correct a mistake in failing to sign the oath on a ballot envelope, create a process to be used when counting absentee and provisional ballots cast by the same individual, and expand the current requirement that a local board provide an electronic report of absentee voting and Election-Day results by precinct to make it applicable to early and provisional voting.

[House Bill 410](#), *Elections - Polling Place Plan - Prohibited Acts and 2024 Primary Election Date*, requires local boards of elections to create a polling place plan at least six months before each primary election, obtain public input on the plan, and submit the plan to the State Board of Elections for approval. The plan must include an analysis of how to maximize voter participation, including if the plan reduces the total number of polling places below the number of separate buildings used in the 2018 General Election and a specific analysis of the impact of the change on the ability of historically disenfranchised communities to cast a ballot. The bill expands a current prohibition against a person trying to influence a voter's decision to go to the polls to cast a vote by use of force, fraud, threat, menace, intimidation, bribery, or reward to make it applicable to a person's decision to vote by any other lawful means. [House Bill 410](#) and [House Bill 535/Senate Bill 379](#) include a provision that moves the date of the 2024 Primary Election Day from April 23 to May 14 to avoid a conflict with Passover.

During the 2022 election cycle, local boards of elections throughout the State experienced significant challenges recruiting election judges. In an effort improve recruitment of election judges, the General Assembly passed [HB 1200](#), *Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation*, which requires the following minimum compensation for election judges: (1) for an individual who has not previously served as an election judge; \$250 for Election Day and each day of early voting; (2) for an individual who previously served as an election judge, \$350 for Election Day and each day of early voting; and (3) \$50 for each required course of instruction. The State Board of Elections is required to develop a marketing campaign to share with local boards of elections to recruit individuals to serve as election judges throughout the State.

Environment

Following the passage of the landmark [Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022](#), the General Assembly passed a variety of bills this year that will help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in alignment with the State's ambitious climate goals.

Highlights include two major bills that will accelerate Maryland's transition to clean, renewable wind and solar energy sources. [Senate Bill 781](#), *Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act*, lays critical groundwork for major new offshore wind development by supporting the construction of shared transmission infrastructure to reduce the cost and impact of bringing power onshore from future wind projects, while supporting the development of a robust wind industry in Maryland. [House Bill 908](#), *Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program and Property Taxes*, makes the State's existing community solar pilot program permanent to support new projects. It also makes improvements to the program by removing project- and utility-specific constraints, requiring that more output serves low-to-moderate income customers, limiting customer charges, and enabling access to consolidated billing. Despite advocacy by the County, the General Assembly again failed to pass legislation that would revise the definition of Tier 1 renewable energy sources to exclude waste incineration from the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Other important legislation will expand statewide energy savings programs serving low-income households. [House Bill 169/Senate Bill 144](#), *Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing*, direct the State's Department of Housing and Community Development to expand programs that will help residents save energy, lower their utility bills, and improve health and comfort. Unfortunately, other legislation supported by the County failed to pass this Session, including bills that would have expanded the EmPOWER Maryland program and directed it to achieve deeper GHG savings and to support the transition more aggressively from gas combustion equipment to efficient electric appliances. Also unsuccessful were bills that would have created a new whole-home repair fund to support weatherization for low-income households, and that would have made it easier for condominium associations to add solar panels and electric vehicle charging equipment.

Supporting the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) was a major legislative focus this year and the General Assembly passed several bills in this arena. [House Bill 230/Senate Bill 224](#), *Clean Trucks Act of 2023*, require manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in Maryland. [House Bill 550](#), the Moore Administration's *Clean Transportation and Energy Act*, expand and extend incentives for installing EV charging equipment and the purchase of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and expand access to solar incentives for low-to-moderate, overburdened, and underserved communities. In addition, [HB 830](#), *Residential Construction - Electric Vehicle Charging*, and [HB 834](#), *Electric Vehicle Charging Reliability Act*, require new housing to include EV parking spots and support investment in more accessible and reliable EV charging equipment. [House Bill 123](#), *Vehicle Laws - HOV Lanes - Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles*, will extend EV access to high occupancy vehicle lanes through 2025.

Other successful bills will encourage more equitable and inclusive planning decisions and infrastructure investments, which enable climate-friendly transportation choices. [House Bill 9/Senate Bill 19](#), *Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses*, require more community engagement and equity consideration when State transportation plans, capital projects, and service changes are developed. [House Bill 12](#), *Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act*, establishes a Transit-Oriented Development Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund to promote the equitable and inclusive development of transit-oriented developments.

Several other important environmental bills that passed during this year's legislative session relate to County priorities in the areas of forest conservation, recycling, solid waste disposal, and pesticides.

[House Bill 723/Senate Bill 526](#)), *Natural Resources - Forest Preservation and Retention Act*, focus on increasing forest cover and tree canopy in the State. They increase the number of trees that need to be planted for restoration of development and reinstate the use of forest mitigation banks that preserve trees versus banks that plant new trees.

As introduced, [SB 222](#), *Environment - Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment and Producer Responsibility for Packaging Materials Act*, would have implemented an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program that would place the responsibility and cost of reusing or disposing of packaging materials on the producer. In its final form, the bill stopped short of full adoption of the program but moves the State towards an EPR program by setting up a producer responsibility organization and an advisory council that will study the best way to implement EPR in Maryland. Although [HB 109](#), *Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland*, did not pass, [SB 222](#) was amended to include a study on recycling by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Other solid waste bills that passed this session include [HB 161](#), *Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Sunset Act*, which removes the bonding authority of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NEA) and allows the Maryland Environmental Service to assume the remaining responsibilities of the NEA until a final decision is made on where the remaining duties should be placed. [House Bill 253/Senate Bill 262](#)), *Environment - On-Farm*

Composting Facilities - Permit Exemption, which increase the allowable amount of unpermitted food scrape composting on farms to a 10,000 square foot pad, also passed.

Rounding out the General Assembly's work to protect the environment are bills that address pesticides and drinking wells. [House Bill 319/Senate Bill 158](#), *Pesticides - PFAS Testing - Study*, which originally required testing of pesticides for PFAS, as passed require the State to study and report on PFAS in pesticides. [House Bill 11/Senate Bill 483](#), *Private Well Safety Act of 2023*, require the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt regulations to identify additional standards for water quality testing for private groundwater drinking wells and require well testing at the time of property transfer. Both bills will be presented to the Governor.

Health and Human Services

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* last year, the General Assembly took the legislative step towards enshrining access to abortion in the Maryland constitution. The proposed constitutional amendment ([HB 705/SB 798](#), *Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom*) which will be subject to approval by voters at the next general election to be held in November 2024, establishes an individual's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including, but not limited to, the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy. It also prohibits the State from directly or indirectly denying, burdening, or abridging the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means. Maryland has already codified the rights to abortion access that were previously protected by *Roe* and *Casey*.

The legislature acted to increase coverage for gender-affirming treatment under Medicaid for all Medicaid recipients for whom such treatment is medically necessary, including transgender, nonbinary, intersex, two-spirit, and other gender diverse individuals. [House Bill 283/Senate Bill 460](#), *Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)*, build on existing coverage under Maryland Medicaid to specifically include coverage for: (1) hair alteration; (2) voice modification surgery and therapy/lessons; (3) alterations to the abdomen, trunk, and buttocks; (4) alterations to the face and neck; (5) fertility preservation services (which are not otherwise covered for any Medicaid participants for any reason); and (6) revisions and reversal of prior treatments.

Also relating to health care coverage, the General Assembly passed [HB 1148/SB 582](#), *Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)*, which take aim at improving behavioral health treatment and access in the State. The bills establish a Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access to make recommendations to provide appropriate, accessible, and comprehensive behavioral health services that are available on demand to individuals across the behavioral health continuum by forming workgroups to study: (1) behavioral health issues relating to geriatric behavioral health; (2) the behavioral health needs of youth, individuals with developmental disabilities, and individuals with complex needs; (3) criminal justice-involved behavioral health; and (4) behavioral health workforce development, infrastructure, coordination, and financing. The bills also create an intensive care coordination model using value-based purchasing in the specialty

behavioral health system for 500 adults whose behavioral health condition or functioning places them at risk of hospital emergency department utilization or inpatient psychiatric hospital administration. Additionally, the bills extend for two years existing statutory provisions relating to telehealth, require the Maryland Health Care Commission to study and make recommendations regarding telehealth, and require the Maryland Department of Health to apply to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at the Center for Mental Health Services for federal planning, development, and implementation grant funds related to certified community behavioral health clinics for fiscal 2025 and 2026.

To support the ongoing work and investments of local jurisdictions providing services to immigrants newly arriving in the area from other parts of the country, the fiscal 2024 budget includes \$5,000,000 in general funds for the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees within the Department of Human Services to be expended for housing, food, and other needed assistance.

Housing and Landlord Tenant

To address the sometimes decades-long waiting list for federal housing subsidies, [SB 848](#) establishes the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The program will provide vouchers and housing assistance payments for low-income families that are currently on a waiting list for the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program for housing in units approved by DHCD or a public housing agency. In general, the program must be administered in accordance with federal guidelines for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and the Governor must include \$10 million in the annual budget bill for the program in fiscal 2025 through 2027 and sufficient amounts in future years to fund the same number of vouchers.

The General Assembly took commonsense steps supporting tenant protections by passing two notable bills. [House Bill 36/Senate Bill 100](#), *Real Property - Actions to Repossess - Proof of Rental Licensure*, require a landlord (in a jurisdiction that requires licensure) to demonstrate when filing a written complaint to repossess residential property that the property is licensed in compliance with applicable local rental licensing requirements, exempt from applicable local rental licensing requirements, or unlicensed for designated reasons. The bills generally cover actions relating to failure to pay rent, tenant holding over, or breach of lease action. [House Bill 215/Senate Bill 450](#), *Real Property - Limitations on Summoning Law Enforcement or Emergency Services - Prohibition*, ensure that landlords may not include provisions in leases that limit the ability of a tenant to summon the assistance of law enforcement or emergency services or penalize a tenant solely for doing so or penalize a tenant for the actions of another individual solely because the individual summoned the assistance of law enforcement or emergency services. Under the bills, a landlord is also prohibited from taking retaliatory actions solely because the tenant or another individual summoned the assistance of law enforcement or emergency services to the property. The bills also prohibit a governing body of a county or municipality from enacting local laws or ordinances that establish a threshold of requests to

summon law enforcement or emergency services to a residential property as grounds for designating a property as a nuisance or otherwise penalize an operator, owner, owner-occupant, or tenant for summoning law enforcement or emergency services to a residential property.

The County was a strong supporter of [SB 273](#), *National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund - Annual Appropriation and Authorized Uses*, which passed this year and increases the mandated level of annual State funding to support the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) from \$7 million to \$12 million, beginning in fiscal 2025. NED is a program that was established a number of years ago for the greater National Capital Region of Maryland that provides competitive funding for strategic investment in local housing and businesses to encourage healthy, sustainable communities with a growing tax base and enhanced quality of life. The bill also removes a sunset provision that, absent passage of the bill, would have limited Montgomery County's participation in the program. Only Montgomery County and Prince George's County benefit from the program, with the funds split roughly 40/60, respectively.

Labor and Employment

The General Assembly took steps to alleviate the health care workforce crisis in the State while opening pathways to health occupations licensure for immigrants to the United States through [HB 454/SB 187](#), *Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Lawful Presence and Identification Numbers*, which prohibit health occupations boards from requiring as a condition for licensure, certification, or registration that an applicant provide proof of lawful presence in the United States or have a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The bills authorize the use of an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number or alternative documentation (as permitted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the federal Social Security Act) for licensing purposes. A related bill, [HB 136](#), *Child Support Enforcement - Occupational and Recreational Licenses - Taxpayer Identification Number*, requested by Montgomery County, would have allowed child care provider license applicants to submit an individual taxpayer identification number on an application for licensure if they did not have a social security number. [House Bill 136](#) did not pass but led to the Maryland State Department of Education declaring it will change current policy and licensure applications to permit the submission of an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number if the applicant does not have a Social Security Number.

After years of considering bills that would create an insurance program to provide benefits for paid family and medical leave to Maryland's workers, the General Assembly passed bills in 2022, [HB 496/SB 275](#), *Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act 2022)*, which created a family and medical leave insurance (FAMLI) program to provide wage replacement benefits for eligible medical and family care situations. Covered employees would receive up to 12 weeks of benefits for most situations, with an additional 12 weeks under some circumstances. The bills required the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to develop many implementation details, including the overall contribution rate and employer/employee cost share. The bills specified that the cost share must range between 25% and 75% for both employer and employee and that MDL must

reevaluate the cost share every two years. Employer and employee contributions were scheduled to start on October 1, 2023, and claims for benefits were to be eligible starting January 1, 2025.

Employers with 15 or more employees (including Montgomery County) are required to participate in the FAMLII program unless they provide equal or greater benefits on their own and obtain an exemption from the State. Because there have been many delays in completion of mandated studies and development of regulations governing the program, including those governing the exemption process, employers throughout the State and MDL itself have been concerned that the original compliance deadlines for contributions and claims could not be met. In response to those concerns, the General Assembly passed “fix it” bills this Session, [HB 988/SB 828](#), *Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications*, which move the start dates for employer contributions and benefit claims to October 1, 2024 and January 1, 2026, respectively. The bills require MDL to set an initial rate of contribution that does not exceed 1.2% of an employee’s salary by October 1, 2023 and establish an initial 50/50 employer/employee cost share. The bills also move the deadline for MDL to promulgate comprehensive implementation regulations from June 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024.

At the request of the Governor, the General Assembly passed [SB 555](#), *Fair Wage Act of 2023*, which accelerates an increase in the State minimum wage rate for all employers to \$15.00 an hour on January 1, 2024. The bill does not preempt local minimum wage laws that set a higher wage and the bill has minimal impact in Montgomery County. Under County law, the minimum wage reached \$15 an hour for large employers on July 1, 2022 and will reach \$15 an hour for mid-size employers and small employers (10 or fewer employees) on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024, respectively. As a result, the Fair Wage Act will only impact small employers in the County by requiring a \$15 an hour minimum wage six months earlier than was scheduled under County law. The Fair Wage Act does not adjust the \$15.00 an hour minimum for inflation in future years. In contrast, County law provides for annual inflationary adjustments as well as additional annual adjustments up to 1% for mid-size and small employers until they catch up with the minimum wage for large employers. The full phase-in schedule for the County’s minimum wage can be accessed through this [link](#).

Land Use and Planning

The Montgomery County Delegation considered two controversial bills relating to the Montgomery County Planning Board. [House Bill 796 \(MC/PG 104-23\)](#), *Montgomery County - Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission - Restructuring Task Force*, would have created a Task Force to study the feasibility of transferring duties of the Planning Board, Planning Department, and Parks Department to County government and make recommendations on possible restructuring of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to no longer include Montgomery County. In its original form, the second bill, [HB 778 \(MC/PG 105-23\)](#), *Montgomery County - Bicounty Agencies - Commissioner Discipline, Disclosures, Training, and Ethics*, would have made a variety of changes to State law governing the five Montgomery County Planning Board members, including appointment process, term limits, removal and discipline of members, designation of Chair, salaries, outside employment, political activities, revolving door policy, open meetings, and training.

After extensive discussions with representatives of the County Executive and Planning Board regarding [HB 796 \(MC/PG 104-23\)](#), the House Delegation negotiated a compromise approach that resulted in the bill being withdrawn by the sponsor and the signing of a joint letter by the County Executive and Planning Board Chair outlining an alternative course of action focusing on the County’s development review process. The letter indicates that the County and Executive and Planning Board Chair recognize that the current process presents opportunities for improvement, particularly relating to the County’s economic competitiveness with neighboring jurisdictions. In an effort to identify and pursue improvements, the County Executive and Planning Board Chair agreed to establish an informal workgroup to finalize a consensus agreement on a path forward and to deliver a report to the Delegation by October 15, 2023.

The Delegation approved a heavily amended version of [HB 778 \(MC/PG 105-23\)](#) that was passed by the General Assembly. In its final form, the bill: (1) authorizes the County Council to discipline a Planning Board member using the same notice and hearing process currently authorized for removal of a member; (2) prohibits the Planning Board Chair from engaging in any other full-time employment; (3) prohibits a Planning Board member from soliciting from an individual or entity with business before the Commission a financial contribution for any political candidate, political organization, or ballot question, or an endorsement of or opposition to a political candidate; (4) prohibits a Planning Board Member, for one year after the member leaves office, from assisting or representing another party for compensation in a matter that was the subject of action before the Planning Board while the member served on the Board; and (5) requires training on the Open Meetings Act, State ethics law, drug- and alcohol-free workplace, and workplace harassment and intimidation.

In recent years, the General Assembly considered a number of bills relating to the issue of whether the Public Service Commission (PSC) has authority to override local zoning laws when granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to power generation projects with a capacity of 2 megawatts or more (including solar projects). The PSC is currently required to give “due consideration” to local zoning laws but also has final authority to override them. This year, the General Assembly considered a bill, [HB 692](#), *Public Service Commission - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Local Permits*, which was intended to expand State preemption of local zoning authority to include local government permitting authority. This issue arose when Dorchester County declined to approve a final site plan for a solar project that had received a CPCN from the PSC. In its original form, the bill could have been interpreted to entirely preempt local authority to approve or deny final site plans and construction and building-related permits required by local law, including (as examples) sediment control, stormwater management, and forest conservation. After intense advocacy by representatives of county and municipal governments, the bill was amended to clarify that local governments retain authority to approve or deny permits in accordance with local laws to the extent that they are not already preempted by State law.

Public Safety

Cannabis Reform

With adult use recreational cannabis set to become legal in Maryland on July 1, 2023, a key priority for the General Assembly was enactment of [HB 556/SB 516](#), *Cannabis Reform*,

which establish a licensing and regulatory system for growers, processors, dispensaries, incubators, and on-site consumption establishments. The bills create four umbrella categories of licensees, including a standard license for larger businesses, a micro license for smaller businesses, an incubator license for a facility that supports micro licensees, and an on-site consumption license. The State may issue standard licenses to 75 growers, 100 processors, and 300 dispensaries, micro licenses to 100 growers, 100 processors, and 10 dispensaries that operate delivery services without a storefront, 10 incubator licenses, and 50 on-site consumption licenses. To ensure that there will be a legal private market on July 1, the bills require medical cannabis growers, processors, and dispensaries to convert their existing license to a new license for both medical and adult use cannabis by July 1 (after paying a conversion fee) or, alternatively, to give up their existing license.

The bills are extremely complex and comprehensive. Among other things, the bills: (1) rename the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission as the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) and assign it cannabis-related duties; (2) establish the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) as the successor to the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission; (3) impose a 9% sales and use tax on the sale of recreational adult-use cannabis; (4) establish the Office of Social Equity and Social Equity Partnership Grant Program in the ATCC; (5) establish a Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF) that must be used to fund community based initiatives that serve low-income communities or communities that were disproportionately harmed by the cannabis prohibition and enforcement; and (6) establish extensive advertising, labeling, and packaging requirements. Key provisions relating to local governments include those that relate to sales tax revenues, the CRRF, and zoning.

Sales tax revenues must first be used to cover the MCA's operating costs. Thereafter, tax revenues will be allocated as follows: (1) 5% to each county based on revenues generated from sales in the county, with the caveat that 50% of the revenues generated from sales in a municipality must be shared with the municipality; (2) 35% to the CRRF; (3) 5% to the existing Cannabis Public Health Fund; (4) 5% to the existing Cannabis Business Assistance Fund; and (5) the remainder to the General Fund. Funds in the CRRF will be distributed to counties based on the total number of arrests for possession of marijuana in the county compared to the total number of arrests in the State during the 20-year period between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2022. Counties must use CRRF money to fund community-based initiatives that serve low-income communities or communities that were disproportionately harmed by the cannabis prohibition and enforcement. However, each county is also required to enact a local law that identifies the specific purposes for which the funds will be used in that jurisdiction.

The bills prohibit dispensaries from being located within 500 feet of a school, license child care center, registered family child care provider, playground, recreation center, park, or library and requires dispensaries to be located at least 1,000 feet apart. Local governments are authorized to reduce these specified distances. Otherwise, local governments retain zoning authority so long as any zoning requirements are not unduly burdensome. The unduly burdensome restriction does not apply to on-site consumption establishments. The bills

expressly provide that local governments have authority to prohibit or allow on-site consumption establishments or impose any restrictions relating to their location and operation.

In a surprise move that became one of the most contentious matters on the last day of session, [HB 1071](#), *Criminal Law and Procedure - Cannabis - Fines for Smoking in Public, Stops, and Searches*, moved out of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee with amendments in the afternoon, was passed by the Senate with the Committee amendments in the evening, and moved on to the Governor's desk when the House of Delegates concurred in the Senate amendments less than ten minutes before adjourning *sine die*.

The first part of the bill lowers the civil penalties for smoking cannabis in a public place from \$250 to \$50 for a first offense and \$500 to \$150 for a second or subsequent offense. The second part of the bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from initiating a stop or search of a person, motor vehicle, or vessel based solely on one or more of the following: (1) the odor of burnt or unburnt cannabis; (2) the possession or suspicion of possession of cannabis that does not exceed the allowable personal use amount under State law; or (3) the presence of cash or currency in proximity to cannabis without other indicia of an intent to distribute. If a law enforcement officer is investigating a person solely for driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle or vessel while impaired by or under the influence of cannabis, the officer is prohibited from conducting a search of an area of the vehicle or vessel that is not: (1) readily accessible to the driver or operator of the vehicle or vessel; or (2) reasonably likely to contain evidence relevant to the condition of the driver or operator of the vehicle or vessel. Evidence discovered or obtained in violation of the bill, including evidence discovered or obtained with consent, is not admissible at trial, a hearing, or any other proceeding.

Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking

In response to Maryland's ranking as one of the 10 states in the country to receive a failing grade in every category listed by the Shared Hope International 2022 report on child and youth sex trafficking, the General Assembly passed "Safe Harbor" bills to protect trafficked youth from being arrested and charged with certain crimes that they may have committed as a result of being trafficked. These crimes can include trespassing, indecent exposure, theft, and possession or use of a fraudulent government identification card. [House Bill 297/Senate Bill 292](#), *Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response*, establish procedures that a law enforcement officer and the court must follow to protect juvenile victims from criminalization that include referring the child to a local child welfare agency, and releasing the child to the child's parents, guardian, or custodian, if it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Firearms

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *New York Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), the General Assembly passed four bills that are designed to stem gun violence by limiting access to firearms. In *Bruen*, the Court held that a New York law that required an applicant for a wear and carry permit to show "proper cause" violated the Second

Amendment's right to bear arms because it was not "consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation." One week after the *Bruen* decision, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals held that Maryland's similar "good and substantial reason" requirement for carrying a firearm was unconstitutional.

As examples of laws that have a legitimate historical analogy, the *Bruen* decision pointed to laws prohibiting firearms in "sensitive places" such as schools, courthouses, polling places, legislative assemblies, and other government buildings. [Senate Bill 1](#), *Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)*, fleshes out the sensitive places in Maryland where individuals are prohibited from wearing and carrying firearms and requires that firearms be concealed under clothes or in a locked box when worn or carried. With certain exceptions, the bill prohibits the carrying of a firearm: (1) in schools, health care facilities, government buildings, colleges and universities, polling places, power plants, any place where alcohol or cannabis is sold, stadiums, museums, race tracks, and video lottery facilities; (2) in a dwelling without express permission of the owner; and (3) on other private property unless the owner provides express permission or posts a conspicuous sign granting permission.

[House Bill 824](#), *Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun*, modifies the criteria for obtaining a wear and carry permit, expands provisions of current law that are intended to protect children from accessing firearms, and modifies the process for approval and revocation of wear and carry permits. Key provisions of the bill include those that: (1) prohibit an individual convicted of certain crimes from obtaining a permit; (2) increase the permit eligibility age from 18 years to 21 years; (3) exclude an individual who suffers from certain mental health disorders, has a history of violent behavior, or is the subject of a protective order from obtaining a permit; (4) expand firearms training requirements; and (5) require annual reporting on an extensive array of data relating to gun-related charges, convictions, and sentences and the issuance and revocation of permits.

[Senate Bill 858](#), *Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)*, strengthens current law regarding the storing of firearms and ammunition. The bill expands a current prohibition against a person storing or leaving a firearm in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised child under the age of 16 years would gain access to make it applicable to an unsupervised child under the age of 18. If an individual is convicted of a second or subsequent violation or of a violation that results in death or bodily injury to a person, the individual is prohibited from possessing a firearm for five years after the conviction. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to develop a Youth Suicide Prevention and Firearm Safe Storage Guide to be distributed to family, health, and social service providers, State and local government agencies, and other entities with an interest in youth suicide prevention. [House Bill 3/Senate Bill 185](#), *Maryland State Police Gun Center - Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders*, expand the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State.

Police Reform

One of the controversial issues addressed in a comprehensive police reform package enacted by the General Assembly two years ago was whether State's Attorneys or the Attorney General should have authority to prosecute crimes arising out of police-involved incidents that result in death. The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 (MPAA) created an Independent Investigations Division (IID) in the Office of the Attorney General that was given authority to investigate police involved incidents that result in death or injuries likely to result in death. The MPAA required the IID to submit a final report on an investigation to the appropriate State's Attorney and gave that State's Attorney authority to prosecute any alleged crimes. This balance of authority reflected in the MPAA was modified this year when the General Assembly passed a bill requested by the Attorney General, [SB 290](#), *Office of the Attorney General - Independent Investigations Division - Authority to Prosecute*, which gives the IID exclusive authority to prosecute crimes arising out of police-involved incidents that result in death or injuries likely to result in death.

Roadway Safety

This session, the General Assembly considered dozens of bills on traffic safety to end serious injuries and fatal crashes on Maryland roadways for vehicle drivers and passengers, as well as for pedestrians and bicyclists. [House Bill 70](#), *Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023*, which passed this year, requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to make temporary safety improvements if a newly approved pedestrian or bicycle safety improvement project will take more than 12 months to complete.

Despite the determination of legislators negotiating their bills well into the final hours of session, a number of other traffic safety initiatives fell short of the finish line and will need to be revisited next year:

- [House Bill 451/Senate Bill 528](#), *Drunk Driving Offenses - Ignition Interlock System Program*, would have closed the loophole in the Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016 (Noah's Law) by expanding mandatory participation in the Maryland Ignition Interlock System Program to include an individual who is granted probation before judgment for driving under the influence of alcohol;
- Street racing, modified exhaust systems, and noise abatement monitoring bills ([HB 1130/SB 229](#), [HB 208/SB 147](#), [HB 304](#)) would have addressed increasing incidents of street racing and disruptive and dangerous driving through increased enforcement and penalties, and authorized use of new automated noise monitoring technology;
- [House Bill 367](#), *Vehicle Laws - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - Authorization*, would have authorized the use of stop sign monitoring systems on State and local highways to record motorists failing to stop when approaching a stop sign. The bill would have addressed both a roadway safety issue as well as reduced incidents of police interactions with motorists; and

- [House Bill 822 \(MC 6-23\)](#), *Montgomery County - Speed Monitoring Systems- Authorized Highways*, would have authorized expanded use of automated traffic enforcement in Montgomery County.

Taxes

Several noteworthy pieces of tax legislation passed this year. A key pair of bills, [HB 547/SB 552](#), *Family Prosperity Act of 2023*, were included as part of the Moore Administration's legislative package and strongly supported by the County. The bills make permanent the temporary changes to the State's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) put in place by legislation in 2021 for families with qualifying children and removes a limit placed on the maximum credit amount a recipient without qualifying children may receive. The bills also expand eligibility for the State Child Tax Credit created in the 2021 legislation since the eligibility criteria severely restricted the number of low-income families that could benefit from the credit. Their passage will continue to significantly reduce the tax burden on low and middle-income families in Maryland.

[House Bill 554/Senate Bill 553](#), *Income Tax - Subtraction Modification for Military Retirement Income (Keep Our Heroes Home Act)*, also part of the Moore Administration's legislative package, increase the military retirement subtraction modification to calculate State and local income taxes due for Maryland residents who retired from the military and are receiving military retirement benefits. Passage of the bills will benefit an estimated 33,000 Maryland residents, beginning in tax year 2023, at an annual cost of about \$12 million and \$8 million for the State and local governments, respectively.

Two other bills relating to property and recordation taxes that passed are of interest to the County. The first, [SB 114](#), *Property Tax - Real Property Tax Assessment and Tax Rate Increases - Notice Requirements*, repeals the requirement that local governments notify the public of the constant yield tax rate and instead requires a taxing authority that intends to increase its real property tax rate to: (1) place a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the taxing authority's jurisdiction; and (2) publish a copy of the notice on the taxing authority's website, or, if the taxing authority does not have a website, post a copy of the notice in a place that is easily accessible to the public. The constant yield tax rate is the property tax rate that if imposed on the current assessable base would result in the same amount of revenue being generated from the property tax realized in the prior year. After years of confusing taxpayers and failing to advance the goal of transparency, the constant yield tax rate disclosure requirements will now provide useful information for taxpayers to have about a local government's property tax intentions. The second, [HB 371](#), *Recordation Tax - Indemnity Mortgage Exemption - Threshold Amount*, increases the value of indemnity mortgages that are exempt from recordation tax from \$3 million to \$12.5 million. An indemnity mortgage is created when a lender agrees to loan money to a borrower on two conditions: (1) that a third party guarantees repayment of the loan; and (2) that the guarantor executes a mortgage on real property to secure the guarantee. An indemnity mortgage is the instrument that manifests the pledge of the property and must be recorded to establish a lien on the property, which triggers the

recording tax. Over time, this change in the exemption amount could result in a significant loss of local revenues.

Transportation

Several pieces of transportation related legislation important to the County passed this year, including the County's number one priority issue. The County successfully secured the ability to issue debt against grant funds made available to the County for the first time last year to help underwrite the costs of developing the County's bus rapid transit system (BRT). [House Bill 524](#), *Maryland Stadium Authority - Camden Yards Sports Facilities Funds and Bus Rapid Transit Fund*, guarantees the County a minimum BRT grant distribution of \$20 million, with the opportunity to secure up to \$27 million annually, likely beginning in fiscal 2025. Based on this guarantee of a minimum annual grant amount and the inclusion of other enabling language in the bill, Montgomery County will be able to use the grant funds to pay principal and interest on bonds it issues, which will allow the County to accelerate buildout of its high priority BRT network.

Three other bills also garnered the support of the County. The first, [HB 12](#), *Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act*, strengthens the State's efforts to support development around transit by establishing the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund and mandating an appropriation in the annual budget bill in an amount sufficient to ensure a fund balance of at least \$5.0 million at the start of the fiscal year. The second, [HB 1125](#), *Transit - Grant Funding for Local Service - Alterations*, codifies the Locally Operated Transit System grant program known as "LOTS", which creates greater transparency regarding funding sources and also solidifies the grant program's stature as critical to supporting small and large transit systems operated by local governments around the State. The third, [HB 1049/SB 693](#), *Transportation - Assaults on Public Transit Operators - Report*, reflect action on long sought-after policy changes to better protect public transit operators from assaults. While earlier attempts have proposed strengthening penalties, these bills require the collection of assault data and submission of related annual reports. This information should help inform the development of a plan moving forward to provide a safer working environment for public transit operators.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – State Grants for Capital Projects in Montgomery County (non-transportation)

Attachment 2 – State Aid Allocated to Montgomery County

**Montgomery County Capital Projects
(Not Included in the Consolidated Transportation Program)
Fiscal Year 2024 and Preauthorizations**

Public Schools	151,698,901
Brookhaven Elementary	3,158,100
Charles W. Woodward High *	49,690,000
East Silver Spring Elementary	933,000
Gaithersburg Middle	3,267,000
Meadow Hall Elementary	3,173,500
Monocacy Elementary	2,651,550
Neelsville Middle *	5,210,000
Northwood High **	75,184,000
Ritchie Park Elementary	581,900
Rock View Elementary	1,605,000
Watkins Mill High	3,575,000
Westover Elementary	1,355,200
Wyngate Elementary	712,000
Aging Schools Program Funding	602,651
Economic Development	8,000,000
Institute for Health Computing - North Bethesda	2,000,000
North Bethesda Redevelopment ***	6,000,000
Environment	18,916,000
Linden Lane - Hazardous Substance Clean-up	150,000
Montgomery County Water Quality Restoration Projects	14,350,000
Montgomery Knolls Water Main Replacement	4,416,000
Health Facilities	20,408,000
Children's Inn at NIH, Inc - A Place Like Home Renovation	1,400,000
Children's National Hospital – Tech Hill Pharmacy	500,000
Cornerstone Montgomery - Central Hub Renovation	1,000,000
Cornerstone Montgomery - Residential Rehabilitation and Crisis Programs	575,000
High School Wellness Centers	1,000,000
Holy Cross Hospital	2,000,000
MedStar Montgomery - Emergency Department Renovation ***	1,350,000
MedStar Montgomery - Intensive Care Unit	1,000,000
MedStar Montgomery - Orthopedic Clinic Expansion	1,000,000
MedStar Montgomery - Pharmacy Clean Room	1,000,000
Montgomery County Restoration Center ***	6,200,000
Respiratory Isolation for Young Patients	271,000
Rock Creek Foundation	112,000
Shady Grove Medical Center	3,000,000
Higher Education Facilities	10,016,000
Montgomery College - East County Expansion ***	2,000,000
Montgomery College - Facilities Renewal	323,000
Montgomery College - Germantown - Student Services Center	2,000,000

Montgomery College - Rockville - Library Renovation Project	2,169,000
Montgomery College - Takoma Park/Silver Spring - Library Renovation ***	3,092,000
Universities at Shady Grove - Campus Building Improvements	432,000
Housing and Community Development	4,500,000
Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center	2,000,000
National Capital Strategic Economic Development Projects	800,000
Rockville Housing Enterprise Community Center	200,000
Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center	1,000,000
White Oak – Neighborhood Revitalization	500,000
Libraries	1,180,600
Damascus Library and Senior Center Refurbishment	500,000
Long Branch Library Building and Site Improvements	555,600
Takoma Park Maryland Library and Community Center Redevelopment	125,000
Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation	12,291,000
Alim Academy Playground	40,000
Cabin John Regional Park – Povich Field	800,000
Crown Farm Historic Park	350,000
Dalewood Playground	250,000
Fairland Local Park	250,000
Greenwood Local Park	250,000
Garrett Park - New Yeandle Park	196,000
Kelley Park Field Lighting	250,000
Long Branch Parks Initiative	250,000
Maplewood Alta-Vista Local Park	500,000
Maryland SoccerPlex Renovations and Enhancements	430,000
McKnew Local Park	250,000
Montgomery County Local Public Schools Playgrounds	1,350,000
Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park	200,000
Olney Boys and Girls Club Crop Duster Stadium	1,500,000
Olney Boys and Girls Club Fields	100,000
Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park.	300,000
Patuxent Trails	100,000
Pepco Powerline Trail Project	1,700,000
Pony Club Riding Surface Replacement	500,000
Poolesville Dillingham Skatepark Expansion	180,000
Potomac Community Recreation Center Outdoor Fitness Facility	200,000
Rock Creek Regional Park	400,000
South Valley Park	1,250,000
Stonehedge Local Park	150,000
Twinbrook Community Recreation Center	350,000
Wheaton Forest Local Park	195,000
Public Safety	3,129,000
Damascus Volunteer Fire Department	250,000
Glen Echo Fire Department	1,000,000
Montgomery County Criminal Justice Complex	1,286,000
White Oak Readiness Center	593,000

Transportation	43,352,500
Bethesda Market Lots 10-24 ***	1,000,000
Bowie Mill Bike Trail	2,100,000
Burtonsville Commuter Parking	1,000,000
Connected School Safety Beacons	160,000
Montgomery College Transit Center	150,000
Montgomery County Bus Rapid Transit Systems ***	27,000,000
North Bethesda Metro Station North Entrance ***	2,600,000
Route 29 Lighting	2,842,500
Route 198 - Sidewalk Improvements	1,000,000
Town of Brookeville - Market Street Improvements	500,000
Zero Emissions Buses ***	5,000,000
Other Legislative Initiatives	12,381,000
4010 Randolph	250,000
BlackRock Center for the Arts	350,000
CaringMatters	65,000
CSAAC Senior Autistic Adult Redevelopment Program	250,000
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School	1,000,000
Infant and Toddlers Facility	250,000
Islamic Education Center (IEC) Islamic Education Center	75,000
Jewish Federation of Greater Washington	640,000
Junior Achievement of Greater Washington	300,000
Leisure World Community Corporation	800,000
Makom UpCounty Property	150,000
Montgomery History Center	500,000
Multipurpose Youth Facility	400,000
NECC Barn Renovation	150,000
Progress Place Reflection Gazebo	100,000
Project Neighbor Care	75,000
Quality Childcare Development Center	1,250,000
Quality Time Learning Center	50,000
Riverworks Art Center	100,000
Rotary Club of Olney	50,000
Round House Theatre	1,000,000
Sandy Spring Museum	1,500,000
Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge	35,000
Sandy Spring Slave Museum and African Art Gallery	150,000
So What Else, Inc. Food Pantry	150,000
Springsong Museum	1,250,000
The Clarksburg Yard	150,000
The Flats at Knowles Station	800,000
The Ivymount School	250,000
Torah School of Greater Washington	150,000
UpCounty Hub	141,000
Grand Total	<u>285,873,001</u>

* Source of funds for these projects is BUILT

** Includes \$13.1 million in FY 23 and FY 24 Enrollment Growth and Relocatable Classrooms (EGRC) funds

*** Funding for these projects was preauthorized all or in part in the 2022 Session and subsequently included in the Governor's Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget request.

2022 Session Preauthorizations for FY 25

North Bethesda Metro Station North Entrance	2,500,000
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2023 Session Preauthorizations for FY 25

Bowie Mill Bike Trail	2,100,000
Children's National Hospital – Tech Hill Pharmacy	1,000,000
Institute for Health Computing	2,000,000
MedStar Montgomery Medical Center – Intensive Care Unit	2,000,000
Montgomery College – Germantown – Student Services Center	4,800,000
Montgomery County Local Public School Playgrounds	1,350,000
North Bethesda Metro Station North Entrance	10,000,000
Olney Boys and Girls Club – Performance Sports Center	2,000,000
Shady Grove Medical Center	2,000,000

2023 Session Preauthorizations for FY 26

Bowie Mill Bike Trail.	2,100,000
Shady Grove Medical Center	2,000,000

**Office of Intergovernmental Relations
September 19, 2023**

Montgomery County Local Aid
Year-Over-Year Comparison
(\$ in thousands)

<u>Direct Aid</u>	Appropriated	Allowance	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023	
	FY 2023	FY 2024	chg. \$	chg. %
Primary & Secondary Education	868,172	939,198	71,026	8.2
Libraries	3,717	3,776	59	1.6
Community Colleges	70,709	75,407	4,698	6.6
Health Formula Grant	5,180	5,592	412	8.0
Transportation	29,999	32,933	2,934	9.8
<i>County Highway User Formula Funds</i>	8,625	10,574	1,949	22.6
<i>Municipal Highway User Formula Funds</i>	6,358	7,829	1,471	23.1
<i>Elderly and Handicapped</i>	379	379	-	-
<i>Bus Rapid Transit Grant</i>	14,637	14,151	(486)	(3.3)
Police and Public Safety *	19,548	19,607	59	0.3
Fire and Rescue *	1,887	1,887	-	-
 Total Direct Aid	 999,212	 1,078,400	 79,188	 7.9
 <u>Retirement Contributions</u>	 <u>FY 2023</u>	 <u>FY 2024</u>	 <u>chg. \$</u>	 <u>chg. %</u>
Board of Education	153,186	160,902	7,716	5.0
Library Employees	2,120	2,120	-	-
Community College Faculty	10,901	10,684	(217)	(2.0)
 Total Retirement Contributions	 166,207	 173,706	 7,499	 4.5

* these figures include municipality allocations

Sources: Maryland Department of Legislative Services
Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations
April 17, 2023

