

## TESTIMONY OF DAVID FISHBACK TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL – MAY 12, 2025

I am submitting this testimony as a nearly lifelong resident of Montgomery County and a member of Jews United for Justice to urge that the Council VOTE IN FAVOR of the proposal to increase the piggyback local tax to 3.3%, up from the current 3.2%. Having looked at the matter closely, including the recent [probing interview by Sunil Dasgupta of Rich Madaleno](#), I am convinced that this is the right course to take.

Back in 1992, I was involved with the effort to change the piggyback tax. After testifying before the Board of Education against dangerous cuts in the MCPS budget, BOE member Blair Ewing asked me if the people I was representing would support legislation in Annapolis to increase the piggyback. Hundreds of people attending the hearing stood up and applauded the idea, and we were part of the successful effort then to secure the increase. (If you want to take five minutes to hear the testimony and Mr. Ewing's response, I attach a video of that testimony.)

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This is important now, as well, 33 years later. We are a large County. We are willing to pay what we need to secure what is needed for MCPS. My family is around the median income level in the County. The tax increase would amount to about 50 cents per day. People making less would pay even less. This resolution is far fairer than the often-regressive property tax increase – which the County Executive has now abandoned.

I understand that no elected official ever wants to increase taxes. But our County delegation in Annapolis bravely supported Governor Moore's effort this past session to increase the state authorization for counties to increase the maximum piggyback from 3.2% to 3.3%. Taxes, as Justice Holmes reminded us years ago, "are the price we pay for civilization." The people of Montgomery County are willing. All it will take now is leadership from the County Council.

Please vote to increase the piggyback tax by 0.1%.

Thank you for your attention.

David S. Fishback

