



2020 LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

November 14, 2019



County Executive Jan Gardner



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer

TO: Frederick County Delegation

THROUGH: County Executive Jan Gardner

FROM: Roger Wilson, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: November 14, 2019

SUBJECT: Frederick County's Legislative Package for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session

Please find attached Frederick County's Legislative Package for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session.

Under Charter government, it is the County Executive's role to advance the state legislative priorities of the County. County Executive Gardner's goal is to submit a single Frederick County Legislative Package for the upcoming Maryland General Assembly Session that represents the County's priorities and reflects the outcome of a public outreach process.

Potential legislative ideas were solicited from the general public, county agencies, municipal leaders, and the County Council. The County Executive contacted 75 civic organizations to request their suggestions for legislative initiatives. Because the County Executive values public participation and an open process, the County Executive hosted a town hall style meeting on October 9, 2019, to receive public comment on proposed legislative initiatives and to hear additional suggestions.

The outcome of this open and transparent process produced both legislation and position statements, which our Frederick County Delegation can now advance on behalf of the County in the upcoming Maryland General Assembly Session. This demonstrates that all levels of government are effectively working together to address the concerns and issues for the citizens of Frederick County.

The Frederick County Legislative Package for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session includes three (3) proposed bills and six (6) position statements and letters from the public.

The County's Legislative Package includes three (3) proposed bills:

- 1) Expand the State Renters Tax Credit
- 2) Frederick County Board of Education (BoE) – Salary
- 3) Proposed Amendment to Maryland State Law to Provide for Limited Special Elections to Fill Vacancies on the Frederick County Board of Education

Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future

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www.FrederickCountyMD.gov

The County's Legislative Package includes the following six (6) position statements:

- 1) Support for Education Funding and Recommendations of Kirwan
- 2) Support for Increased School Construction
- 3) Funding for Paratransit
- 4) Bond Bill for Veterans Center
- 5) Agricultural and Farming Initiatives
- 6) Local Zoning Authority for Large Solar Utility Projects
- 7) Sidewalk Maintenance in SHA Rights-of-Way

The County Executive requests the Frederick County Delegation's support for Frederick County's Legislative Package for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session.



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Legislative Calendar 2019 - 2020

Date	Activity
Thursday, August 1, 2019	Seek legislative ideas by letter to 75 organizations
Tuesday, August 20, 2019	Overview of proposed legislative process/request legislative ideas and proposals from the County Council
Wednesday, September 25, 2019	Ask for input and legislative specifics from municipal leaders - Mayors/Burgesses meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 2019	Receive legislative initiatives from the County Council
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 (7:00 p.m.)	County Executive to host a Town Hall meeting (1 st floor Winchester Hall) on proposed 2020 General Assembly Legislative Package – County Council invited to attend
First week of November	Finalize 2020 Legislative Package
Thursday, November 14, 2019 (Noon)	Meeting with Frederick County Delegation - Winchester Hall
Saturday, December 7, 2019 (10:00 a.m.)	Delegation Public Hearing - Winchester Hall
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 (Noon)	Maryland General Assembly session will reconvene

Updated – 08/29/2019

Proposed Legislation

Proposed Legislation

Expand the State Renters Tax Credit

This proposed bill would add "Frederick County" to the four counties (Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's) that currently have authority for a local expansion of the state renter's tax credit. The bill would authorize Frederick County to adopt a local bill to expand the state tax credit.

(House Bill _____)

AN ACT concerning

Frederick County – Property Tax Credits – Elderly or disabled renters

FOR the purpose of

BY adding to

Article – Tax – Property
Section 9-402(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Tax - Property

Section 9-402. Elderly or disabled renters in certain counties

(a) **County" defined.** -- In this section, "county" means:

- (1) Anne Arundel County;
- (2) Howard County;
- (3) Montgomery County; [and]
- (4) Prince George's County[.]; AND
- (5) **FREDERICK COUNTY.**

(b) **Grants.** -- Instead of a property tax credit, the governing body of a county may provide, by law, a grant to any eligible elderly or disabled renter.

(c) **Qualifications.** -- The governing body of a county may establish any qualification for the grant, including an income limit.

(d) **Funding.** -- The governing body of a county shall fund the grant from the appropriate county source.

(e) **Construction of section.** -- This section may not be construed to deny the governing body of a county the power to alter, amend, or repeal any law adopted under this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.

Proposed Legislation

Frederick County Board of Education (BoE) – Salary

The compensation of the Frederick County BoE members has not changed since 2006. BoE members' scope of responsibility includes but is not limited to, determining the school calendar, setting the budget, overseeing curriculum and instruction to achieve educational equity, authorizes new charter schools, and maintains the health and safety of the county's more than 43,000 students. The purpose of this legislation is to adjust the compensation of the board members salary to reflect the responsibility and demands of the position.

This proposed bill would adjust the BoE President's salary from \$11,000 to **\$15,000** and other BoE members' salary from \$10,000 to **\$14,000**.

(House Bill _____)

AN ACT concerning

Frederick County - Education - Elementary and Secondary Education -
Establishment of County Boards of Education

FOR the purpose of

BY amending

Article - Education
Section 3-5B-03
Annotated Code of Maryland

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the laws of Maryland read as follows:

§ 3-5B-03. Compensation and health insurance

- (a) Compensation. -- The president of the Frederick County Board is entitled to receive \$ ~~[11,000]~~ **15,000** annually as compensation, and each other voting member of the Frederick County Board is entitled to receive \$ ~~[10,000]~~ **14,000** annually as compensation.
- (b) Health insurance. -- The president and all other members of the Frederick County Board are entitled to health insurance benefits regularly provided to employees of the Frederick County public school system.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.

Proposed Legislation

Proposed Amendment to MD State Law to provide for limited special elections to fill vacancies on the Frederick County Board of Education

Vacancies on the Board of Education are currently filled by an appointment-based process, whereby the County Executive appoints a replacement, and the County Council confirms the appointment. The proposed bill would amend the MD State Law to provide for limited special elections to vacancies on the Frederick County Board of Education and enable the voters to choose a replacement for a vacancy on the Board of Education.

This bill was initiated by Council Member, Steve McKay

(House Bill _____)

AN ACT concerning

Frederick County - Establishment of County Boards of Education - Vacancies

FOR the purpose of

BY adding to

Article - Education

Section 3-5B-01

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education - Frederick County

Section 3-5B-01(d). Vacancies. --

(1) The terms of voting members are staggered as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

[(2) Subject to confirmation of the County Council, the County Executive shall appoint a qualified individual to fill a vacancy on the county board for the remainder of the term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.]

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection and subject to the confirmation of the County Council, the County Executive shall appoint a qualified individual to fill any vacancy on the county board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(3) If a vacancy for an elected member occurs more than 30 days before the candidate registration deadline for the next primary election following the vacating member's election, the individual appointed under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall serve only until a successor is elected and qualified at the next general election.

(4) At the general election, the vacancies shall be filled in this order:
i. the candidates with the highest vote totals shall first fill the positions for a full 4 year term;

ii. the candidate with the next highest vote total after filling the positions for 4 year terms shall serve the remainder of the term for the position for which a successor was appointed under paragraph 2.

(5) Candidates for the vacated office may be nominated at a primary election in the same manner as for any other position on the county board.

(6) The candidate elected to fill the vacated position shall take office on the first Monday in December after the election and shall continue to serve for the remainder of the vacated term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.

Position Statements for
2020 General Assembly Legislative Package



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

POSITION STATEMENT

EDUCATION
Kirwan Commission on Innovation and
Excellence in Education

County Position: SUPPORT

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner requests the Frederick County Delegation's support for public education and fulfilling the recommendations of the "Kirwan" Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

The Commission has made a series of recommendations to ensure a high quality of education for all students in every school system in the state. Initiatives focus on making teacher salaries more competitive with other professions; assist schools with high concentrations of poverty as well as assist students who are English Language Learners; expand pre-K programs; fund special education and students with disabilities; and, ensure college and career readiness. To advance these initiatives, a workgroup has proposed fully phasing in the recommendations over the next decade.

The debate about how best to implement and fund these recommendations will be the hot topic of the upcoming 2020 legislative session. Frederick County stands willing to demonstrate its partnership with the State by funding the local share of these recommendations as proposed by the workgroup. Frederick County has clearly demonstrated a strong commitment to education over the past five years, increasing funding per student by over \$900.

The County Executive respectfully requests the Frederick County Delegation's strong advocacy and support for public education and for advancing the funding to support the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission.



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

POSITION STATEMENT

**School Construction and Renovation
Funding**

County Position: SUPPORT

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner requests the Frederick County Delegation's support for an increase in state funding for school construction and renovation.

School construction is a top legislative priority for Frederick County. All children deserve a seat inside a modern 21st Century school to keep the promise of public education. Adequate school facilities are fundamental to ensuring a high quality education.

During the last session, the Build to Learn Act of 2019 was introduced and would have supercharged school construction across the state, providing \$2.2 billion in state funding for school construction projects. In Frederick County, this legislation would have allocated an additional \$75 million in state funding for needed school construction projects to address overcrowding. The House of Delegates passed the bill, but it did not pass out of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. The County Executive provided oral and written testimony and lobbied in support of this legislation along with all of the state's other County Executives in the last legislative session. This legislation is expected to be reintroduced in some form in the upcoming 2020 session.

The County Executive respectfully requests the Frederick County Delegation's strong advocacy and support for an increase in state funding for school construction and renovation and improvement to cost share formulas and the formula for eligible costs. The demand for new school space and the modernization of existing schools will continue as the county grows.



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

POSITION STATEMENT

Paratransit Funding

County Position: SUPPORT

The Frederick County Executive requests support for the increased state funding for Paratransit Services in Frederick County.

Frederick County is experiencing a significant demographic increase in our senior population, defined as people over the age of 60. This age cohort is expected to grow in Frederick County at a rate twice as fast as the State of Maryland and twice as fast as the nation. Along with this increase in the senior population comes an increase in demand for Paratransit services to take low-income seniors and people with disabilities to medical appointments.

The need for dialysis treatment is increasing and with it the need for transportation to this life-saving treatment. During the 2019 session, Delegate Krimm sponsored legislation that would have established a commission to study possible funding sources for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), such as paratransit service available to seniors and people with disabilities. This legislation was withdrawn after the MD Department of Health agreed to establish a workgroup to discuss plans for a statewide transportation broker model.

The County Executive respectfully seeks the Frederick County Delegation's support and continued advocacy for an increase in State funding to deliver Paratransit transportation service in Frederick County.



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

POSITION STATEMENT

Bond Bill – Veterans Services Center

County Position: SUPPORT

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your support for the Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council's request for a bond bill from the State to help finance a Veteran Services Center.

The project will provide a safe and suitable space for Veterans and their families to receive services. Goodwill, Inc is in partnership with the Maryland Veterans Affairs to relocate the service officer from the Frederick County Courthouse to the new facility.

The County Executive urges your favorable **SUPPORT** for a bond bill from the State to support the proposed Veteran Services Center.



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

POSITION STATEMENT

Agriculture and Farming Initiatives

County Position: SUPPORT

The Frederick County Executive supports the request of the Frederick County Farm Bureau for the Frederick County Delegation's advocacy of the agriculture and farming legislative initiatives.

1. *Md. State Cover Crop Program*, funding is not keeping pace with the increased acreage plus farmers have lost incentives associated with the program. Farmers cannot apply manure in the spring to the cover crops. Commodity grain acres to be harvested are no longer paid for in the program. Since this is the most beneficial program to enhance Bay health agricultural producers are asking for adequate funding to be maintained.
2. *Agriculture Sales Tax Exemption*, urge the Delegation to support Agriculture by continuance of the Agriculture Sales tax exemption.
3. *Agriculture Education Curriculum*, urge the Delegation to support increasing funding for middle and high school agriculture education programs.
4. *Wildlife Control*, urge the Delegation to support the increase in hunting bag limits and/or increasing the length of the hunting season to help control ever increasing wildlife populations, of deer, geese and bear.

The County Executive urges your favorable **SUPPORT** for the Frederick County Farm Bureau Legislative Initiatives.



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

POSITION STATEMENT

Local Zoning Authority for
Large Solar Utility Projects

County Position: SUPPORT

The Frederick County Executive supports retaining local authority over project siting for large solar utility projects.

The siting of large, utility-scale solar facilities in Maryland remains an ongoing concern for local jurisdictions. A recent Court of Appeals decision finding that the Maryland Public Service Commission can preempt local zoning on solar siting is a growing concern for Frederick County.

The County Executive supports the State's renewable energy goals but it is vital to retain local authority to balance the competing interests of protecting and preserving prime farm land to ensure the viability of agriculture and to support the Farm Bureau's position.

The County Executive urges your **SUPPORT** for large solar utility projects to comply with local zoning and siting requirements as part of the project approval process.



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

POSITION STATEMENT

Sidewalk Maintenance in State
Highway Administration Rights-of-
Way

County Position: SUPPORT

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner and Frederick County Division of Public Works (DPW) supports legislation regarding sidewalk maintenance in rights-of-way owned by the State Highway Administration (SHA).

The Frederick County Code assigns responsibility for sidewalk maintenance in County rights-of-way, including snow removal, to the adjacent property owner. At this time, the County only removes snow from sidewalks located on or adjacent to County-owned properties or within rights-of-way owned by the County in fee. The Frederick County Code cannot be applied to rights-of-way outside of the County jurisdiction. To date, the County has not been asked to execute snow removal responsibilities in SHA rights-of-way but could be asked to do so under state law.

During the 2019 legislative session, Delegate Al Carr introduced House Bill 10 to assign maintenance responsibilities regarding SHA sidewalks. HB 10 would have assigned maintenance of sidewalks located along SHA rights-of-way in Priority Funding Areas to the SHA and maintenance of other sidewalks along SHA rights-of-way to the local political subdivisions. The great majority of sidewalks located in SHA rights-of-way are within Priority Funding Areas.

It is the position of the County that SHA should maintain sidewalks located within SHA rights-of-way. Where SHA owns the rights-of-way in fee, SHA is the adjacent property owner.

The County Executive respectfully requests the Frederick County Delegation's support for legislation that would require SHA to maintain sidewalks within their own rights-of-way. This should not be a County responsibility.

Letters from the Public



Frederick County Teachers Association

1 Worman's Mill Court, Suite 16, Frederick, Maryland 21701
Phone: 301-662-9077 Fax: 301-662-9205

www.myfcta.org

John Gates
Jennifer Nguherimo
Elaine Crawford
MSEA UniServ Directors

Melissa Dirks
President

Suggestions for the County Executive's 2020 Legislative Package

1. Support for a legislative fix to Governor Hogan's holding back of school construction money that was already earmarked by the legislature for expenditure in FY20

2. Support for Recommendation of the Kirwan Commission including:
 - a. Full funding of year of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future passed last legislative session
 - b. Support for a new enhanced education funding formula that recognizes the real cost of education especially in areas of special education, English language learners and students in concentrated poverty.
 - c. Increasing teachers' salaries to a compensation level commensurate with the work and degrees necessary to teach. (We also support living wage legislation for Education Support Professionals- their work is also vital to the success of students)



TSAC

Transportation Services Advisory Council

September 10, 2020

Jan Gardner, County Executive
Winchester Hall
12 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

RE: 2020 Legislative Considerations

Dear County Executive Gardner:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the legislative items to be included in Frederick County's 2020 Legislative Package. Since TSAC will not meet until October 18th, requests for suggestions were routed to the members via email for consideration. Based on that review and on behalf of the Transportation Services Advisory Council (TSAC), the Executive committee would like to continue to advocate for additional paratransit funding in the County's 2020 Legislative Package.

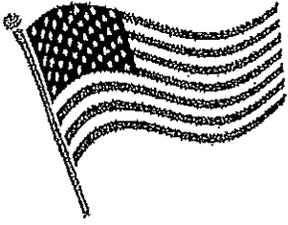
Paratransit transportation funding: There is no Federal source of funding for the County's paratransit transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, and no public/private partnerships, and State funding has been flat for over 10 years. The primary funding comes from the County. As the senior population continues to soar the demand for trips to medical and other appointments grows with it. Transit is already at capacity, currently denying requests on a regular basis. Without additional funding, additional resources cannot be added to meet this need.

Transportation to dialysis is a subset of the paratransit service; the need for dialysis treatment is increasing at an alarming rate, and with it the need for paratransit transportation to this life-saving treatment. Currently, the cost of this transportation is borne by the State and Counties. A study by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in 2013 identified the needs, but did not address a solution. Dialysis transportation is quickly absorbing the resources of transit providers throughout the nation, and it is only going to get worse as dialysis treatment needs skyrocket. In the 2019 General Assembly session, Delegate Krimm sponsored a bill, HB 366, the second consecutive year of such a bill, the purpose of which was to bring dialysis providers, and any other sources that absorb such a large portion of paratransit services, to the funding table. The 2019 bill was pulled, and instead a letter was sent from Chairman Pendergrass to MDH to study Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).

It is imperative that the need for funding for this essential paratransit services continues to be a priority. Thank you again for the opportunity to make comment and recommendations to the 2020 Legislative Package.

Sincerely,

Michael Levengood, Vice Chair
Transportation Services Advisory Council



FREDERICK COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL
 Frederick County Citizens Services Division
 401 Sagner Avenue
 Frederick, Maryland 21701
www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcvac



Col. Fred Schumacher
 USA, Retired
 Chair

Lt. Col. Sharon D. Jacko
 USMC, Retired
 Vice Co-chair

CWO3 David P. Kaya
 USA, Retired
 Vice Co-chair

Maj. Daniel Campbell
 USAF, Retired

Rachel A. Nachlas

Capt. John Lynn Shanton
 USN, Retired

Frederick G. Wood, Sr.
 USN

Ex Officio:

Doylotte (DEE) Harrison,
 MPA, MIRM, CNOR, BSN
 USN, Retired

Michelle Day

Andrea Walker

Michael McLane

The Honorable Steve McKay

The Honorable Carol Krinn

Nan Mann

*Council meetings are held on the
 third Wednesday of each month
 at 6:30 p.m. in Winchester Hall's
 third floor meeting room.*

*The Veterans Advisory Council
 is a program of the Frederick
 County Government.*

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Jan Gardner
 Frederick County Executive
 12 E. Church Street
 Frederick, MD 21701

Dear County Executive Gardner

On behalf of the Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council (VAC), I want to apprise you and the County Council of an opportunity to support Veterans in our County. As you may know, Goodwill of the Monocacy Valley and Platoon 22 have entered into an agreement to co-locate a Veteran Services Center adjacent to the new Goodwill headquarters planned at the intersection of Monocacy Boulevard and Broadband Drive. Groundbreaking will take place on November 18, 2019.

The project, due to be completed in 2020 or 2021, will provide a safe and convenient space for Veterans and their families to receive services. Goodwill has entered into an MOU with Maryland Veterans Affairs Secretary Owings to relocate the service officer from the Frederick County Courthouse to the new facility.

The VAC is very supportive of any efforts to make the State service officer more readily accessible to Veterans and has as one of its missions to move towards a one-stop/no wrong door approach to serving Veterans in our County. The new Veterans Services Center would be an important first step in the right direction.

We strongly support this project and would like to see it expedited. To that end, we urge the County to consider bringing a bond bill to the State to help with project financing on behalf of Frederick County's 18,000 Veterans.

We look forward to working with you on this and other efforts to meet the needs of our Veterans.

Sincerely,

Col. Fred Schumacher, USA, retired
 Chair

September 11, 2019

Jan Gardner, Frederick County Executive
Frederick County Government
Office of the County Executive
Winchester Hall
12 E. Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

County Executive Gardner:

Thank you for your request seeking suggestions from the Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council for Frederick County's legislative package for 2020 General Assembly Session. I would like to recommend on behalf of the Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council that this group merge with the Mental Health Advisory Committee to form the Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Under Maryland Codes Health-General § 10-308 and § 8-1001 each county in Maryland is required to have Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) and a Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (LDAAC). If these groups were to merge, it would be beneficial to Frederick County.

On July 1, 2019, the Frederick County Health Department began overseeing the local public behavioral health system as the Local Behavioral Health Authority. As a directive of the Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration, the Core Service Agency and the existing Local Addiction Authority of the health department integrated to improve systems management of the public behavioral health system. Now that the oversight of Frederick's behavioral health system has integrated, it would be appropriate for the MHAC and LDAAC to merge. This would allow for a more effective and efficient advisory committee.

Enclosed is a draft of the Local Behavioral Health Management Integration Plan prepared by the state's Behavioral Health Administration and the draft Matrix Crosswalk prepared by a subcommittee of the Maryland Association of Behavioral Health Authorities. Both of these documents provide information that can assist in drafting legislation for the upcoming session.

I would be happy to discuss this further at your convenience.

Regards,

Santita Prather
LDAAC Chair

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Frederick County Health Officer
Andrea Walker, Division Director, Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services
Sarah Drennan, Deputy Director, Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services
Dr. Pamela Blake, MHAC Chair



Frederick County Commission For Women
401 Sagner Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 600-1066

CFW@FrederickCountyMD.gov

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw

www.Facebook.com/fccfw



August 20, 2019

COMMISSIONERS

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President

Melissa Atherholt
Vice President

Shauna Mulcahy
Recorder

Valerie Dougherty
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Cindy Shubin
Member-At-Large

Rosario Campos
Karen Czapanskiy
Lois Jarman
Maura Page
Desiree Tucker
Marguerite Vacca-Kaye
Tara Woodward

The Commission for Women meets the second Tuesday of every month (except July) at 7:00pm. The public is invited.

The Commission for Women is a program of the Frederick County Government

Mr. Roger Wilson

Director of Governmental Affairs

RWilson@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Dear Mr. Wilson,

At the suggestion of County Executive Gardner, the Frederick County Commission for Women is writing to share with you suggestions for Frederick County's legislative package for the 2020 General Assembly Session.

Along with many other organizations concerned with issues affecting women as well as many residents of the state, the Commission participates in the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org>. MLAW was formed to provide a non-partisan, independent, voice for Maryland women and families. The group advocates for progressive legislation and policy that promotes and protects the well-being of Maryland women and their families and provides them opportunities to develop their full potential.

In November each year, MLAW hosts a conference at which people from around the state propose legislative initiatives for the next legislative session. After due consideration, MLAW's members vote on which of the proposals should be priorities for advocacy by MLAW in the next session. In 2018, MLAW members voted to adopt nine legislative priorities for the 2019 session. (The same process will be repeated in November 2019 for the 2020 session, but too late to produce input for the Frederick county legislative package.)

During the 2019 session, the legislature adopted bills that incorporated three of MLAW's legislative priorities and did not adopt bills about another six priorities. In the view of the Commission, these six priorities are worthy of the County's support. They are:

1. HB 122/SB 209 Protective Orders – Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses. This bill would have amended the definition of persons eligible

Our Mission: To create a stronger community by addressing challenges and fostering unlimited opportunities for all women.

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Rev. 08/20/19



Frederick County Commission For Women

401 Sagner Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 600-1066

CFW@FrederickCountyMD.gov

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw

www.Facebook.com/fccfw



program. OUTCOME: Bills received unfavorable votes in committee; HB 937 was withdrawn.

- 6. HB 1107/SB 518 Discrimination in Employment – Pregnancy and Childbirth. This bill would have expanded existing pregnancy discrimination laws to include not just women with pregnancy-related disabilities, but also women with healthy pregnancies who also need reasonable accommodations. OUTCOME: Bills did not receive a vote in committees.

The Commission appreciates having an opportunity to alert County officials to these proposals, all of which hold the promise of improving the lives of women and families in Frederick County. If you have questions about the Commission’s suggestions, or if you would like more information on these legislative proposals, please contact Karen Czapanskiy, the Chair of the Commission’s Legislative Committee, at karensyma@yahoo.com or 301.758.3970.

Sincerely,

Lakshmi

Lakshmi Darbha
President, Frederick County Commission for Women

- Cc: County Executive Jan H. Gardner
Frederick County Delegation
Frederick County Council
Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer
John S. Mathias, County Attorney
Ragen L. Cherney, County Council, Chief of Staff and Legislative Director

COMMISSIONERS

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Karen Czapanskiy
Lois Jarman

Maura Page
Desiree Tucker

Marguerite Vacca-Kaye
Tara Woodward

The Commission for Women meets the second Tuesday of every month (except July) at 7:00pm. The public is invited.

The Commission for Women is a program of the Frederick County Government

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From: [Angle Liddiard](#)
To: [Gardner, Jan](#); [Wilson, Roger](#); [Bailey, Milton](#)
Subject: 2020 Legislative Package Suggestion
Date: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:06:14 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear County Executive Gardner,

We really appreciate your request for suggestions for Frederick County's legislative package for the 2020 General Assembly Session.

As you know, the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick (HACF) is dedicated to providing safe and affordable housing, building communities and creating a stronger Frederick. Throughout the years, both Frederick County and the City of Frederick have also established this as a top priority, by offering significant financial support to Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) affordable housing developments. We have some suggestions regarding how to ensure that these resources will remain a long-term benefit to our community and the citizens who paid for them.

LIHTC projects use a combination of millions of dollars of federal, state, local and private funds. These properties will eventually reach a point where the "affordability period" will expire, which could result in a transition to market-rate housing. At that point, what will become of the millions of dollars of tax-payer money which was used to develop the project, and what will happen to the people who need that affordable housing to survive?

Measures should be taken to protect the affordable housing resources and investments in our communities. Legislation should be created which incentivizes local Housing Authorities to be part of the development team and receive the first right of refusal for affordable housing developments in their communities. Doing this has many benefits:

- 1) Housing Authorities are motivated to serve the people in the local community and committed to maintaining long-term affordable housing, even beyond the expiration of the "affordability period," unlike developers who are involved on a short-term basis and motivated by profits.
- 2) When Housing Authorities are part of the development team, profits from projects are reinvested into local affordable housing, jobs and community services. Outside developers use those profits in other communities or for personal gain. Even local non-profit developers will often reinvest resources in projects outside of our community using the profits gained from the help of local contributions.
- 3) The long-term commitment of Housing Authorities helps to ensure the long-term success of LIHTC projects such as the quality of construction, operating budget, replacement reserves, etc. This is important when considering the short-term nature of an outside developer's involvement, which can create a conflict of interest when it comes to decisions that benefit the short-term needs of the developer verses the

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

From: jess <jess_seraphin@hotmail.com<mailto:jess_seraphin@hotmail.com>>
Date: September 10, 2019 at 6:46:21 AM EDT
Subject: 2020 Legislative Package

I am writing to suggest closing the long gun loophole in Maryland's background check laws for gun purchases.

In Maryland, every gun sale requires a background check, except for long guns purchased through an unlicensed dealer. This dangerous loophole allows a person who would otherwise be denied purchase of a gun in the state of Maryland to AVOID a background check. This is especially dangerous in Frederick County because there are more guns offered for sale online that DO NOT require a background check in Frederick County than in any other county in the state. In fact, as of this writing, there are DOUBLE the number of guns for sale that do not require a background check on armslist.com<<http://armslist.com>> in Frederick County than there are in any other county in the state. <https://everytownresearch.org/unchecked/>
Frederick County residents are living in an area of the state where people with dangerous histories can most easily purchase guns WITHOUT background checks.

A bill, introduced in the House by Delegate Vanessa Atterbury, and in the Senate by Senator Susan Lee, failed to pass the Senate during the 2019 session. The bill will be pre-filed for the MDGA 2020 session and will pass with constituent support. Please consider this legislation for Frederick County's 2020 Legislative Package.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica Douglass

Legislative Lead

Moms Demand Action Frederick County

301-524-4425

Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Submission on a Revolving Loan Fund Program for
Regenerative Agriculture Investments

August 25, 2019

Prepared by F.H. Klareich

Background: Regenerative agriculture (RA) looks to improve top soil performance by naturally rebuilding its organic matter. It combines composting and grazing along with “no till” strategies to maintain or enhance yields. At the same time, it accelerates carbon drawdown, spurs biodiversity and improves the water cycle. These and other methods work to reduce the effects of climate change. RA practices lend themselves to the preponderance of small, family farms in Frederick. However, there are initial investments farmers must make to undertake this farming method such as extensive fencing. Providing a favorable financing option for these small farmers can be an important policy for the County’s sustainability efforts.

Proposed Legislative Initiative: The Commission is recommending consideration of a revolving loan fund for Frederick farmers to obtain low-interest loans at payback terms in line with the conversion timeline for RA. Frederick would work with the State to seek Federal funding that could be leveraged along with State and County funds for the initial loan pool. The State and County already offers loan guarantees and/or revolving loan funds for small business entrepreneurship. A program targeted to the agricultural sector to incentivize farmers to take up more climate-friendly farming techniques can be good for the farm and the County. It might be possible for an existing local and well-known NGO to administer the fund (No recommendation on a specific organization is being proposed at this time). Furthermore, this program does not have to be in place indefinitely; a natural endpoint can be set once a specified percentage of farms have accessed the program. The funding pool can be reverted to other forms of assistance for the agriculture sector at that time.



United Way
of Frederick County

August 30, 2019

The Honorable Jan H. Gardner, County Executive
Winchester Hall
12 E. Church St.
Frederick, MD 21701

Re: 2020 Legislative Considerations

Dear County Executive Gardener:

United Way of Frederick County (UWFC) would like to share the following regarding the upcoming General Assembly Session.

The recently released United Way ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed) Report for Maryland focused on the growing gap between the actual cost of living and the federal poverty line. In Frederick County, 39% of households have an income level that falls below the community's basic cost of living, we call this the ALICE threshold. ALICE data suggest that over one-in-three households in Frederick County are financially unstable and either in poverty, or on the precipice of poverty. Many of these households can barely cover the basics: housing, child care, food, health care, and transportation. They are often one emergency away from falling into poverty.

For these reasons we have some recommendations we would like to share regarding workforce housing, mobility and rural transportation, workforce training and education, school overcrowding, and the release of state funds for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

There is a great and growing demand for workforce and affordable senior housing in the Frederick County area. We encourage the delegation to be supportive of the development of workforce and affordable senior housing and to advocate for Frederick County housing projects applying for competitive low-income housing tax credits. Access to housing would ensure that ALICE households use no more than one-third of their monthly income on housing costs. This would make the number one cost for families in Frederick County affordable for everyone.

Transportation and improved mobility are essential community needs, but are often lacking in rural areas of the county. Investments in the expansion of rural transit is highly encouraged. Expansion of transit services would include adding a recommended bus service and stop at the new health center opening at Mount St. Mary's campus, and looking at options for other currently underserved rural areas.

Preparing to transition into the workforce can be a difficult task without the correct knowledge or expertise. Investment in programs aimed at workforce education and skills training will ensure that graduating high school students are equipped with the necessary skill sets to succeed in the job market or pursue appropriate post-secondary education.

Many Frederick County schools are near to or over capacity in student population, there are currently 19 schools in the county reaching or exceeding capacity. To ensure adequate school facilities, it is recommended that the state support adequate facilities at Frederick County Public Schools to address the problem of overcrowding.

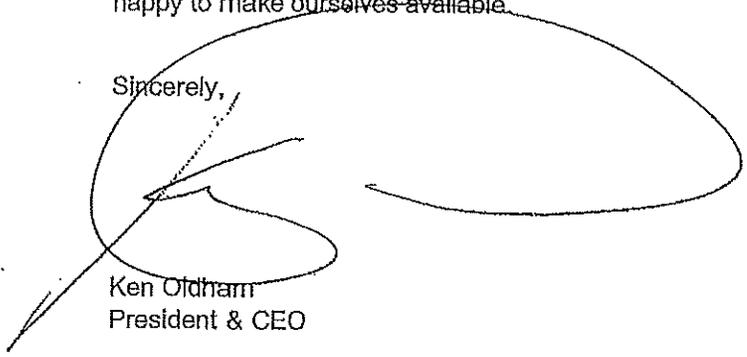
The VITA program assists hundreds of Frederick County community members each year with tax services and brings back over a million dollars in refunds to the community. In the last General Assembly session, expansion of the VITA program had been approved, but FY20 funds for the program were not approved for release by the Governor. A separate bill was passed into law requiring that the Governor include \$200,000 in the state budget for VITA moving forward. We strongly encourage our delegation to ensure that the \$200,000 appropriation remains in the FY21 budget. State funds are an important part of support for VITA programs as they are leveraged with federal and private dollars. For every dollar the state invests, it results in an additional four dollars. The VITA program in Frederick County cannot expand to meet demand without this investment.

United Way of Frederick County recommends the following to address the above issues in the upcoming General Assembly Session:

- Increase access to workforce housing and affordable senior housing
- Expand public transit services and investments in mobility in rural areas of Frederick County
- Invest in education and training programs to prepare our next generation for success in the workplace
- Invest in school facilities
- Ensure that the \$200,000 appropriation for expansion of VITA remains in the state budget

If any member of the delegation would like to discuss any of the above in further detail, we are more than happy to make ourselves available.

Sincerely,



Ken Oldham
President & CEO