

**Considerations Submitted by the
Public for Inclusion in
Frederick County's 2023
General Assembly Legislative Package**

September 23, 2022

August 22, 2022

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive
Winchester Hall
12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Re: 2023 Legislative Considerations

Your Honorable County Executive,

At the most recent meeting of the Frederick County Affordable Housing Council, two items were discussed as suggestions for the legislative package for the 2023 General Assembly Session:

- 1.) Promote housing stability by examining and prioritizing ways to prevent evictions:** Federal and State programs that provided rental assistance during the pandemic have ended. Many individuals and families have not fully recovered from the financial stress that occurred during that time and continue to struggle with housing stability.
- 2.) Focus the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and associated low-income housing tax credits on senior housing in 2023:** It has been several years since the QAP has focused on LITHC for senior housing. The need for affordable housing for seniors in communities is dramatically increasing as the end of the “baby boomer” generation reaches their golden years.

The Affordable Housing Council stands ready to provide additional information that might be useful promoting these two important areas that affect affordable housing and housing stability for the residents of Frederick County.

Thank you very much for soliciting our input,



Hugh Gordon
Chair
Frederick County Affordable Housing Council

From: [Shauna Mulcahy](#)
To: [Schaefer, Joy](#)
Cc: [Aaron Stephens](#); [Gardner, Jan](#)
Subject: 2023 Legislative Considerations - The Arc of Frederick County
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 2:15:28 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Ms. Schaefer,

The Arc of Frederick County is responding to County Executive Jan Gardner's request for suggestions for Frederick County's legislative package for the 2023 General Assembly. There are two critical issues that The Arc would like to bring to your attention for Frederick County Government's advocacy with the 2023 General Assembly as follows:

1. The Arc of Frederick County would like to ask that local government support and advocate for any recommendations from Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) related to the reduction of seclusion and restraints. The Arc supports more funding for training, additional staff, environmental modifications, and other related items that can reduce seclusion and restraints.
2. The 2022 General Assembly **passed** HB1403 / SB 0636 - Maryland Department of Health - Waiver Programs - Waitlist and Registry Reduction (End the Wait Act) last spring. The legislation requires the department to develop plans to reduce waiting lists and registries for people with developmental disabilities by 50% in FY24. Among the various populations this would help are the 310 FCPS students, out of the 6,141 students across Maryland, who are on the Autism Waiver Registry. Currently, the wait to access Autism Waiver services is 10 years. This service was originally intended to serve students early in life, as research demonstrates that greater individual independence can be achieved the earlier the interventions are accessed. Advocacy from the local government to keep the General Assembly committed to the research, funding, and next steps of this legislation is critical for students on the various waiting lists and registries for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland.

Thank you for your partnership! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at smulcahy@arcfc.org.

Sincerely,

Shauna Mulcahy
Executive Director

Shauna Mulcahy

Executive Director
The Arc of Frederick County
620-A Research Court
Frederick, MD 21703
smulcahy@arcfc.org



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Thank you.

[The Arc of Frederick County](#)



Career Fire Fighters Association of Frederick County, MD Inc.

International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3666

Affiliated with:

Maryland State Professional Fire Fighters Association and The Central Maryland Labor Council / AFL-CIO



September 6, 2022

Dear Madam County Executive, Frederick County Council, and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our ideas for the County's legislative package on behalf of Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County, Maryland.

As Frederick County's public employee organization that represents the over 500 men and women employed with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue, our request this year focuses on one consideration: we ask that you advocate for legislation that implements statewide binding arbitration for public safety professionals.

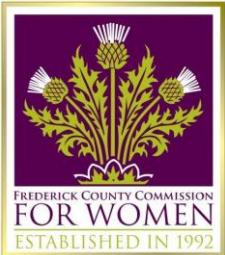
Collective bargaining has a long and successful history in the fire service. When firefighters and fire chiefs work together to address issues, it makes for a more productive workplace and improves public safety. Communities that promote labor-management cooperation enjoy more effective and more efficient delivery of emergency services. Given the County's challenges with implementing collective bargaining with binding arbitration, we are asking that you now advocate in Annapolis for statewide legislation.

We are proud to serve every day and our members will continue to dedicate their tireless efforts for a better Frederick County. Please contact me or Katie Nash (katie@fiastroconsulting.com/301.524.9142) with any questions.

Respectfully Yours,

Stephen Jones
President of Local 3666, Frederick County Career Firefighters

Cc: Frederick County 2022 General Election Candidates for Senate/Delegate
CAO Harcum
Chief Tom Coe
Career Fire Fighters Association of Frederick County IAFF Local 3666 Executive Board
2022 General Election County Executive Candidates



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*The Commission for
Women is affiliated with
Frederick County
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Frederick County Commission For Women

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Frederick County Council
Winchester Hall
12 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

September 13, 2022

Re: Marriage License Fee

Dear County Council Members:

We are writing you today to encourage the Frederick County Council to include in its legislative requests the proposed marriage surcharge fee increase. This legislation came about during discussions of the Frederick County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Per statute, \$65 of every \$75 paid for a marriage license in Frederick County goes towards domestic violence programs. Currently, the community partner receiving these funds is Heartly House who provides the required programmatic services. The number of victims for whom Heartly House provides services and the cost of those services has significantly increased since 2005, the last time the marriage license fee was increased.

Based on most recent the data provided County Council staff, Heartly House received \$142,220 in FY 2017 through this surcharge- roughly 2,188 marriage licenses. Increasing the set aside by \$10 would increase the allocation to Heartly House by \$21,880 in this scenario.

As you consider the legislative requests for the 2023 Maryland General Assembly, please include this needed legislation.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Kadish

Chelsea Kadish, President

CC: County Executive, Frederick County

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

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Rev. 02/05/20

From: [Hugh Gordon](#)
To: [Schaefers, Joy](#)
Subject: 2023 Legislative Considerations
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:04:35 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good afternoon,

FCAR would like to request that the County Executive ask the State legislature to provide assistance to the Maryland Department of the Environment so that the agency can become more effective. The Department is understaffed and is lacking current database technology. As a result, responses are lengthy and inconsistent.

This is critically important for property owners that are attempting to either build a home or improve their current homes. . .

If there are any questions as to this request, please do not hesitate to reach out for additional information.

Thank you,



Hugh Gordon
Association Executive



Frederick County Association of REALTORS®
478 Prospect Blvd., Frederick, MD 21701
301-663-0757 (ext. 1002) lhugh@fcar.org





FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Steven C. Horn, Division Director
Kimberly Golden Brandt, Director

September 15, 2022

Jan H. Gardner, County Executive
Winchester Hall
12 E. Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Re: 2023 State Legislative Initiatives

Dear County Executive Gardner,

At their September 7, 2022 regular meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission approved forwarding the following for your consideration regarding the County's legislative package for the 2023 General Assembly Session.

- Support the creation of the *Maryland Smart Growth Investment Fund*, which was proposed in the 2018 legislative session (SB3/HB117) but did not pass, and the funding needed to support its execution.
- Support increasing or, at the minimum, maintaining current funding levels to the State's historic preservation grant programs. These grant programs are important for preserving and interpreting historic sites throughout the State. However, the amount of grant requests far outweighs the amount of funding available. Typically, Frederick County averages about one awardee per program per year.

The Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program is currently funded at \$600,000 to support capital upgrade projects on certified historic structures state-wide with each applicant able to request up to \$100,000.

The Historic Preservation Non-Capital Research and Survey Grant Program is currently funded at \$300,000 to support architectural and archeological research, survey and documentation, public education, and planning and feasibility projects state-wide with each applicant able to request up to \$75,000.

The African American Heritage Grant Program is currently funded at \$1 million to support capital upgrade projects on sites representing African American historical experiences with each applicant able to request up to \$100,000.

- Support funding the State's Barn Preservation Fund. The bill to create this fund was passed in 2006 and amended in 2015, but has yet to be allocated any funding. This fund would be used to preserve historic barns and agricultural structures in the State. The Fiscal and Policy

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Notes for House Bill 699 indicate that the fund would require approximately \$300,000 to begin to address the demand for barn preservation. While Frederick County has recently created the Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program to support preservation of historic resources such as barns and other agricultural outbuildings, the Barn Preservation Fund would provide an additional funding source to meet the needs of preserving these historic resources.

- Support maintaining current funding levels for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. This program supports capital and non-capital projects within the boundaries of a heritage area and with a clear heritage tourism component. Funding for this program was recently increased from \$3 million to \$6 million. Parts of Frederick County are included within the boundary of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA), which encompasses areas of Washington, Frederick, and Carroll Counties. The HCWHA routinely has one of the largest applicant pools of all the heritage areas seeking funding from this program.
- Supports an amendment that allows historic state tax credits to go to locally designated sites, without the need for National Register designation/eligibility.
- Support increasing acquisition funding for the Historic Preservation Training Center in Frederick County.
- Support recommendations outlined by the 2022 Historic African American Cemeteries Report, including providing funding for African American cemetery maintenance, rehabilitation, and restoration activities, create statutory requirements to strengthen cemetery protection, and increase penalties for violation of Maryland cemetery law.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the legislative process.

Sincerely,



C. Beau Lockard
Staff to the Historic Preservation Commission
Historic Preservation Planner
Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office
30 N. Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-1149
CLockard@FrederickCountyMD.gov

From: [paul walker](#)
To: [Schafer, Joy](#); [Gardner, Jan](#)
Cc: [Patti Fredericks](#); [Kerri Hesley](#)
Subject: Sierra Club Catoctin Group input to County Executive 2023 Legislative Package
Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 2:21:50 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



To: Frederick County Executive, Jan Gardner;
Director of Governments Affairs, Joy Schaefer

Date: September 14, 2022

Subject: Sierra Club Catoctin Group input to County Executive's 2023 Legislative Package

Dear Ms Schaefer and Madam County Executive:

Thank you for this opportunity to share the Sierra Club Maryland Chapter and Sierra Club Catoctin Group's (SCCG) initial summary of environmental priorities for inclusion in the legislative package for the 2023 Frederick County General Assembly delegation. High level areas of focus for us are :

- Implementation of policies identified in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.
- Strengthening policies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by vehicles
- Promoting protection of Maryland's forests, waters, and other natural places.
- Reducing unnecessary waste flows through a statewide bottle bill and other actions.

We hope you'll include and support these five items:

I.

Reauthorize/Improve Community Solar Program Climate/renewable energy

A.

Authorization for this program expires in 2025; last allocation of capacity occurs in 2023. Goal is to make program permanent in 2023.

II.

Reform EmPOWER Maryland: Climate/electrify & reduce building emissions

A.

HB108/SB524 passed in 2022 but was vetoed.

B.

Support electrification for low-income residences, refocus on reducing GHG emissions (rather than kilowatt hours).

C.

End Subsidies for gas appliances

III.

Advanced Clean Trucks Rule: Climate/reduce transportation emissions

A.

Join other states in adopting policy to promote increased sales of electric medium/heavy duty trucks through 2035.

IV.

Forest/land conservation: Tree solutions now, Maryland the Beautiful Act

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0791?ys=2022RS>

V.

Enacting Statewide Bottle Deposits: Zero Waste

A.

Beverage container deposit bills markedly increase recycling rates.

Thank you again for initiating this dialogue and outreach. Should you desire additional information, please contact me at the mobile number, below. Thank you for all you've accomplished and done to lead Frederick County these past eight years.

Sincerely,

Paul Walker, Acting Political Chair
Sierra Club Catoctin Group
Cellular: 301-318-7995
Alternate email: pwsccg@yahoo.com
Web site: <https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/catoctin-group>

Patti Fredericks, Group Chair
Sierra Club Catoctin Group
Vice Chair, Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
pattithrmnt1@aol.com



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Frederick County Council
Liaison

COUNTY EXECUTIVE, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Dawn Ashbacher
Manager, Climate
& Energy, &
Commission Liaison



FREDERICK COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

TO: OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

SUBMITTED: BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

RE: LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to you the legislative recommendations of the Commission. While we understand that some ideas may be in process, we are asking for consideration of their expansion. There are many factors pressing on the need for action—not the least of which is an availability of Federal funds that may not be duplicated again across a wide range of sectors, technologies and alternative financing options. We appreciate being able to contribute to this vital dialog and your consideration of our recommendations.

Purpose: *Building Resilience and Protecting Natural Assets*

Suggestion: Provide funding so counties can accelerate the upgrading of stormwater and wastewater surge-conveyance and storage systems to accommodate the anticipated increases in localized storm intensity and cumulative rainfall volume produced as a known consequence of climate change. Recent experience in Frederick and other counties demonstrate that existing infrastructure has outgrown its capacity to prevent damage to buildings, infrastructure, and agricultural assets.

Purpose: *Advancing Clean Technologies to Reduce GHG Emissions*

Suggestion: *Support investigations into mitigation strategies to reduce barriers to cleaner technologies for the grid*, including distributed energy technologies.

- A. Seek testimony from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on needed legislative actions to reduce barriers of entry for these technologies
- B. Identify utility actions that could provide the more rapid issuance of utility permits for interconnection of both large and small solar, on-shore and off-shore wind, battery, and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) generators.
- C. Recommend strategies for the Public Utility Commission to: 1) determine whether current MW limits (stated in current legislation) that need to be increased or other means to accelerate technology entry, and 2) the extent to which the load-carrying capability of existing utility power lines needs to be increased to accommodate a doubling, tripling, and quadrupling of the installed capacity of these “clean” sources of electricity in Maryland, how much these increases would cost, and how long it would take to make these increases.

Suggestion: *Direct all counties to accelerate the installation of solar systems at 25% of its public schools* by advising school systems that this can be done at low cost by: 1) requesting grants from the Maryland Energy Commission, and 2) using 3rd-Party financing whereby more than 85% of the cost is borne by an organization that owns the solar systems and is responsible for all maintenance, and because it can take advantage of federal tax credits and other incentives, and this 3rd-party gets repaid from the electricity-bill savings the school experiences.

Suggestion: *Accelerate support for community solar projects among local jurisdictions* by leveraging State dollars with Federal funds. Building the infrastructure for clean energy requires the use of various technologies and business models at the highest rate of investment feasible. Expanding community solar provides an important approach to increasing access to technology – constrained communities.

Suggestion: Leverage State funding with Federal funds and initiatives to rapidly deploy clean technologies such as EV charging stations and solar powered lighting in publicly – accessible county facilities such as parking lots, transportation hubs, parks and other municipal facilities.

Suggestion: Direct the MD Department of Transportation to investigate installing a rail-or bus rapid-transit system between Frederick City and the Shady-grove Metro Station.

From: [Zach Gulden](#)
To: [Schaefer, Joy](#)
Cc: [Cathy Willets](#); [Mayor Briggs](#)
Subject: 2023 Legislative Considerations
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 12:01:41 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Joy,

This is in response to Executive Gardner's letter dated July 25, 2022 for 2023 considerations. I would recommend we try again on the Forest Conservation Law update in order to give us more time to spend forest fee in-lieu money.

Thanks,

Zach Gulden, MPA

Town Planner & Zoning Administrator
Town of Emmitsburg
300A South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Phone: 301-600-6309

From: [Michelle Mitchell](#)
To: [Gardner, Jan](#); [Schaefer, Joy](#)
Cc: [ronald.young@senate.state.md.us](#); [michael.hough@senate.state.md.us](#); [carol.krimm@house.state.md.us](#); [ken.kerr@house.state.md.us](#); [dan.cox@house.state.md.us](#); [Karen.Young@house.state.md.us](#); [barrie.ciliberti@house.state.md.us](#); [Jesse.pippy@house.state.md.us](#)
Subject: 2023 Legislative Consideration Suggestion from the Town of New Market - Mayor Burhans
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:54:01 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

September 15, 2022 – via E-mail

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

Re: 2023 Legislative Considerations

Dear Ms. Gardner,

At the Town Council Meeting on September 8, 2022, there was discussion on Maryland Senate Bill 703 <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2022RS/bills/sb/sb0703t.pdf>. The Town would like to suggest that this Bill be added to the list of legislative ideas for the 2023 General Assembly Session.

Thank you.

Winslow F. Burhans, III
Mayor, Town of New Market
40 South Alley | P.O. Box 27
New Market, MD 21774
(301) 865-5544x1 - Town Hall
(301) 748-6517 - cell phone

cc: Frederick County Delegation
Joy Schaefer, Government Affairs Director

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Michelle Mitchell
Town Clerk
Town of New Market
40 South Alley / P.O. Box 27
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LIVE UNITED



**United Way
of Frederick County**

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Jan H. Gardner
County Executive
Winchester Hall
12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Re: 2023 Legislative Considerations

Dear County Executive Gardner:

Thank you for the opportunity to share United Way of Frederick County's (UWFC) input for the upcoming 2023 Maryland General Assembly Session.

According to the most recent ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report, 37% of households in Frederick County struggle to afford the cost of basic needs. ALICE families are those who are forced to make the difficult choices between paying for housing, childcare, food, health care or transportation.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of ALICE households had increased from 34,688 in 2018 to 35,291 in 2020. Although the newest ALICE report has not yet been published due to delays with the U.S. Census, we can most assuredly intuit that the number of ALICE households has increased yet again. The COVID-19 pandemic placed unprecedented stress on ALICE households. Low-income employees suffered job loss creating a ripple effect of negativity throughout all aspects of life. Consequently, ALICE households became most vulnerable to being unable to afford basic needs such as paying their rent and subsequently facing eviction.

To continue to best serve and advocate on behalf of ALICE families, UWFC respectfully submits the following legislative considerations:

- Transportation: UWFC is calling this the year of transportation because we can now be certain (given the recent Ausherman Transportation Study and Ride United preliminary data analysis) that transportation barriers in Frederick County prevent our low-to-moderate income families from accessing basic services and resources. This exacerbates the already existing struggles experienced by ALICE families. The need for safe, affordable, flexible, and real-time transportation is more critical than ever. Micro-transit solutions pose an interesting and complementary supplement to already-existing fixed public transit routes. UWFC is in support of legislation which promotes viable, long-lasting transportation solutions for Frederick County residents.

- Housing: UWFC is in favor of legislation which promotes affordable housing, including mixed-use, high-density housing. This type of housing is ideal for ALICE households including veterans, working families, seniors, and those struggling with disabilities. Moreover, Federal and State programs which provided rental assistance during the pandemic have now ended. Yet, many ALICE households have not fully recovered from the financial strain of the pandemic. Thus, initiatives and funding which aim to create more affordable housing and continue to protect families from eviction are paramount.
- Equitable access to healthcare and immunizations: Access to healthcare services and immunizations must be made available to every Frederick County resident. Although it is merely speculative, COVID-19 is likely here to stay for the foreseeable future, meaning Frederick County residents – especially ALICE households – will need to remain vigilant around protecting their health. Vaccines, testing, and at-home test kits must remain readily available. Moreover, with the onset of Human Monkeypox, new systems must be developed to ensure that ALICE households have access to healthcare and immunizations at the same rate as their wealthier neighbors regardless of their ability to pay. Therefore, we are in support of legislative plans which support public health in this manner.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): VITA assists ALICE households with tax preparation services each year. During this past tax season, UWFC's VITA program recovered over \$700,000 in tax refunds. That means more money in ALICE household's pockets, and more money circulating in the Frederick economy. 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 continued state investment.
- Broadband Access: Now more than ever, ALICE families will need greater access to broadband to utilize online learning platforms, take advantage of telemedicine appointments, and work remotely. Therefore, we support current and future (expansion of) efforts such as the MD State Broadband Emergency Benefit Program, which directly serve ALICE households.
- Availability of quality childcare: UWFC advocates for policies that provide affordable childcare that enable parents to work while their children attend virtual school.

If you or any member of the Frederick County Delegation would like to discuss any of these positions in further detail, we are more than happy to make ourselves available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ken Oldham
President & CEO