

2026 Legislative Package

Public Requests for Legislation and Position Statements

As of October 16, 2025

The Frederick County Executive's Office held a town hall on October 8th to collect public input on legislative recommendations for the 2026 Maryland Legislative Session. The following recommendations were sent to the County Executive after the deadline and were not included in the packet of recommendations available at the town hall.

Submitted by: Karl Bickel

Dear Executive Fitzwater,

I am unable to attend this evening's Legislative Town Hall due to a previously scheduled obligation. Therefore, I am forwarding two recommendations I am asking to be considered as legislative priorities.

Recommendation #1: Place limitations on the 287(g) program

The Sheriff's Office agreement with ICE surrounding the 287(g) program has been a black mark on Frederick County since its adoption. It has led to demonstrations, lawsuits and accusations of racism. For well over a decade efforts to eliminate the 287(g) program have been unsuccessful.

I am proposing a legislative solution that is outlined in the following commentary I prepared for the Baltimore Sun Maryland can find compromise on ICE controversy.

Recent research suggests a majority believe those in the United States in violation of the federal immigration laws and who committed violent crimes should be deported. The same research found a majority also believe noncitizens who have established a life here, have a family, a job and community, should not be deported because they have committed a nonviolent minor offense. My proposal satisfies the concerns of both sides in the issue.

The proposed remedy would restrict the application of 287(g) (checking immigration status and placement of a detainer) to people convicted of (a) Part I offenses defined in the Maryland State Police Uniform Crime Reporting system — serious felonies such as criminal homicide, robbery, forcible rape, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson — or (b) selected less serious Part II offenses such as forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, receiving stolen property, weapons offenses and the sale and/or distribution of certain dangerous drugs. It would not apply to minor offenses.

Recommendation #2: Restrict the masking of law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties.

The masking of law enforcement personnel, a problem receiving national attention, though not a problem in Frederick County yet, these sorts of problems tend to metastasize infecting other agencies. The state of California has recognized this with its No Secret Police Act, Senate Bill SB 627 that has been signed into law by Governor Newsom. Other states like Massachusetts with Massachusetts House Docket (HD) 4886, are following suit.

The rationale for the legislation is outlined in commentary I prepared for Maryland Matters Getting in front of the police masking controversy - Maryland Matters

Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Submitted by: Nick Carrera

Frederick County's experience thus far can help guide the state in its planning for data centers. A careful, open study is critical if problems encountered in other states are to be avoided in Maryland. I suggest these factors be included: expected costs, and benefits expected under a range of possible personal property taxes; power needs and potential sources in and outside Maryland, along with their transmission lines; water needs; impacts on clean air goals; concerns with pfas and other pollutants; and an anticipation of how long the current AI/data center surge is likely to continue, and how its collapse could affect Maryland's economy.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Submitted by: Jean Cavanaugh

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater
Frederick, MD

October 8, 2025

Re: State legislation priority list - Ban 287g agreements statewide

County Executive Fitzwater,

I am writing to ask you to include in the County's priority list support for legislation banning 287g agreements in the state of Maryland. Thank you for supporting such a ban in the past.

Earlier this year, Americans believed Trump was targeting "the worst of the worst" for deportation. Instead, we have seen cruelty and confusion from Trump - migration status rules are constantly changing; ICE engages in Supreme Court condoned racial profiling; administration officials use dehumanizing language about migrants; and virtually all detentions and disappearances lack due process.

Families have been torn apart including here in Frederick and communities of color have been terrorized by the threat of the violence they have seen ICE agents commit in other cities.

Migrants, U.S. citizens and legal residents have been shipped to detention centers far away from their homes. In an investigation, Georgia Senator Ossoff has found over 500 credible human rights violations in U.S. detention centers. These include physical and sexual abuse and denial of medical care.

Many other detainees have been shipped overseas to war-torn countries and countries with human rights violations themselves. ICE tactics are becoming more aggressive. I heard today that DHS is planning to implement a sort of "bounty hunter" model in its 287g agreements - locals get paid a price per person detained.

Maryland cannot be complicit in this administration's violations of constitutional and human rights. And it is wrong to ask our local law enforcement to provide aid in support of these violations.

I understand there is legislation now being drafted for the 2026 session that bans 287g agreements in Maryland. Please support state legislation that calls for a clean and total

ban, no compromises. Maryland will join several other states, including our neighbor Delaware, in passing such a ban.

For legislators who fear passing a 287g ban in an election year, know that the tide has turned from when this legislation was considered but not passed. A vast majority of Democrats, such as those who elected our District 3 legislators to office, oppose the trump administration's mass deportation tactics. And since mid-July, polls show that a majority of all Americans - Republican and Democrat - also oppose them.

Thank you for including support for legislation banning 287g agreements statewide in your priority list.

Jean Cavanaugh
7108 Ridge Crest Dr
Frederick MD 21702

Submitted by: Janet Ciarkowski

Please prioritize the state ban of 287. This agreement makes our police complicit with ICE terrorism. Racial profiling, unconstitutional detainment and terrorizing our citizens is not something Maryland should be part of. Thank you. Janet Ciarkowski. Frederick, Md

Submitted by: Karen Czapanskiy

I hope Frederick County will ask our state legislators to support a bill to authorize redistricting that gives Democrats an opportunity to win an 8th Congressional district in 2026. We need to respond assertively to what Texas, Missouri and Utah have done to gerrymander their Congressional delegations. Their efforts could keep Congress in the hands of the minority of voters who prefer Republican policies and legislation. We should join the efforts of states like California to give voice to the majority of voters who prefer Democratic policies and legislation.

Submitted by: Sandy Doggett

Jessica,

Here are my priorities for state legislation in January:

1. Statewide ban on participation in 287g programs with ICE. They prevent immigrants from going to the police, especially battered women. In the end, they make us all less safe.
2. Put accountability into the Sheriff's law. Everyone needs a boss or some form of accountability. While under investigation, our Sheriff remained on the job with his uniform and gun. Any other county worker or teacher would be suspended from their job until a court case resolved the issue. Waiting until the next election is too long.

Personally, I would like to see us have a professional police force like the larger counties. We have outgrown the sheriff model of policing, which involves voting for a sheriff. We need professional qualifications and education for the Sheriff.

Thanks for considering my priorities.

Submitted by: Alice Foltz

1. No 287g in Maryland
2. Require data centers to provide their power and water through sustainable means.
3. Increase funding for public schools

Submitted by: Rosemary McDermott

Frederick County is chiefly an agricultural, rural community. One of the issues facing countians, especially those in rural areas is transportation. If a low cost public transportation system could be created in Frederick County , it would be a blessing to so many of us rural folks.

Our transit system is a good first step. But it lacks wide spread availability, probably because of cost reasons. In addition, the buses do not run very often.

An “out-of-the-box” creative thinking about county transportation would help our elderly, rural countians to more actively participate in community events. Any creative thinkers in the Legislature on how to solve this priority?

Submitted by: Eric Musa

Good afternoon Director Victoria,

I'd like to share a written version of my testimonial from this Wednesday's County Legislative Priorities meeting with you and the County Executive.

Like most of the other's who've spoken before me, I'd like to ask the county to add advocating for a statewide ban on the 287(g) policy to our legislative priorities. To add to the points already stated, this policy must be banned at the state level - Frederick County's sheriff, Chuck Jenkins, has adamantly stated his support for the 287(g) program. In fact, at the annual 287(g) meeting at the sheriff's department earlier this year, when members of the community asked him to reconsider our involvement with ICE, Jenkins responded with insults. He also stated that, somehow, sacrificing a few families per week to be kidnapped by ICE is somehow staving off a worse fate from befalling Frederick County. We as a community reject this premise and will always stand to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

Another issue I'd like to ask the county and our state representatives, Kris Fair and Karen Simpson, to advocate for is the repealing of an executive order enacted by former governor Hogan in 2017 (01.01.2017.25) which bars any individual, company, or organization that engages in BDS against Israel from doing business with the state (any executive agencies within the state). A bill was put forth in the MD general assembly last year, H.B. 1460, to overturn this executive order, but this bill was not passed. Boycott, divestment, and sanctions are fundamental parts of free speech afforded by the first amendment, and I find it ridiculous that my right of free speech is being violated to protect a pariah state that is committing genocide against an indigenous population. It is expected that another bill to repeal this executive order will be put forth in next year's legislative session, and so again, I ask the county to add advocating for this bill to its legislative priorities, as do I ask for representatives Fair and Simpson to sponsor or even co-author said bill.

Thank you for your time and your engagement with the community to gather our perspectives and advocate for them at the state level.

Thank you kindly and I'm happy to answer any questions about my statement!

Submitted by: Sara Ryan

Dear County Executive Fitzwater,

I support the state banning 287g agreements with DHS/ICE. Nine months into the administration's crackdown on immigrants we see increasing violence against immigrants and detainees and the violation of constitutional rights by withholding due process.

I urge you to publicly take a side in favor of banning 287g agreements statewide.



Legislative Town Hall - SIGN UP SHEET

October 8, 2025

Public Comments	
NAME (please print)	STREET ADDRESS (please print)
1 Christian Berndt	750 Carroll Pkwy 21 Email: christianberndt6@gmail.com Frederick, MD 21701
2 Jean Cavanaugh	Email: jeancavanaugh@fastmail.fm 7108 Ridge Crest Dr Frederick 21702
3 Karen Christof	Email: qburgirl@comcast.net 6103 Jefferson Blvd. 21703
4 Carol Antonenijor	Email: ecacres@comcast.net Gambrill Park Rd 21702
5 Sara Ryan	Email: sara.ryan3@gmail.com 6420 Jefferson Blvd 21703
6 Deborah Hustley	Email: Email: 9000 Mountianberry Ct. 21702
7 Kap Koplowitz	Email: kapkoplowitz@gmail.com 7056 Catalpa Rd Frederick, MD 21703
8 John Deni	Email: johnrdeni@yahoo.com 316 Rockwell Terrace Frederick, MD 21701
9 Jamie Shoplard	Email: JamieChoplard@gmail.com 3915 Brueheart Cir
10 BRENT SIMMONS	Email: BwsCapc@aol.com Monrovia
11 KAREN CANNON	Email: Karen.Cannon@mobilize... 704 WYNGATE DR, FREDERICK
12 Tanara Santos	Email: 829 Waterford Drive
13 Marsha Flowers	Email:
14 Eric Musa	Email:
	Email:

Legislative Townhall 10/8/25

- Christian - immigrant experience
end 287(g)
- Jean Carana - ban 287(g)
- Karen Christopherson - ban 287(g) statewide
- Carol Antonowitz - ban 287(g) in a clean (RISE / NAACP) state bill
DE banned it
- Sarah Ryan - statewide ban of 287(g)
Seven states ~~now~~ have banned
- Deborah Hemley - ban statewide 287(g)
don't compromise on language
- Kap - will support all Co priorities and wants more. Bill to withhold funds from feds if they do not support states?
16-17 y/o voter reg notice + election judges
reject Southern MD freeway
Ban 287(g)
Transportation + Climate Act
- John Day - FHS PTA - overcrowded schools
per pupil funding mechanism
School Capital Funding index
Bond capacity increase for school
(leg briefing indicated additional capacity)
- Jamie Shapland - special education support
IEOA funding from feds
Special ed funding formula study
Special ed ombudsman role in AG office
needs to be funded

- Brent Simmons - Tax property code change to allow for BPP narrow to data centers suggestions for real prop subclass bill
- Karen Cannon - SB116 Data center study bill See submitted comments Transmission cost covered by data centers
- Tatianah Sanchez - ban 287(g) statewide
- Marsha Flowers - Deaf Community Center need MD wide support and funding for center
- Eric Musah - Ban 287(g) statewide Needs to be banned at state overturn 2017 EO that bans groups that support BDS from doing work with state