

2026 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT



**County Executive Jessica Fitzwater
and Frederick County Council**

Legislative Calendar 2025 - 2026

| Date | Activity |
|--|--|
| Mid-June to Mid-July of 2025 | Seek legislative ideas from Frederick County Divisions and Departments |
| Wednesday, June 30, 2025 | Seek legislative ideas by letter to 150+ organizations |
| Wednesday, June 30, 2025 | Ask for input and legislative specifics from municipal leaders - Mayors/Burgesses meeting |
| Tuesday, July 22, 2025 | Overview of proposed legislative process/request legislative ideas and proposals from the County Council |
| September 2025 | County Council Approval of Council's Legislative Initiatives for 2026 Legislative Package |
| Wednesday, October 8, 2025 | County Executive to host a Town Hall meeting (1 st floor Winchester Hall) on proposed 2026 General Assembly Legislative Package |
| Tuesday, November 4, 2025 | County Council Considers 2026 Legislative Package |
| Mid-November | Send Memo to State Delegation with Final Package |
| Saturday, December 6, 2025 10:00 a.m. | Delegation Public Hearing - Winchester Hall |
| Wednesday, January 14, 2026 Noon | First day of the 2026 session of the Maryland General Assembly |

List of Organizations

The following organizations received a letter soliciting input on the Frederick County Legislative Package. This list was created using prior legislative outreach materials and the list of applicants to the Community Partnership Grant program in Frederick County.

| | |
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| Aavane | Commission on Disabilities |
| Adult Public Guardianship Review Board | Containment Laboratory Community |
| Advisory Plumbing Board | Advisory Committee |
| Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. | CrossedBRIDGES |
| Affordable Housing Council | CrossRoads Freedom Center |
| African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society | Cultura Plenera |
| Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board | Daybreak Adult Day Services, Inc |
| Agricultural Reconciliation Committee | Delaplaine Foundation |
| Agriculture Business Council | Domestic Violence Coordinating Council |
| American Red Cross serving Montgomery, Howard and Frederick Counties | Downtown Frederick Partnership, Inc. |
| Andrea's House | Each 1 Teach 1, Inc |
| Asian American Center of Frederick | Electrical Board |
| Association of Nigerians in Frederick | Empowering Community Leaders Network, Inc. |
| Ausherman Family Foundation | Endangered Species theatre Project |
| Behavioral Health Advisory Council | Equity and Inclusion Commission |
| Beyond Shelter Frederick | Ethics Commission |
| Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission | Farm Bureau of Frederick County, Inc. |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area | Farm to School Frederick |
| Blessings in a Backpack, Frederick Maryland | February Star Sanctuary |
| Board of Education of Frederick County | Federated Charities |
| Board of Elections | Fire and Rescue Advisory Board |
| Board of Gaming Appeals | Fort Detrick Alliance |
| Board of Zoning Appeals | Fort Detrick Alliance |
| Boys & Girls Clubs of Frederick County | Frederick Arts Council |
| Business and Industry Cabinet | Frederick Book Arts Center, Inc. |
| Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) | Frederick Community College |
| Centro Hispano de Frederick | Frederick Community College Board of Trustees |
| Chamber of Commerce of Frederick County | Frederick County Association of Realtors, Inc. |
| Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership | Frederick County Building Industry Association |
| City of Brunswick | Frederick County Food Council |
| City of Frederick | Frederick County Pomona Grange |
| City Youth Matrix | Frederick County Public Schools |
| Coalition for a Healthier Frederick County | Frederick County Soil Conservation District |
| Commission For Women | Frederick County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association, Inc. |
| | Frederick Health Hospice |

Frederick Regional Youth Orchestra
Friends for Neighborhood Progress
Get Kids Outside
Girls on the Run
Global Necessity Corporation
Golden Care of Frederick
Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County
Maryland, Inc.
Heartly House, Inc.
Historic Preservation Commission
Hood College
Housing Authority of the City of Frederick
Housing Authority of the City of Frederick
Human Relations Commission
I Believe in Me Inc.
Immigrant Affairs Commission
Insurance Committee
Interagency Internal Audit Authority
Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc.
Justice and Recovery Advocates, Inc.
Justice Jobs of Maryland, Inc.
Kemmo and Nguefack Foundation
Lake Linganore Association, Inc.
Lead4Life, Inc.
League of Women Voters of Frederick
County
Libertytown Civic Association
Literacy Council of Frederick County
Living Well Youth Works
Local Management Board
Love For Lochlin Foundation
Maryland Coalition of Families
Maryland Deaf Community Center
Maryland Ensemble Theatre
Maryland Legal Aid
Mental Health Association
Mission of Mercy
Mobilize Frederick
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in
America
Mount Saint Mary's University
On Our Own of Frederick County
Parks and Recreation Commission
Partners In Care Maryland Maryland, Inc.
Phoenix Foundation of Maryland
Planning Commission

Platoon 22
Police Accountability Board
Pro Bono Counseling
PTA Council of Frederick County
Public Library Board
Rebuilding Together Frederick County, MD,
Inc.
Rustic Roads Commission
Safe Ride Foundation Inc.
Second Chances Garage
Senior Services Advisory Board
Seton Center Inc.
Shield for All Seasons
Sierra Club Catoctin Group
SOAR, Supporting Older Adults through
Resources, Inc.
Social Services Board
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Spanish Speaking Community of Maryland,
Inc.
Spirit Club Foundation
Sradio5 FM Foundation - DBA: Woman.
Foundation
STEM ENABLE INC
Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County, Inc.
Sustainability Commission
Sustainable Monocacy Commission
Tech Frederick Inc
Technology Council of Frederick County
The Arc of Frederick County
The Birthing Circle Inc.
The Community Foundation of Frederick
County
The Delaplaine Arts Center, Inc.
The Frederick Center, Inc.
The Frederick Children's Chorus
The Global Z Recording Project
Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc.
Town of Burkittsville
Town of Emmitsburg
Town of Middletown
Town of Mount Airy
Town of Myersville
Town of New Market
Town of Thurmont

Town of Walkersville
Town of Woodsboro
Transformative Arts Project
Transportation Services Advisory Council
Turner Boxing Club's Youth &
Development Program
Unified Community Connections, Inc.
United Way of Frederick County, Inc.
Urbana STEMM
Veterans Advisory Council
Village of Rosemont
Way Station, Inc
Whole Heart Grief & Life Resource Center

Woman to Woman Mentoring, Inc.
Women's Giving Circle
Workforce Development Board
Scott Key Center Advisory Board
Administrative Charging Committee
Retirement Plan Committee
OPEB Investment Committee
YMCA of Frederick County

Proposed Legislation



JESSICA FITZWATER

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Increased Workforce and Senior Housing

The Maryland General Assembly should pass legislation to increase access to workforce and senior housing and streamline processes for the development of this housing. As the County Executive of the fastest growing jurisdiction in Maryland, I strive to ensure that Frederick County is a place where residents can work, live, and thrive. In order to ensure this, it is crucial that both the County and State work to provide affordable housing, specifically for our working families and seniors.

Like many communities in Maryland and across the country, Frederick County is facing the dual challenge of rising housing production costs and insufficient housing supply. This results in many of Frederick County's essential workforce, such as first responders, nurses, and teachers, being unable to secure housing in the County and State due to housing prices and inflation. Our seniors are having similar difficulties, unable to find housing that meets their fixed income levels and accessibility needs. Throughout outreach for the 2026 legislative package, Frederick County heard from partners such as Frederick County Affordable Housing Council, Frederick County Public Schools, Frederick County Senior Services Advisory Board, and United Way of Frederick County that housing accessibility was a top priority.

While we work to improve access to workforce and senior housing, we must ensure we are incentivizing and promoting buyers of primary residences. Marylanders should not have to compete with large companies interested in buying properties to list as short-term rentals when searching for a home. The State should pass legislation that ensures properties are available for those searching for primary residences by providing incentives for buyers and sellers of these properties.

The lack of housing stock cannot be fixed with incentives for Marylanders alone, we must also ensure that local governments have streamlined processes for affordable housing projects. Frederick County is proud to be a leader in best practices for responsible and streamlined housing development. Our divisions and departments work tirelessly to ensure that developers have clear guidelines and timelines when working with the County, and staff provide completeness reviews and feedback to developers in a timely manner. In order to ensure that all counties provide this level of clarity and efficiency, legislation encouraging jurisdictions to provide timelines, guidelines, and completeness reviews is crucial.

As local jurisdictions strive to meet housing goals, securing funding for these goals is essential. Counties across the state are facing increasingly tight budgets, requiring each jurisdiction to make difficult funding decisions. As increasing access to housing is a priority of the Moore-Miller Administration, the State should increase the use of its resources to assist in this effort. Governor Moore outlined a pathway for this in the "Addressing Maryland's Affordable Housing

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Crisis” Executive Order, directing the Department of Housing and Community Development to increase funding for transit-oriented development and create a written plan to accelerate the distribution of funding for affordable multifamily housing projects. The General Assembly should pass legislation to codify and assist these efforts, ensuring that local governments are not left to shoulder the burden of increasing affordable housing stock alone.

While funding and housing targets are being allocated and set, ensuring streamlined processes at the State level is the final crucial piece to improving workforce and senior housing. As the Governor cited in his recent Executive Order, coordination among State agencies that deal with housing permits and approvals is critical. The creation of a Maryland Housing Ombudsman will provide a point of contact not only for state agencies, but for local governments as well. State agencies should also look for areas to improve efficiency and clarity in housing development processes, as local governments do the same.

As improving housing stock continues to be a priority for Frederick County Government and the Moore-Miller Administration, I look forward to working with State partners to find innovative solutions to the housing affordability crisis that prioritize our working families and seniors, while preserving the local authority to lead on land use decisions. By prioritizing primary residences, implementing best practices at the local level, increasing accessibility and distribution of state resources, and streamlining state processes, I believe Maryland has an opportunity to be a nationwide leader in housing affordability.



JESSICA FITZWATER

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Education Funding Formula Alteration – Task Force to Study

The Maryland General Assembly should pass legislation to create a task force to study the current education funding formula to ensure that State school funding is being allocated in an equitable manner, particularly concerning student population growth.

The State of Maryland determines state aid by using a foundation formula, using enrollment numbers from September 30th of the prior school year. This current formula creates an inherent disadvantage to school systems with growing populations, as the funding for new students does not reach local school districts until the following school year. This means that counties experiencing high enrollment growth are left without state funding for the additional students each year.

Frederick County has been the fastest growing school system in Maryland for several years. As County Executive, I am proud of our wonderful school system that continues to draw families to Frederick County. However, due to the outdated state funding formula, Frederick County is left with hundreds of unfunded seats that require the County to cover both the local and state share of education funding. As student enrollment increases, school systems and the Counties that fund them need state support for the infrastructure and resources necessary to meet the needs of each student at the time that they are in our schools. The requirements of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future further exacerbate County education funding struggles, while school systems work to ensure they are meeting milestones and providing the best education possible.

The General Assembly passed legislation in 2024 to form a Frederick County School Construction Workgroup, consisting of local elected officials, school board representatives, IAC representatives, and General Assembly members. One of the recommendations published in the workgroup's 2024 report was for the State to re-evaluate the education funding formula with a focus on student enrollment. As a mother of two FCPS students and a former educator, I am a strong supporter of ensuring our students have every resource available to guarantee their success. I believe that this study is crucial to ensuring the success of our students and the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.



JESSICA FITZWATER

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Property Tax – County Authority to Set Special Rates

To allow for the County to enhance revenue for school construction and transportation improvements, the Maryland General Assembly should pass legislation that authorizes a County to set special tax rates for financing local infrastructure.

Currently, county governments do not have the authority to set different property tax rates for subclasses of property, such as different residential and commercial properties. While property taxes are the main source of revenue for local governments, we face heightened pressure from our constituents to keep residential property rates low as assessment values increase and inflation impacts their household budgets. As County Executive, I aim to keep the cost of living in Frederick County affordable while also maintaining our critical infrastructure, such as schools, roads, libraries, and senior services.

As passed by the House of Delegates in 2025, House Bill 23 would have provided a path forward for expanding the authority to set special tax rates based on subclasses of property, an authority that municipalities already have, while protecting mixed-use properties and small businesses through exemptions and tax credits. This bill also ensures that the revenue realized from this authority is invested in education and transportation infrastructure.

By allowing county governments to set special property tax rates for different types of residential and commercial property, Frederick County will have the opportunity to lessen the tax burden on our residents. The County will be able to do this by modestly increasing the commercial tax base for commercial entities that can afford to pay a higher rate, and lowering taxes for residents who are paying more than their fair share. Language proposed in last year's bill will allow jurisdictions to ensure that small and local businesses are not impacted by the increased commercial tax rate by allowing counties to offer a tax credit to businesses with fewer than 15 employees to offset the special tax rate.

Frederick County has a thriving and diverse economy and a growing population. To continue to support our economy and maintain the infrastructure needed for our community, we must find innovative and equitable ways to increase revenue, particularly for transportation and education needs. To achieve the objectives of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, build and renovate schools, and maintain transportation infrastructure, counties must have the capability to adjust property tax rates according to subclasses.



JESSICA FITZWATER

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

PRIORITY LEGISLATION

School Resource Officer – Prohibition on Sexual Contact

To ensure the physical safety and mental well-being of Maryland school students, the Maryland General Assembly should pass legislation prohibiting school resource officers (SROs) from having sexual contact with students at a school or institution where the officer is assigned as a school resource officer, regardless of the age of the student.

Currently, Maryland State law prohibits a school resource officer from having sexual contact with a student that is under the age of 18. Law enforcement officers generally are prohibited from having sexual contact with victims, witnesses, suspects, individuals in custody, and individuals requesting assistance from the law enforcement officer, as outlined in MD Code, Criminal Law, § 3-314. However, current law creates an unintended loophole that allows for a school resource officer to have sexual contact with a student if that student is above the age of 18.

The Maryland General Assembly should pass legislation prohibiting school resource officers from having sexual contact with students to ensure schools are a safe space for all students who attend. Maryland law recognizes the unique vulnerability of victims, witnesses, suspects, individuals in custody, and individuals requesting assistance from the law enforcement officer and extends protections in MD Code, Criminal Law, § 3-314. These protections should be extended to students at schools and institutions where an officer is serving as an SRO.

As a mother and a former educator, I care deeply about the safety and well-being of Maryland's students. I believe this legislation is crucial to ensuring students are able to thrive in a healthy and safe environment when they enter any Maryland school. I am committed to working with the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office and the Frederick County Sheriff's Office to pass this legislation and ensure the safety of our children.

Proposed bill language:

§ 3-314. Sexual conduct between correctional or juvenile justice employee, court-order service provider, or law enforcement officer and person responding to employee during employee's official duties

(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a law enforcement officer may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, or a sexual act with a person:

- (i) who is a victim, witness, or suspect in an open investigation that the law enforcement officer is conducting, supervising, or assisting with if the law enforcement officer knew or should have known that the person is a victim, witness, or suspect in the investigation;
- (ii) requesting assistance from or responding to the law enforcement officer in the course of the law enforcement officer's official duties; or
- (iii) in the custody of the law enforcement officer.

(IV) WHO IS A STUDENT AT A SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION WHERE THE OFFICER IS ASSIGNED AS A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

(2) Paragraph (1)(i) and (ii) of this subsection does not apply if the law enforcement officer:

- (i) had a prior existing legal sexual relationship with the person; and
- (ii) did not act under the color or pretense of office or under color of official right when seeking consent to the vaginal intercourse, sexual act, or sexual contact.

Position Statements



JESSICA FITZWATER

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

POSITION STATEMENT

State School Capital Improvement Program

County Position: Support increased investment in the State School Capital Improvement Program

I urge the Maryland General Assembly to increase funding for the State Capital Improvement Program for public schools in order to meet existing commitments to provide high-quality teaching and learning environments for all of Maryland's students and to implement the requirements of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

We recognize that the State is facing a tough fiscal climate, and local governments are seeing increased operating costs due to budget cuts and projected declines in revenue. However, funding the capital needs of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is essential to ensure milestones can be met in a timely manner. Local governments are unable to shoulder this burden on their own.

We are requesting that in FY 2027, the State provide a minimum of \$640 million in State Capital Improvement Program funding and establish an annual inflationary adjustment to be added to the base State Capital Improvement Program funding beginning in FY 2028. The inflationary adjustment should be commensurate with the cost per square foot adjustment, expressed as a percentage, approved annually by the Interagency Commission on School Construction.

Maryland is committed to providing quality teaching and learning environments for all of Maryland's students and maintaining Maryland's existing inventory of school facilities. As the benchmarks of Maryland's Blueprint for Education approach and local budgets become more constrained, the state must also support local governments and local education agencies in meeting these commitments with adequate facility space. Therefore, state capital improvement funding must not only adjust for inflation, but also account for the costs associated with providing new educational space to fulfill the requirements in Maryland's Blueprint for Education.

As an educator for 17 years, I understand first-hand the importance of investing in our school facilities. Furthermore, as the County Executive of one of the fastest growing counties and school systems in the state, I intimately understand the financial challenges of building and maintaining the school facilities needed to teach all students in today's education system. State partnership, particularly in the form of increased capital improvement funding, is crucial for the success of our Maryland schools.

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JESSICA FITZWATER

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

POSITION STATEMENT

State-Wide Implementation of Family Connects

County Position: Support

The General Assembly passed House Bill 334/Senate Bill 156 during the 2025 session, which created a workgroup to study newborn nurse home visiting services across the state. This study aims to analyze data collected from programs in Frederick County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City, and identify service gaps and workforce needs. The legislation requires the workgroup to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Governor by December 31, 2025. The General Assembly should pass legislation implementing recommendations from the report and establishing a state-wide Family Connects program.

Frederick County's Family Connects program offers all families with newborns a home visit with a registered nurse at no charge, with the goal of improving health county-wide. This voluntary visit is offered universally, which assists in reducing stigma and ensures all Frederick County families have access. The visit occurs when the newborn is about three weeks old, and includes a comprehensive assessment conducted by a registered nurse. The nurse provides the family with a risk rating across 12 factors of maternal health, infant health, household safety, and parental wellbeing. The family is then offered personalized resources and additional targeted services that are in line with their risk and needs.

This program has been essential to improving overall health in Frederick County. Within the first 15 months of the program, the team visited 1630 families. Frederick County families have reported life-saving interventions – guided by their nurse – for high blood pressure, postpartum depression and anxiety, and infant respiratory distress. Family Connects has also provided countless resources and community referrals to improve maternal, infant, and overall family health.

I look forward to continuing to advocate for the statewide implementation of the Family Connects program. I trust that the state workgroup will see the value in this program, and it is my hope that they will recommend the program be implemented statewide.

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JESSICA FITZWATER

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

POSITION STATEMENT

State-Wide Ban of 287(g) Programs

County Position: Support

To ensure the physical safety and well-being of our communities and build on the work done in the 2025 legislative session, the General Assembly should ban the use of local “immigration enforcement agreements,” such as the harmful 287(g) program.

I am proud that Frederick County is home to a vibrant immigrant community, and I work each day to make this a welcoming and inclusive place where all people can live, work, and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of belonging. 287(g) agreements undermine our efforts to be inclusive and welcoming.

As the federal landscape has changed over the past year, we have seen more intense and public immigration enforcement without adequate due process to protect individuals’ rights and safety. Immigration enforcement is necessary, but we have witnessed enforcement tactics that are designed to intimidate all residents and cause unnecessary trauma to families and the communities.

It erodes the public’s trust in the police when local law enforcement agents enforce federal immigration laws directly. 287(g) agreements have led to racial profiling and discrimination, and these practices intimidate our residents and reduce the likelihood that they will seek the police’s help if they are a victim of crime or assist the police if they witness a crime. We cannot have safe and secure communities if our residents do not feel safe around our local law enforcement.

A state-wide ban of 287(g) agreements will lead to a safer Maryland. Action at the state-level is necessary to build trust between our communities and the local law enforcement bodies that serve them. During my town hall on October 8th, we heard from local residents about their legislative priorities, and the majority of speakers (over 70%) spoke on the need for a state-wide ban of 287(g) agreements.

I urge the General Assembly to stand up for our immigrant communities and families in Maryland by putting a stop to these harmful practices.



JESSICA FITZWATER

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

POSITION STATEMENT

Coordination with the Maryland Association of Counties

County Position: Support

As the Frederick County Executive and a member of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Legislative Committee, I work closely with MACo on a wide variety of issues. In the 2026 legislative session, I will continue to work closely with MACo on priorities that matter to local governments across the state, including transportation funding, affordable housing development, and ensuring county financial stability. I am proud of the representation Frederick County has had in MACo through Council Member MC Keegan Ayer, who starting this December will serve as the MACo president. I am proud that Frederick County will be well represented in MACo, particularly because starting in December, Council Member Keegan Ayer will serve as the MACo President.

Transportation

Well-maintained roads, bridges, and transportation networks are vital to public safety, economic growth, and our overall quality of life. County governments continue to see reductions in the local share of Highway User Revenue, shifting more of the burden for road maintenance onto the County budgets. I will continue to work with MACo to advocate for sustainable and reliable transportation funding.

Affordable Housing

Through the interim, MACo has been working closely with its members to find a balanced approach to increasing affordable housing stock and maintaining county land use authority. MACo has acknowledged that increasing affordable housing stock in the State is necessary as we navigate the current housing crisis. Governor Moore released an Executive Order titled “Addressing Maryland’s Affordable Housing Crisis” to increase affordable housing, indicating that this will be an Administration priority this session. It is my hope that all stakeholders, including MACo and state agencies, will come together to find a plan to increase our housing stock while balancing the unique needs of our local jurisdictions.

Enhanced County Financial Stability and Revenues

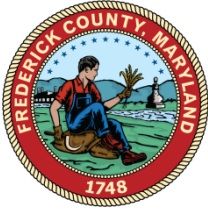
During the 2025 session, MACo strongly advocated against cost shifts of state liabilities to county governments. As the uncertainty of the federal government continues, and the State faces fiscal challenges, I am committed to working closely with MACo in advocating against any further shifts of state costs to local governments. MACo has also strongly advocated for increasing flexibility in County revenues and will continue to advocate for this flexibility during the 2026 session. This flexibility is increasingly important as inflation rises and cost shifts continue to increase. I am looking forward to continuing to work with MACo in passing

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legislation to increase local flexibility in revenue generation. MACo's legislative priorities offer several policy areas where the General Assembly can work in partnership with their local elected leaders to address issues impacting their shared constituencies. I urge the General Assembly to prioritize these initiatives in the 2026 legislative session.

Proposed Legislation from County Council



**County Council
Frederick County**

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Proposed Amendment to Maryland State Law
regarding the Disabled Veterans Property Tax
Credit

County Position: SUPPORT

The Frederick County Council requests the Frederick County Delegation to support legislation

The Current Process

Under current State law, a disabled veteran's federal adjusted gross income must be under \$100,000 to be eligible for his property tax credit. Local jurisdictions do not have the authority to alter this eligibility requirement.

What is being Proposed in this Amendment?

The proposed amendment will remove the statewide income eligibility requirement and allow local jurisdictions to determine whether and how much this income limit shall be applied.

Tax - Property, § 9-265

§ 9-265. Dwelling house owned by disabled veteran

(a)(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Disabled veteran" means an individual who:

(i) is honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active military, naval, or air service as defined in [38 U.S.C. § 101](#); and

(ii) 1. has been declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a permanent service-connected disability of at least 50% that results from blindness or any other disabling cause that:

A. is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the veteran; and

B. was not caused or incurred by misconduct of the veteran; or

2. has been declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a nonpermanent service-connected disability of 100% that results from blindness or any other disabling cause that was not caused or incurred by misconduct of the veteran.

(3) "Dwelling house":

(i) means real property that is:

1. the legal residence of a disabled veteran; and
2. occupied by not more than two families; and

(ii) includes the lot or curtilage and structures necessary to use the real property as a residence.

(b) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation may grant, by law, a property tax credit under this section against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on a dwelling house if:

(1) the dwelling house is owned by a disabled veteran; **AND**

~~[(2) the disabled veteran's federal adjusted gross income for the immediately preceding taxable year does not exceed \$100,000; and]~~

~~[(3)]~~2) the application requirements of subsection (d) of this section are met.

(c) The property tax credit granted under this section shall equal:

(1) 50% of the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling house if the disabled veteran's service-connected disability rating is at least 75% and the disabled veteran does not qualify for a property tax exemption under [§ 7-208](#) of this article; or

(2) 25% of the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling house if the disabled veteran's service-connected disability rating is at least 50% but not more than 74%.

(d)(1) A disabled veteran shall apply for the property tax credit under this section by providing to the county or municipal corporation:

(i) a copy of the disabled veteran's discharge certificate from active military, naval, or air service; and

(ii) on the form provided by the county or municipal corporation, a certification of the disabled veteran's disability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The disabled veteran's certificate of disability may not be inspected by individuals other than:

(i) the disabled veteran; or

(ii) appropriate employees of the county or municipal corporation.

(e) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation may, by law, continue to provide the property tax credit under this section to the surviving spouse of the disabled veteran.

(f) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation may provide, by law, for:

(1) the duration of the tax credit;

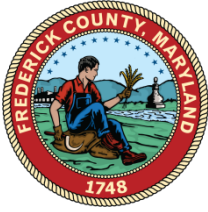
(2) regulations and procedures for the application and uniform processing of requests for the tax credit;

(3) the definition of surviving spouse and the amount and duration of the tax credit for the surviving spouse;

(4) SPECIFYING A LIMIT TO THE DISABLED VETERAN'S FEDERAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME FOR THE PRECEDING TAXABLE YEAR, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CREDIT;

(~~4~~5) notwithstanding subsection (a)(2)(ii)2 of this section, eligibility criteria for the credit allowed under this section that limits the credit to individuals described under subsection (a)(2)(ii)1 of this section; and

(~~5~~6) any other provision necessary to carry out the tax credit under this section.



**County Council
Frederick County**

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Proposed Amendment to Maryland State Law
authorizing Frederick County to impose a tax
on qualified data centers

County Position: SUPPORT

The Frederick County Council requests the Frederick County Delegation to support legislation authorizing Frederick County to impose a business personal property tax on qualified data centers.

The Current Process

Currently Frederick County does not impose a business personal property tax on County business, including a business personal property tax on data centers. Based on MuniCap estimates, a business personal property tax on this emerging new business sector in the County could generate \$69 to \$74 million in additional revenue per year.

What is being Proposed in this Amendment?

This amendment defines a new subclass of personal property for qualified data centers, as this term is used and defined in Tax General Article § 11-239. This will then give Frederick County the authority to impose a new business personal property tax that is focused only on qualified data centers, and not on all businesses in the County.

MD. Tax – Property Code, § 8-101

§ 8-101. Classification of Property

(c) Personal property is a class of property and is divided into the following subclasses:

- (1) stock in business;
- (2) distilled spirits;
- (3) operating personal property of a railroad;
- (4) operating personal property of a public utility that is machinery or equipment used to generate electricity or steam for sale;

- (5) all other operating personal property of a public utility;
- (6) machinery and equipment, other than operating personal property of a public utility, that is used to generate:
 - (i) electricity or steam for sale; or
 - (ii) hot or chilled water for sale that is used to heat or cool a building; [~~and~~]
- (7) all other personal property that is directed by this article to be assessed[-]; **AND**
- (8) **ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY OF A QUALIFIED DATA CENTER AS DESCRIBED IN TAX GENERAL ART. § 11-239 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.**



**County Council
Frederick County**

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Proposed Amendment to Maryland State Law
to Allow Credit Card Usage for Gaming in
COMAR for Volunteer Fire Companies

County Position: SUPPORT

The Frederick County Council requests the Frederick County Delegation to support legislation to change the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) authorizing credit card usage for gaming in Frederick County for Volunteer Fire Companies.

The Current Process

As of July 2025, volunteer fire companies in Frederick County are not legally allowed to accept credit cards for gaming activities such as games of chance.

What is being Proposed in this Amendment?

Requesting the Frederick County Delegation to support legislation authorizing the use in COMAR for credit card usage for Volunteer Fire Companies for gaming in Frederick County

Requests from the Public

During the months of June, July, August, and September, the Office of the County Executive solicited ideas and input from roughly 150 external organizations, including our local school system, institutions of higher education, local nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations, and more.

We received over 50 requests from the public. Requests ranged from broad ideas to fully drafted legislative language. Many organizations submitted similar ideas and voiced support for similar initiatives.

The full packet of requests from the public, including requests made at or after the October 8th Town Hall, can be viewed on the Legislative Affairs page of the Frederick County Government Website at [Legislative Affairs | Frederick County MD - Official Website](#)