



## **Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2021 Session**

### **COVID-19 Relief & Economic Recovery**

- Supporting public health and emergency response programs, programs to help vulnerable populations and mitigate inequities, housing support and eviction mitigation, economic recovery programs for businesses, and other relief measures designed to address the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19.

### **Fiscal Health & Economic Development**

- Ensuring that if State budget adjustments are necessary, the plan respects the nexus that exists between the State's fiscal stability and its counties' fiscal health, and respects counties' role as the delivery system for public services.
- Supporting initiatives to strengthen local economic development and small businesses.
- Supporting initiatives to expand affordable housing.
- Supporting Community Choice Energy.

### **Transportation**

- Securing the future of the Purple Line project.
- Providing financial support and ensuring administrative cooperation for implementation of the County's bus rapid transit system.
- Supporting the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) project.
- Consistent with the County's letter to Maryland Department of Transportation (November 9, 2020), responding to I-495/I-270 expansion plans, including through state support of public transit.
- Reinforcing the Maryland Department of Transportation's commitment to pedestrian and bicycle safety, both through policy and investment.
- Addressing the substantial revenue impacts to the Transportation Trust Fund resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reinforcing the Maryland Department of Transportation's support for local transit and highway user revenue distributions.

### **Kirwan**

- Overriding the Governor's veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to maintain the State's commitment to early childhood education, high quality and diverse

teachers and leaders, college and career pathways, more resources to ensure success for all students, and governance and accountability, and to allow the Built to Learn Act of 2020, and the plan for increasing school construction funding that is outlined in the bill, to take effect.

- Ensuring continuity of fair and equitable State funding for the County that also addresses inequities in learning that have been exposed by the pandemic.

### **Environment**

- Supporting initiatives at the State level to advance the County’s chief climate goal of achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.

### **Health and Human Services**

- Protecting State funding for a four percent rate increase for community services providers for people with developmental disabilities for the current fiscal year and fiscal 2022.
- Strengthening reporting requirements and accountability related to electronic billing systems used by developmental disabilities providers.

### **Reimagining Public Safety**

- Supporting passage of Statewide legislation, including Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights (LEOBR) reform, that strengthens the public safety mission of policing through greater transparency and accountability, which will help further the goal of establishing more equitable and inclusive communities throughout Maryland.
- Reimagining how public health agencies and other resources can best support public safety functions, including expanding support for mental health resources.

### **Broadband Accessibility**

- Supporting State initiatives, and enabling local initiatives, to expand broadband accessibility.

### **Local Authority**

- Retaining the County’s broad Home Rule Authority, ensuring that the County is not preempted from enacting or enforcing its own local laws (e.g., siting of small cell facilities, licensing of electricians, siting of large-scale solar farms, carryout bag tax, and excise tax on electronic smoking devices).
- Expanding the County’s authority and flexibility to enact local legislation when necessary to address County priorities that are not fully addressed at the State level, including increasing County flexibility to raise revenue and have local control for property tax classification and local income tax brackets.

11/12/20