



Tara H. Jackson
Acting County Executive

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 11, 2025

Prince George's County Council
1301 McCormick Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

Dear Chair Ivey and Vice Chair Burroughs,

We appreciate your shared commitment to support Prince George's County seniors and to work toward a revised Senior Tax Credit Bill. While CB-07-2024 (DR2) is well-intentioned, we all recognize the need for revisions to ensure the County has a Senior Tax Credit Bill that is clear, equitable, fiscally responsible, and easy to implement.

On February 4, 2025, the County Council presented CB-09-2025. This Bill includes a 25-year residency requirement. While this approach ensures long-term homeowners are prioritized, we believe that a means-tested alternative would achieve the same financial objectives while providing relief to a broader segment of residents who are most in need. This alternative would establish a supplemental Homeowners Tax Credit for seniors who are 65 or older, have an income limit of \$75K and an assessed value limit of \$530K and the assessed value limit would increase annually by lesser of 3% or CPI. This program would require an annual application to the State, but that would create multiple benefits. First, it would ensure that these seniors are also being considered for the State Homeowners Tax Credit. Second, unlike CB-07-2024 (DR2), the State model means-test would not go away after 5 years. Eligible seniors can apply for this credit every year. This alternative approach ensures that eligibility is based on financial necessity rather than tenure in a home. Moreover, the alternative means-test approach is less burdensome on county staff since the state would process and review applications.

In December, we presented Council with three options for a revised Senior Tax Credit Bill. Given that the cost of implementing a means-tested approach is comparable to the current structure of CB-09-2025, we strongly encourage the Council to consider this model as a more equitable and sustainable solution. We are prepared to provide additional language and supporting data outlining why this approach would be more effective in achieving the bill's intended goals.

As you deliberate on CB-9-2025, we want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for the Bill while also urging you to consider an alternative approach—a means-tested framework—that would more effectively target those who need assistance the most.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working collaboratively to ensure that CB-9-2025 is structured in a way that serves our seniors effectively and equitably.

Sincerely,

Tara H. Jackson
Acting County Executive