



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Office of the County Executive

*"Fulfilling the Promise"*

Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

**JAN 17 2019**

Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Maryland Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1924

Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
Senate President  
State House – H-107  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1924

Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
State House – H-101  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1924

**Re: Prince George's County – 2019 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Priorities**

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Together. That is our collective refrain as we move towards the start of the General Assembly's 2019 Legislative Session. The Prince George's County Executive and Prince George's County Council hereby commit to working together with you and the General Assembly to advance our collective goals that will improve the quality of life for all Prince Georgians. These efforts range from securing additional funding for public education and school construction, to expanding the safety of our roadways, continuing to invest in public safety and ensuring we receive the funding necessary to keep Prince George's County advancing as a premiere county in our State.

The County's 2019 Legislative Agenda will be largely focused on being a key player in the discourse and legislation related to public education. More specifically, the County is fully committed to the establishment of universal pre-K, additional funding for school construction within the County, full funding for the County's FY 2020 capital budget request and investing in our at-risk student population.

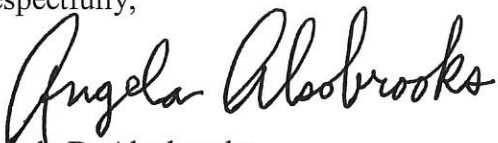
We are also collectively committed to securing funding for transportation and transit projects that will improve our infrastructure, continue our economic development activity and make our roadways safer for our residents and those traveling in the County. The County is also

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supportive of legislative efforts to expand access to quality healthcare, fight for affordable prescription drugs, expand access to mental healthcare, create additional opportunities for youth development while also protecting our natural environment & the Chesapeake Bay. Please find attached additional detailed information on each of these priorities.

Our pride for Prince George's County is strong. Together we intend to grow pride for Prince George's County as we seek to advance impactful legislation during the 2019 Legislative Session. We look forward to working together with the General Assembly on these important legislative and budget priorities.

Respectfully,

  
Angela D. Alsobrooks  
Prince George's County Executive

  
Todd M. Turner, Chair  
Prince George's County Council

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Prince George's Senate Delegation Members  
Prince George's House Delegation Members  
Prince George's County Council Members  
Robert J. Williams, Council Administrator  
William M. Hunt, Deputy Council Administrator  
Joy Russell, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive  
Major Riddick, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive  
Tiffany Harvey, Legislative Director, Office of the County Executive



# **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR THE 2019 SESSION OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL OPERATING & CONSTRUCTION FUNDING**

***PreK-12 Education Funding:*** Prince George's County Public Schools system is the second largest in the state. We have a diverse population and many challenges we must address. Sixty-one percent of students receive Free and Reduce Meals; 20% of students have special needs; and, 10% of students are English Language Learners. As the General Assembly begins deliberations on implementing the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, it is important that the unique needs of our student population are taken into account. It is the County's desire that any initial implementation of Kirwan Commission will focus on an expansion of Pre-K, work to address the needs of schools with high concentrations of at-risk students, and provide additional support for our teachers.

Although the Presiding Officers have signaled that the Kirwan Commission recommendations relating to school finance and funding formulas will not be taken up until the 2020 General Assembly session, the County will continue to urge the General Assembly to work with stakeholders from around the State to support any proposals that help achieve adequate and equitable funding for the County's school system.

***School Construction Funding:*** We must also work to improve the state of our school facilities. Too many of our buildings are outdated and overcrowded which hampers our ability to deliver the quality educational experience that our students require and deserve. Prince George's County is also uniquely challenged with having some of the oldest public school facilities in the State while trying to address and service a growing student population.

As a result, we are committed to securing funding from the State for the County's school construction Capital Improvement Program as well as new and innovative initiatives to increase funding opportunities for our aging facilities. We appreciated the General Assembly's action in the 2018 session to authorize the County pilot project for public-private partnerships and other proven groundbreaking methods of reduced construction time and creative funding that will help ease school overcrowding sooner than traditional funding and construction approaches. These innovative approaches will help pay for the repair, construction, renovation, and modernization of the County's public schools. We will continue to advocate for long-term funding mechanisms by working with the State legislature and the Governor's Office to address significant capital needs to upgrade Prince George's County public school facilities.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

***Transportation and Infrastructure Projects:*** With the growth of the County and its focus on sustainable development, there are critical projects that will require the State to invest in transportation and infrastructure. We will work to secure State funding for mass transportation, road and pedestrian safety projects, as well as funding for local road maintenance. It is also vital that we continue to advocate for transparency and equity in the State's funding process for local transportation projects.

Our transportation priorities are highlighted in our annual Priority Letter. These priorities include, but are not limited to:



## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR THE 2019 SESSION OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

***Arena Drive*** – Originally designed to be an outlet for FedEx Field event traffic, it now serves as the front door for downtown Largo, which will soon be home to the new Regional Medical Center. The current configuration of this roadway must be revised to accommodate the anticipated increased use and traffic.

***Route 1/Baltimore Avenue*** – Serves the State's flagship public institution of higher learning, the University of Maryland at College Park. College Park also happens to be one of the primary economic drivers in the County. The construction delays related to the Route 1 project are negatively impacting county residents and College Park students. This project must be accelerated and put back on track to comport with the dates found in initial development plans.

***Route 210/Indian Head Highway*** – This state roadway has repeatedly been the location of many tragic fatalities. Route 210 has also been identified as one of the deadliest roadways on the East Coast. The State needs a more fundamental and comprehensive approach to configurations and patterns singularly focused on facilitating safe travel.

The County is also concerned about State transportation projects that will directly impact Prince George's County. Some of these projects include the Managed Lane Study for US 495 and 270, the contemplated Maglev train, and proposed transfer of the Baltimore Washington Parkway. It is our expectation that the State will work in consultation with the County prior to taking action that will directly impact travel throughout the County.

***Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) Funding:*** We appreciate the historic multi-jurisdiction agreement between Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia last year to provide a dedicated funding source for WMATA. However, we must effectively collaborate with our regional partners to ensure this dedicated funding mechanism continues to secure and expand Metrorail and Metrobus service in Maryland and Prince George's County.

***Local Transit Funding:*** We will again urge the Delegation to pursue rapid transit alternatives, multi-jurisdictional corridors and full funding for the operating deficit subsidy for locally operated bus systems. To this end, the County recently updated our 5-Year Transit Service Operations Plan with recommendations for additional local bus service which requires securing additional independent funding.

***Businesses Impacted by Purple Line Construction:*** We will again support State partnership efforts to ease the impact of the Purple Line mass transit project on the County's small businesses and residences near construction areas.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

***Enhanced 9-1-1 Service:*** We support funding for next-generation (enhanced 9-1-1) technology to ensure that our emergency services network is reliable, efficient and up to date. It is essential that we strive to improve wireless caller locations, accommodate incoming text and video to 9-1-1 and manage crisis driven call overflows. We will continue to work with the General Assembly to work with partners from around the State to ensure improved delivery of essential 9-1-1 services.

## **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR THE 2019 SESSION OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

***Crime Reduction Funding:*** We urge the Prince George's County Delegation to continue to safeguard public safety funding to ensure that the historic downward trend in the crime rates in our County continues. We support the Delegation's continued efforts to protect and increase valuable State funding for County agencies focused on crime reduction and prevention for our public safety agencies, including emergency responders, the Office of the State's Attorney, Department of Corrections, and Health and Human Services agencies.

***Substance Abuse Funding:*** The opioid epidemic and broader crisis of substance abuse continues to plague our County, State and Nation. Therefore, it is imperative that the State continues to increase its efforts to manage this crisis. One of the most critical elements we urge the State to focus on is ensuring that sufficient funding for residential substance abuse treatment is provided in the State budget.

### **HEALTHCARE**

***Prescription Drug Affordability:*** The skyrocketing increase in the price of prescription drugs continues to pose major challenges for many families and seniors in Prince George's County. We urge the State to continue to work to control or reduce prescription drug costs in the State.

***UMMS – Capital Region Health - Regional Medical Center:*** The County seeks to ensure and continue the unique partnership with the State, County and University of the Maryland Medical System (UMMS) for construction of the new Regional Medical Center in Largo, and operations of the UMMS Capital Region Health.

### **COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION**

***Illegal Dumping:*** Instilling a greater sense of pride in our beautiful County among our residents is a top County priority. Many of the elements of our beautification plan will not involve state legislation, such as, improving bulk trash collection, launching a comprehensive litter education program, deploying more trash cans in the County and utilizing cameras to catch illegal dumpers. With illegal dumping, we are seeking legislation to increase and streamline the penalties.

***State Road Litter:*** In addition, as part of our beautification efforts, we urge the Delegation to support legislation to mandate that the State publish its schedule for maintaining the medians on State roads as well as the timing of any litter pickups on the same. This will allow us to coordinate our efforts and also create transparency on how frequent these services are provided.

### **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Youth sports can introduce children to the virtues of hard work, dedication, team work, practice, and a healthy lifestyle. As an initial first step in what will be a multi-phase effort, we are seeking legislation that expressly expands the mission statement of the Department of Parks and Recreation to include youth sports as a direct responsibility. This will pave the way for them to play an increased and coordinated role in the provision of youth sports in the County.