

**Prince George's County Maryland General Assembly**  
**2007 Legislative Agenda**

1) Fully Fund the State's Public Education Commitment (Thornton Commission, GCEI and School Construction Aid)

- Providing the highest quality education for the students of Prince George's County is our number one priority. The county will work to ensure the General Assembly fulfills its commitment for increased funding for education and school construction. The Bridge to Excellence Act, when fully implemented, will substantially increase the state's financial commitment to Prince George's County public schools, and through the state constitution requires the state to provide every child with an adequate education. Additionally, the county will work to ensure the entire Bridge to Excellence Act includes a Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) funding component to provide additional state education aid to address geographic differences in resources.
- We must also assure that school construction is funded at a level sufficient to complete the county's program of building new schools, as well as funding renovations and major repairs for older ones. Additionally, the county should demand repayment for school construction projects that the state authorized, but the county forward-funded on the state's behalf. There is no better investment than providing quality public education to our children.

2) Secure Funding for Public Safety

- We will continue to invest adequate resources to improve crime prevention methods and keep our communities safe. Prevention is the key to crime-reduction in the county. Over the past year, Prince George's County has achieved a reduction of violent crime compared to the prior year, but there is still much work to be done. The county continues to invest heavily in bolstering the size of the police department and in creating the 800 MHz communications system to allow for interoperability with neighboring jurisdictions, including federal public safety/law enforcement agencies. We will continue to urge our federal partners to further their commitment to this critical endeavor as well.

- State funding must be secured to help establish and construct a Public Safety Training Facility to support and sustain our efforts. The facility would include a community policing institute, a firearms training facility, and an emergency vehicle operations course, and would meet the basic and advanced training demands of all of our public safety agencies. Funding must also be secured to continue to support the increased number of police officers the county is producing and requires. The county is experiencing great strides in economic development. To support the influx of citizens and visitors who will spend economic dollars in the county, we need to ensure that funds are allocated to construct adequate, and if needed, additional new police facilities in the Southern portion of Prince George's County, in order to support the needs of the developing and growing South County with the opening of National Harbor in 2008.
- Part of the reduction in our crime is a result of the Liquor Store Closing Hours Bill passed by the General Assembly two years ago. We must continue our crime fighting efforts by maintaining the midnight closing time instituted throughout the county and mirroring all other surrounding counties and the District of Columbia.

### 3) Healthcare Services for our Citizens and Residents

- The Prince George's County Hospital Center is among the largest providers of health services for Medicaid, Medicare and uncompensated care population in the region. The core problem faced by the hospital is that it is the primary caregiver for the county's more than 90,000 people without health insurance. Prince George's County has committed millions of dollars to keep the hospital operational while providing optimal care to its patients. We are seeking continued support from the state to fund its share of the hospital's capital and operating needs.
- The county will work to ensure access to health care, including community-based health centers that are located within areas of need and offer more affordable treatment options. The county will also work to maintain state funding and a variety of treatment options for persons with substance abuse and co-occurring mental health problems.

#### 4) Continue Investing in Our Children's Futures

- The future increasingly calls for education and technical skill development in order to obtain and keep employment that leads to career growth. To enhance these prospects for our children and youth, the county will seek support for school readiness, transition through grade level programs, preparing children for classroom learning and supporting adult-education initiatives.
- The state must also continue its commitment to at risk children and to fully fund the state's formula for infants and toddlers. It must also address truancy and mental health issues that impact the school system and learning environments.

#### 5) Continue to Revitalize Our Older Established Communities

- Revitalization of our established communities is an important component of the county's Livable Communities Initiative, and the completion of the county's major revitalization projects is contingent on the state's continued partnership with the county in funding such projects as the Suitland Manor Redevelopment Project, the African American Cultural Center in North Brentwood and many other revitalization projects throughout the county.
- Expansion of our Metro lines and the construction of additional Metro stops is critical to the revitalization of our established communities.

#### 6) Fully Fund Mass Transit Projects

- Prince George's County has a young and growing workforce. There is a critical need to transport workers to the county's major employment centers, and improve access to mass transportation. The state must continue to partner with the county by investing \$8 million in transit-oriented development to enable the county to create additional Transit-Oriented Development Zones and help promote transit-oriented development within these zones. Transit demands continue to increase in the county. Therefore, the state should invest \$6 million primarily for new buses to expand the county's community-based bus service, *The Bus*. This expansion would allow the county to provide greater reliability and less crowding on other routes.
- These investments, coupled with our partnership with Federal resources to create the Bi-County Transit Center will provide greater transportation coordination and efficiency for the region.

- As our region continues to grow, we are requesting funding in the amount of \$4 million to conduct preliminary planning and general engineering for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Transit Access Study. This study consists of a Combined Alternatives Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, as well as a study of the expansion of the Yellow Line across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the creation of a much needed inner-beltway Purple Line.

#### 7) Continue to Support Our Seniors

- The senior population is a vital part of our county's success and legacy. We must work to ensure adequate and financially viable housing, including access to support services in the home. Continued assistance will also be sought to support a variety of long-term care options, insurance programs and prescription drug coverage. Finally, we must preserve the individual's choice and involvement in making decisions about their future and living situations.