



Prince George's County Priorities for the 2011 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

January 12, 2011

Office of the County Executive

As we move through the 2011 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, we must insist that attempts to balance the State budget respect the important nexus that exists between the State's fiscal stability and its counties' fiscal health.

Direct State aid, the State's payment for teachers' pensions, and other funds that flow from the State to the counties are the key to supporting the local delivery of public programs and services and infrastructure investment. In particular, the State's full funding of Thornton and its contribution for teacher pensions are crucial to helping Prince George's County attract and retain high quality teachers and, ultimately, to improving the delivery of education services in the County. Along with key transportation and economic development investments, improving our educational system is the key to all of our efforts to elevate our County to greatness.

In recognition of the impact that the Great Recession has had on the State and all of its political subdivisions, we put forth a reasonable agenda for the legislative session that respects the State's fiscal climate, and also addresses the important resources we need as a County in order to continue our important and paramount role in moving both our County and Maryland forward.

Top County Priorities for 2011 Session

- **Resist shifting the burden of paying for teacher pensions to the Counties**, which would result **at the very least** in an additional cost of approximately \$35 million to Prince George's County.
- Support full funding of the County school system's request for an additional \$64 million in operational funding and the continuation of \$76 million in FY 2011 formula funding that was supported by Federal stimulus funds.
- Seek fairness in all school funding formula methodologies with regard to the date on which wealth is calculated.
- Seek fulfillment of State commitment of \$15 million for FY 2012 for the **Prince George's Hospital** (pending a long term solution that addresses all of the County's comprehensive health services needs), which will be matched by the County.
- Seek State funding for County transportation priorities, to include the purple line as well as the County's designated priorities transportation projects. In addition, seek to leverage investment to build transit oriented development at our metro stations.
- Seek further State assurance of the move of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to the County by the end of 2013.
- Support fair and balanced reforms to ethics provisions of State law to restore faith in County government.