

**PTA COUNCIL HOWARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
FEBRUARY 2023**



FREE STATE PTA LEGISLATIVE – Review State PTA Legislative Policy For Items To Advocate

<https://www.fspta.org/files/ugd/024331f7ce22eb6bec424fa0fe01e7e20d9148.pdf>



Free State PTA's Principles for Legislative Action

- Parent, family, student and community involvement in education is crucial.
- All children have a right to an excellent equitable education.
- Schools must provide a safe environment where all students, teachers and staff can thrive.

Free State PTA's Advocacy Priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session

- **Employ mental health support for school communities.**
- **Focus on learning recovery, ensuring equitable support for students and families.**
- **Support for children with special needs, including complying with the American Disabilities Act.**
- **Support transparency and accountability for educational outcomes and funding for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future**
- **Support equitable allocation of funding for school construction and projects that address the overcrowding, maintenance deficiency and environmental concerns within buildings, aligning with the goals stated in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.**

Free State PTA Legislative Agenda

PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Free State PTA initiatives include accessible, equitable opportunities for meaningful involvement of parents/guardians, business and community stakeholders in development and review of public policies, educational standards, graduation requirements, in reporting records and environmental and health standards.

Free State PTA supports:

- Policies making strong family involvement a requirement in all appropriate laws and programs. Schools should incorporate parent involvement into all aspects of educational programs and activities.
- Promoting positive standards for family-school partnerships to address six specific types of involvement that are especially beneficial to children's academic success, including welcoming families into the school community, communicating effectively supporting student success, speaking up for every child, sharing power, and collaborating with community career objectives.

OPERATING AND CAPITAL FUNDING - Free State PTA supports:

- **Maximizing student achievement and minimizing the achievement gap by advocating for an extension of programs that reduce summer and Covid-19 related learning loss.**
- **Improving public funding to equitably ensure high quality educational services for all special populations including Special Education, Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, Economic Poverty, Homeless population, LGBTQ+, Military Families, Historically Underserved Populations, and other populations with special needs.**
- **Accountability measures to ensure Blueprint resources are being used effectively and equitably.**
- **Increased funding for special education or student support in recognition of increasing costs of providing special education services in school.**
- **Funding enhanced mental health support for staff and students.**

Facilities and Construction

- **Funding HVAC improvements so that school systems can employ improved ventilation and filtration in order to reduce the concentration of airborne toxins, mold and pathogens.**
- **Reviewing and modifying state-rated capacity formula and teaching stations as appropriate.**
- **Sizeable increases in funding public school construction, including dedicating a portion of the state surplus funds.**

Use of Funds

- **School finance reform that focuses on quality in every school from efficient construction to the quality of education, to excellence in delivery and outcomes.**
- **Public funds for public schools.**

SPECIAL NEEDS – Free State PTA supports:

- **Caping the number of students assigned to special educators, school psychologists, pupil personnel workers, speech pathologists and school counselors via statute or State regulations.**
- **Shifting the "burden of proof" in IEP due process cases from parents to school districts.**
- **Requiring local and state education agencies and institutions of higher education to offer pre-service and post-service training on systems and other literacy, hearing disabilities.**

SUPPORT FOR HIGHLY MOBILE STUDENT POPULATIONS - Free State PTA supports:

- **Allowing school districts to tailor their language instructional programs to meet local needs.**
- **Programs that assist school districts in ensuring that limited English-speaking students meet the same academic standards as all Maryland students.**
- **Providing integration services that help meet the needs of immigrant and refugee families in order to foster healthy communities, sustain families and educate children.**
- **Implementing policies to ensure all people are free of discrimination and have access to equal community resources.**
- **Mental health and educational support to welcome highly mobile students.**
- **Resources for military families and their unique needs**
- **Wrap around services for the student and family homeless population.**

IMPROVE QUALITY AND ENSURE EQUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION - Free State PTA supports:

- **Programs that ensure high quality educational services to children from early childhood through high school graduation, ensuring college and career opportunities that ready people for success in the within a global economy.**
- **Activities that include parents and classroom teachers in planning and evaluating the implementation of rigorous curricula and its outcomes at the local level.**
- **Providing communication to families in multiple formats and multiple languages.**
- **Homework practices that are fully integrated with lessons and learning allowing for student's appropriate time commitment, provide appropriate opportunity for family engagement and homework that is correctly assigned with grading and testing.**
- **Establishment of universal voluntary early childhood (Pre-K) education**
- **Establishing appropriate virtual learning plans and programs to be executed as need occurs**
- **Implementing inclusive curriculum**

EFFECTIVE AND COMPASSIONATE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM - Free State PTA supports:

- **Specialized training for law enforcement who interact with minors and youth.**
- **Protecting the rights of minors by affording them parental or guardian involvement when being pursued by authorities in the investigation of a crime.**
- **Protecting the identities of minors until they are convicted as an adult for a crime.**
- **Compassionate youth justice by advocating for practices that are equitable within the justice system and considers the mental development of youth.**

TESTING - Free State PTA supports: Using assessments by the state, educators and parents to improve instruction and student achievement

- **No single test should be considered the sole determinant of a student's high school graduation, college or career future.**
- **Using assessments and standardized testing to improve instruction and student achievement, maximizing classroom instruction and minimizing instructional interruptions.**
- **Discouraging standardized multiple-choice tests and from being used when evaluating preschool children.**
- **Assignments should be made with reasonable, fair, and sufficient time allocation. Objectives should be clearly communicated with students and parents and all necessary materials or sources provided and resource and study materials should be linked clearly to each individual assessment.**
- **Articulating to parents the assessment and accountability system in place at their child's school. Parents must be notified through multiple communication efforts of required assessments, their purpose, when they will occur, and when results will be available. Additionally, families shall be notified on how educators will use assessment data and how parents can use the information to support their child's academic growth and achievement**
- **Effective assessments should be:**
 - aligned with fair and adequate pre-assessment reviews
 - pre and post assessment feedback should be timely and well defined
 - Study guides and solutions should be provided so that students have opportunity for practice and release the work so it is fully learned. They should be provided timely and prior to assessments that affect performance evaluations and grading to allow for sufficient time for practice before evaluations.
 - Providing the opportunity for students to re-learn any areas in which they need improvement.
- **Correlating state and classroom assessments to curriculum and homework assignments in the classroom.**

BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS AND INTERVENTIONS - Free State PTA supports:

- **The development of recommendations for reinforcing student attendance, and setting positive expectations for student behaviors, including the use of school wide behavioral evidence-based programs.**
- **Phasing-out zero-tolerance policies and out-of-school suspensions because these often contribute to achievement gaps.**
- **Dropout prevention programs that address the diverse needs of students at risk of leaving school without a diploma.**
- **Evidence-based literacy programs that provide interventions which are non-punitive, support effective family counseling, and provide community-based solutions.**
- **Developing a uniform school behavior and discipline code based on evidence-based restorative justice practices and trauma informed training to all school staff.**

SAFE SCHOOLS AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION - Free State PTA supports:

- **Training teachers, students, families and staff regarding school safety and violence prevention, how to notice the signs and report them.**
- **Recommended staff to student ratios of social workers, psychologists, counselors, therapists, and other mental health professionals that provide support to children, families, and communities in order to prevent violence.**
- **Common sense proposals to limit youth access to firearms, fix background checks, and implement gun violence research efforts.**
- **Placing cameras and/or monitoring systems in school buildings in order to assist with monitoring the safety of schools.**
- **Evidence-based anti-bullying measures that include restorative justice practices, social and emotional learning curriculum, and conflict management programs.**
- **Empowering parents as well as families to protect their children and minimize consequences to a bullied child.**

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHILD NUTRITION - Free State PTA supports:

- **Providing school meals with adequate nutrition and fresh, local foods.**
- **Ensuring children receive nutritional support they need with compassion and dignity, regardless of the ability to pay for school meals.**
- **Providing adequate time and facilities for handwashing prior to and after lunch.**
- **Signs and education on hand washing stations "do not drink"**
- **Providing safe clean drinking water, including filtered water bottle filling stations in all schools and in classrooms that have drinking water stations.**
- **Educating children about the hazards of vaping.**
- **Educating parents, students, administrators, teachers and community members about the dangers of consuming alcoholic and non-alcoholic energy drinks.**
- **Providing a layered approach to airborne diseases, including testing, masking, social distancing, improved ventilation and providing opportunities for vaccination. Mitigation should include the goal of keeping children in classrooms safely.**
- **Reducing exposures to respiratory irritants and allergens.**
- **Mental Health:**
 - **Increased access to mental health services through a navigator system.**
 - **The use of social workers and other mental health professionals in schools in order to provide support to staff and students.**
 - **Implementing evidence based mental health supports for LGBTQ+ youth who are at a higher risk of negative mental health outcomes.**

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE - Free State PTA supports:

- **Maintaining or modernizing HVAC systems so that the school environment is properly cooled, heated, kept moist free, and offers mitigation from airborne diseases. Publicly releasing data on HVAC capabilities and performance.**
- **Reducing exposure to known harmful substances, including lead and PFAS, in home, play, and school environments by testing and remediation in paints, plumbing, drinking water, athletic fields, and play surfaces.**
- **Implementing the identities of minors until they are convicted as an adult for a crime.**
- **Collaborating with other agencies.**
- **Eliminating or reducing the use of portable structures and limitations on the duration of their use when they are a necessary interim solution.**
- **Maintaining adequate, safe, and up-to-date school buildings and grounds regardless of the age of the building.**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
 - **Migrating to electric buses.**
 - **Using renewable energy sources and electrifying schools in order to move to a net zero model.**
 - **Promotion of the Green Schools program.**
 - **Reducing plastic use and promoting healthy environments by using natural playing surfaces, natural grass fields and installing filtered water bottle filling stations.**
 - **Recycling all areas of the school to include recycling of office, classroom, and dining materials.**
 - **Composting programs in schools and developing compost facilities throughout the state.**

SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF - Free State PTA supports:

- **In-service and pre-service teacher education programs that include elements of effective parent involvement, diversity, and cultural proficiency.**
- **The use of teacher performance evaluations only when they are accompanied by strong programs of teacher training and improvement that are developed with the consent of professional associations of teachers and school administrators.**
- **Programs that prepare professional education to teach a diverse student population of varying ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English language facility, and giftedness, and inclusion of students with special needs in regular classrooms to the maximum extent possible.**
- **Professional development days as well as teacher preparation and staff development programs.**
- **Resources to reduce illness, including the availability of tests, access to increased ventilation and filtration in their classrooms and adequate personal protective equipment.**
- **Dedicated staffing to support learning recovery**
- **Enhanced mental health services for staff.**
- **Implementing teacher as well as school employee exit surveys to evaluate schools, school climate and teacher satisfaction in order to improve retention.**

- **Collaborating with local universities and community colleges in order to address the substitute teacher shortage and to provide enhancement that address learning gaps and recovery.**
- **Expanding the Maryland teacher career and technical educational program coupled with tuition assistance.**

BRIDGE Maryland, Inc.
Maryland Youth Justice Coalition
and Allies

Rally for Youth Equity & Safety (YES) Act Bills SB96

To inspire lawmakers and educate citizens to advocate for our children and youth support.
#carenotcages
#consequencesnotcages

PLAN TO GATHER WITH US!
Thursday, February 16, 2023
9:30 am

Lawyer's Mall - 100 State Circle - Annapolis, MD

Local Events supporting SB96/SB93

PTA Takes Action
Health & Safety for Every Child

VIRTUAL LEGCON

MARCH 7-8, 2023

Register Now!
PTA.org/LegCon

National PTA Policy Events

SAAC - generating final report to reinforce development profits. Changing standards for gas elimination, school model, deferred maintenance not factored in.

FY2025–2029 Revenue Projections: 3.2% Growth on Avg.

Preliminary Multi-Year Projections (\$ in Millions)								
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY25-29
	Budget	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Avg. %
Property Taxes	620.5	645.0	667.6	687.6	708.3	729.5	751.4	3.1%
Income Tax	540.9	604.9	623.0	646.7	671.3	696.8	723.3	3.6%
Other local taxes	37.3	30.4	30.4	31.0	31.6	32.3	32.9	1.6%
State Shared Taxes	3.9	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.1	2.1%
Charges / Permits / Intergov.	32.1	28.2	28.2	28.4	28.7	28.9	29.1	0.6%
Interfund transfers / Recoveries	56.3	50.7	51.8	53.0	54.2	55.4	56.7	2.3%
Total Revenues	1,291.0	1,363.8	1,405.7	1,451.5	1,499.0	1,547.9	1,598.5	3.2%
% Growth		5.6%	3.1%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%

Long-Term Concerns/Risks

- Economic recession or soft landing
- Housing market
- Stocks market
- Lagged impact on revenues (e.g., commercial property base, Income Tax reconciliation/refund)
- New development slowdown due to legislative actions and market condition
- Demographic and housing trends

1/30/2023

FY 2024 Operating Budget Challenge: \$119M Gap Based on Current Requests

- The strong, almost doubling historical average level of revenue growth, is still \$119M short of what's requested

	FY 2024
Revenues - Projected Growth	72.8
Requested Expenditure (County Funding) Growth	
HCPSS Superintendent Proposal (excluding \$2.3M one-time County funding in FY23)	111.9
HCC + HCLS	7.4
Debt Services (non-discretionary) + OPEB (retirement health benefit)	10.0
All Other Agencies (including funding to non-profits etc.)	62.2
Expenditures - Requested Growth	191.5
Gap	(118.7)

- HCPSS request alone is more than 1.5 times of total revenue growth for entire County,
- The County needs to start addressing multiple issues in FY2024
 - Correct the base to make up for previous underfunding of health, fleet, risk mgt funds during the pandemic, and address backlog (fleet, maintenance of infrastructure, etc.)
 - Salary study in process potentially resulting in needs for adjustment to stay competitive and recruit/retain employees

Limited Funding Options Available

Various strategies have already been implemented to increase funding for CIP

- PAYGO for CIP, Federal/State funding, \$75M WIFIA loan etc.
- School Surcharge rate increases authorized a few years ago with phase-in
 - Rate (7.5% currently) increased by 476% from original rate (1.32% in FY19)
 - Annual collection increased by only 186% (\$10M) from FY19 level as of FY22 (market conditions, legislative change impact, and grandfathering/waivers)
- Transfer Tax rate increase authorized a few years ago
 - Rate (1.25%) increased by 25% from original rate (1.00% in FY2020)
 - Annual collection increased by about \$10M from the rate change as of FY22

Note that:

- Borrowing is more expensive (interest rates); need to manage overall debt burden
- Various designated CIP revenues (Transfer Tax, Surcharges, etc.) have experienced double-digit decreases currently and expected to stay weak
- On the operating side, County income tax rate is already at the maximum allowed by the state and property tax rate is the 2nd highest in Maryland. Multiple development/housing-related operating revenues (Recordation taxes, building permits and charges, etc.) have also suffered a set-back

19

Maryland 529

<https://maryland529.com/enroll-now?>

<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/we-demand-our-money-parents-seeing-red-over-maryland-529-calculation-issue/42638945>

Ongoing hearings related to 529 Issues....



Maryland529

General Plan

<https://www.hocobydesign.com/>

<https://www.hocobydesign.com/6632/widgets/32902/documents/19857>

Yes you comments are logged... now the shift for improvements is to the executive and council



ID	Series	Comments	Date
1395	Draft Plan Workshop Series	Density is not the answer, nor is mass transit. The answer is to stop growth.	9/1/2021 – 9/19/2021
1396	Draft Plan Workshop Series	Howard County is reaching maximum growth potential. Please limit development that adds students to our already overcrowded schools.	9/1/2021 – 9/19/2021
1397	Draft Plan Workshop Series	I strongly oppose the suggestion to explore alternative models for the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance that address the needs and demands for new infrastructure associated with redevelopment (vs. greenfield development), including transportation methods focused on multimodal options.	9/1/2021 – 9/19/2021
1398	Draft Plan Workshop Series	This county needs a building moratorium.	9/1/2021 – 9/19/2021
1399	Draft Plan Workshop Series	Growth needs to be planned. Past has shown the development occurs and then when infrastructure is overwhelmed, planning starts to mitigate the predictable problems. Best is example is Marriottsville area. 70 is years after problem started. Now planning occurs and resolution avoid this, not repeat this. Same thing with schools. Build them in anticipation of development. This would be the greatest service you could provide.	9/1/2021 – 9/19/2021
1400	Draft Plan Workshop Series	This goes hand in hand with policies for rural west, environment, activity centers, housing choices, and outcomes from rapid population growth and diversity. See my comments for previous sessions. The HCPS School Planning Division should not only project student population but also perform school planning in the comprehensive planning context. HCPS School Planning and Administration ought to hire people who have expertise, advanced education, and/or certification in the planning field.	9/1/2021 – 9/19/2021
1401	Draft Plan Workshop Series	"The rural crossroads are listed under Areas to Transform. They should be under the Areas to PRESERVE. Although they are not officially designated as such they are historic. For example, The Greater Highland Crossroads Association, (GHCA) has been able to document the existence of commercial activity at the Crossroads as occurring no later than 1759, and Hickory Ridge Farm was founded in 1749.	9/1/2021 – 9/19/2021
1402	Draft Plan Workshop Series		

COUNTY COUNCIL

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All information submitted to the County Council is considered public information. [Click here](#) for details.

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District 2	Opel Jones	OJones@howardcountymd.gov	(410) 313-2001
District 3	Christiana Rigby	CRigby@howardcountymd.gov	(410) 313-2001
District 4	Deb Jung	DJung@howardcountymd.gov	(410) 313-2001
District 5	David Yungmann	DYungmann@howardcountymd.gov	(410) 313-2001

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Role	Name	Email	Phone
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County Auditor	Craig Glendenning	CGlendenning@HowardCountyMD.gov	(410) 313-2005
Liquor Board		LiquorAdmin@HowardCountyMD.gov	(410) 313-2395
Board Administrator		council@board@howardcountymd.gov	(410) 313-2395
Public Information Requests		Submit a Public Information Request	(410) 313-2001

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

First Name

CONTACT US

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George Howard Building
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Ellicott City, MD 21043

Phone: (410) 313-2001
Fax: (410) 313-3297

Email all Council Members
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Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Council

Council

Tonight - CB-5 a study to limit gas in new construction – Unfunded school construction cost impact. (Update! – 11 amendments submitted – Including exemptions and inventory of county buildings, handling additions, as well as stricter county climate standards. After much debate, the Bill is tabled until next session)

Notable - Very low amount of bills filed this month - precursor to general plan

Feb 13th - Joint meeting between Council and BOE

Feb 22 - PREFILE new BILLS (General plan?)

Feb 27 - Council work session

Mar 6 - Council legislative (voting) session



Planning board

FEB 2nd - reviewed General Plan - (no public participation)

Feb 16 Testimony cutoff-Feb 15th

Feb 16th - testimony on significantly changed capital projects.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/FINAL%20FY24CIP%20%20Budget%20PB%20TSR%20matrix.pdf>

Includes Faulkner Ridge (2029), Murray Hill ren/add (2031) ARL ren (2033) Thomas Viaduct addition (2023)

Frequent use of the term "adequate public facilities" not associated with the actual adequate public facilities ordinance.



Budget dates

<https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/budgets/fy24/>

Jan 24th - superintendent operating budget

Work sessions Feb1, Feb2, Feb6, Feb8, Feb14

ADOPTION FEB 16...

**April 16th - County Executive Submits budget.. I.E.
"Counters the BOE Budget"**

**May - Council may "restore" some of the difference
between BOE and executive budget**

May 25th - operating budget finalized by BOE

The screenshot displays the 'Budgets' section of the HCPSS website, specifically the 'FY 24 Operating Budget Process' page. The page features a navigation menu with links for 'Operating Budget', 'Capital Budget', 'Health Fund', and 'Provide Feedback'. The main heading is 'FY 24 Operating Budget Process', accompanied by an illustration of a calculator, a document with a dollar sign, and a pen. Below the heading, a paragraph explains that the operating budget process is collaborative and multi-step, involving HCPSS, the Board of Education, and Howard County Government. A 'Jump to:' section lists links for the Superintendent's Proposed Budget, County Executive's Budget, Board of Education's Requested Budget, Spring Work Sessions, Howard County Council Budget, and Board of Education Final Budget. A prominent green banner states: 'THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS IN PROCESS OF HOLDING WORK SESSIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS TO GATHER FEEDBACK ON AND REVISE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET.' Below this, a section titled 'Superintendent Submits Proposed Budget' describes the process of presenting a budget to the Board of Education. A 'Budget Presentation' section includes a calendar icon for 'January 24, 2023 1:00 p.m.' and links to a press release and a video of the presentation. At the bottom, there are links for 'Proposed Budget Documents', including the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2024 Operating Budget Document and a download link for the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2024 Budget Detail. A 'VIEW BUDGET ARCHIVES' button is also visible.

HB0598

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0598F.pdf>



Education - Funding for General Education Programs - Definition Alterations

Sponsored by Delegates Wu, D. Barnes, Bofo, Grossman, Hill, Kelly, Mireku-North, Pasteur, Qi, Stewart, Terrasa, and Ziegler
Status

In the House - First Reading Appropriations

Altering certain definitions relating to enrollment that are used for the calculation of funding for general education programs.

“AVERAGE ENROLLMENT CHANGE” MEANS THE RESULT OF THE FOLLOWING CALCULATION:

(1) THE PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT MINUS THE THIRD PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT;
DIVIDED BY

(2) TWO.

[(e)] (F) “Enrollment count” means [the greater of:

(1) The full-time equivalent enrollment; or

**(2) The 3-year moving average enrollment] THE SUM OF THE PRIOR
SCHOOL YEAR FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT AND THE AVERAGE ENROLLMENT CHANGE.**

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/state-delegation/2023-proposed-local-legislation>

Howard County – Due Process Proceedings for Children With Disabilities – Burden of Proof, [Ho.Co.](#) 2-23
(PASSED BY THE DELEGATION 1/25/23)

https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023rs/bills_noln/hb/fhb0294.pdf

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0294>

Howard County Board of Education – Membership – Alterations, [Ho.Co.](#) 10-23
Status – “effectively dead” – *Verbal Update from Del Watson*



SB 515 Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills – Requirements

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0515>

Free state PTA requests local support.

Status – Newly formed Howard County PTACHC School Safety Special Committee asked to review overlaps with their effort and reporting.

Howard County – Public Campaign Financing – Board of Education, Ho. Co. 14-23
By: Howard County Delegation, Chair

FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of Howard County to establish, by law, a system of public campaign financing for elected members of the county board of education

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/Ho%20Co%2014-23.pdf>




Howard County – Board of Education Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting, Ho. Co. 16-23

By: Delegates Wu and Terrasa

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Howard County Council to adopt, by law, a ranked–choice voting method for elections for the county board of education; and generally relating to the use of ranked–choice voting for elections for the Howard County Board of Education.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/HoCo16.23.pdf>



Rank up to 4 candidates.
Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

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every child, one voice

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- Resources for military families and their unique needs
- Wrap around services for the student and family homeless population.

IMPROVE QUALITY AND ENSURE EQUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION - Free State PTA supports:

- Programs that ensure high quality educational services to children from early childhood through high school graduation, ensuring college and career opportunities that ready people for success in life within a global economy.
- Activities that include parents and classroom teachers in planning and evaluating the implementation of rigorous curricula and its outcomes at the local level.
- Providing communication to families in multiple formats and multiple languages.
- Homework practices that are fully integrated with lessons and learning allowing for student’s appropriate time commitment, provide appropriate opportunity for family engagement and homework that is correctly sequenced with grading and testing.
- Establishment of universal voluntary early childhood (Pre-K) education
- Establishing appropriate virtual learning plans and programs to be executed as need occurs
- Implementing Inclusive curriculum

EFFECTIVE AND COMPASSIONATE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM - Free State PTA supports:

- Specialized training for law enforcement who interact with minors and youth.
- Protecting the rights of minors by affording them parental or guardian involvement when being pursued by authorities in the investigation of a crime.
- Protecting the identities of minors unless they are convicted as an adult for a crime.
- Compassionate youth justice by advocating for practices that are equitable within the justice system and considers the mental development of youth.

TESTING - Free State PTA supports: Using assessments by the state, educators and parents to improve instruction and student achievement.

- No single test should be considered the sole determinant of a student’s high school graduation, college or career future.
- Using assessments and standardized testing to improve instruction and student achievement, maximizing classroom instruction and minimizing instructional interruptions.
- Discouraging standardized multiple-choice tests and from being used when evaluating preschool children.
- Assignments should be made with reasonable, fair, and sufficient time allocation. Objectives should be clearly communicated with students and parents and all necessary materials or sources provided. Sections of resource and study materials should be linked clearly to each individual assessment.
- Articulating to parents the assessment and accountability system in place at their child’s school. Parents must be notified through multiple communication efforts of required assessments, their purpose, when they will occur, and when results will be available. Additionally, families shall be notified on how educators will use assessment data and how parents can use the information to support their child’s academic growth and achievement
- Effective assessments should be:
 - aligned with fair and adequate pre-assessment reviews
 - pre and post assessment feedback should be timely and well defined
 - Study guides and solutions should be provided so that students have opportunity for practice and rehearse the work so it is fully learned. They should be provided timely and prior to assessments that affect performance evaluations and grading to allow for sufficient time for practice before evaluations.
 - Providing the opportunity for students to re-learn any areas in which they need improvement.
- Correlating state and classroom assessments to curriculum and homework assignments in the classroom.

BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS AND INTERVENTIONS - Free State PTA supports:

- The development of recommendations for reinforcing student attendance, and setting positive expectations for student behaviors, including the use of school wide behavioral evidence-based programs.
- Phasing-out zero-tolerance policies and out-of-school suspensions because these often contribute to achievement gaps.
- Dropout prevention programs that address the diverse needs of students at risk of leaving school without a diploma.
- Evidence-based truancy programs that provide interventions which are non-punitive, support effective family counseling, and provide community-based solutions.
- Developing a uniform school behavior and discipline code based on evidence-based restorative justice practices and trauma informed training to all school staff.

Reference Material

SAFE SCHOOLS AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION - Free State PTA supports:

- Training teachers, students, families and staff regarding school safety and violence prevention, how to notice the signs and report them.
- Recommended staff to student ratios of social workers, psychologists, counselors, therapists, and other mental health professionals that provide support to children, families, and communities in order to prevent violence.
- Common sense proposals to limit youth access to firearms, fix background checks, and implement gun violence research efforts.
- Placing cameras and/or monitoring systems in school buildings in order to assist with monitoring the safety of schools.
- Evidence-based anti-bullying measures that include restorative justice practices, social and emotional learning curriculum, and conflict management programs.
- Empowering parents as well as families to protect their children and minimize inconveniences to a bullied child.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHILD NUTRITION - Free State PTA supports:

- Providing school meals with adequate nutrition and fresh, local foods.
- Ensuring children receive nutritional support they need with compassion and dignity, regardless of the ability to pay for school meals.
- Providing adequate time and facilities for handwashing prior to and after lunch.
- Signs and education on hand washing stations “do not drink”
- Providing safe clean drinking water, including filtered water bottle filling stations in all schools and in classrooms that have drinking water stations.
- Educating children about the hazards of vaping.
- Educating parents, students, administrators, teachers and community members about the dangers of consuming alcoholic and non-alcoholic energy drinks.
- Providing a layered approach to airborne diseases, including testing, masking, social distancing, improved ventilation and providing opportunities for vaccination. Mitigation should include the goal of keeping children in classrooms safely.
- Reducing exposures to respiratory irritants and allergens.

Mental Health

- Increased access to mental health services through a navigator system.
- The use of social workers and other mental health professionals in schools in order to provide support to staff and students.
- Implementing evidence based mental health supports for LGBTQ+ youth who are at a higher risk of negative mental health outcomes.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE - Free State PTA supports:

- Maintaining or modernizing HVAC systems so that the school environment is properly cooled, heated, kept mold free, and offers mitigation from airborne diseases. Publicly releasing data on HVAC capabilities and performance.
- Reducing exposure to known harmful substances, including lead and PFAS, in home, play, and school environments by testing and remediating in paints, plumbing, drinking water, athletic fields, and play surfaces.
- Implementing shaded outside areas and reducing heat stroke risk by using more natural surfaces as we experience climate change.
- Evaluating and prioritizing safe routes to schools for any road or pedestrian improvements, collaborating with other agencies.
- Eliminating or reducing the use of portable structures and limitations on the duration of their use when they are a necessary interim solution.
- Maintaining adequate, safe, and up-to-date school buildings and grounds regardless of the age of the building.

Environmental Sustainability

- Migrating to electric buses.
- Using renewable energy sources and electrifying schools in order to move to a net zero model.
- Promotion of the Green Schools program.
- Reducing plastic use and promoting healthy environments by using natural playing surfaces, natural grass fields and installing filtered water bottle filling stations.
- Recycling should be promoted in all areas of the school to include recycling of office, classroom, and dining materials.
- Composting programs in schools and developing compost facilities throughout the state.

SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF - Free State PTA supports:

- In-service and pre-service teacher education programs that include elements of effective parent involvement, diversity, and cultural proficiency.
- The use of teacher performance evaluations only when they are accompanied by strong programs of teacher training and improvement that are developed with the consent of professional associations of teachers and school administrators.
- Programs that prepare professional educators to teach a diverse student population of varying ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English language facility, and giftedness, and inclusion of students with special needs in regular classrooms to the maximum extent possible.
- Professional development days as well as teacher preparation and staff development programs.
- Resources to reduce illness, including the availability of tests, access to increased ventilation and filtration in their classrooms and adequate personal protective equipment.
- Dedicated staffing to support learning recovery
- Enhanced mental health services for staff.
- Implementing teacher as well as school employee exit surveys to evaluate schools, school climate and teacher satisfaction in order to improve retention.
- Collaborating with local universities and community colleges in order to address the substitute teacher shortage and to provide enhancement that address learning gaps and recovery.
- Expanding the Maryland teacher career and technical educational program coupled with tuition assistance.

Reference Material

**Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget
New and Substantially Changed Projects
Planning Board Public Hearing (February 16, 2023)**

Project Type	Proj. Num	Name	Start Date	Total Amount (\$00)	Appropriation Prior Total	% Prior	Amount (\$000)	Prop. FY24 Appropriated	Prop. Total %	FY24 Pay Go	FY24 Bond Funds	FY24 Grant Funds	FY24 Other Funds	Consistent w/ PH 2023	DPZ Priority	Public Comment	PB Priority	DPZ Comments	
General County																			
	C	0369	CENTENNIAL PARK MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPLACEMENT	2024	9,750	0	0%	250	0%	0	250	0	0	0	Policy 8.18 a	M			Medium priority for replacing the maintenance building at Centennial Park. POLICY 8.18 – Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance County facilities. Implementing Action a. Funding Priorities. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize County investments in technology upgrades and systemic renovation for County offices and other facilities.
	C	0370	US 1 CORRIDOR SAFE STREETS FOR ALL	2024	8,000	0	0	800	0	0	0	800	0	0	Policy 5.4 e; Policy 5.5 f; Policy 7.2 b; Policy 7.3 a; Policy 7.7 e; Policy 8.5 d	H			High priority for pedestrian, bicycle, and other transportation safety improvements in the US 1 Corridor. POLICY 5.4 - Enhance the Route 1 Corridor revitalization strategy to recognize the distinct character and market potential of diverse corridor segments, and the potential at various intersections, crossings, and nodes for additional retail, restaurant, and employment. Implementing Action e. Transportation. Develop transit and road improvement solutions including bicycle and pedestrian accessibility to promote connectivity and support revitalization of the Route 1 Corridor. POLICY 5.5 – Proactively consider innovative tools to enhance the Route 1 Corridor’s competitiveness, attract and retain businesses, and maximize redevelopment opportunities. Implementing Action f. Transportation. Promote, plan, and protect bicycle, pedestrian, and transit access in the Corridor. POLICY 7.2 – Coordinate State, regional, and local planning and implementation for critical improvements and new transportation facilities based on evaluation of options using a wide range of performance, health, environmental, and financial criteria. Implementing Action b. Regional Cooperation. Engage in State and regional discussions to develop solutions to transportation funding shortfalls. POLICY 7.3 – Prioritize and pursue cost effective, long-term capacity improvements to the road and highway network to support future growth in accordance with place type designations. Implementing Action a. Capital Planning. Use Howard County’s Capital Improvement Master Plan to provide predictable funding for the County’s highest priority road projects. POLICY 7.7 – Reduce highway congestion, energy consumption, and greenhouse gases. Implementing Action e. Alternative Modes of Transportation. Make pedestrian, bicycle, and transit modes of transportation attractive and viable options. POLICY 8.5 – Continue to invest in multimodal transportation infrastructure to enhance mobility and access to diverse transportation options. Implementing Actions d. Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections. Implement priority pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects and, whenever possible, include as part of road construction or maintenance projects.
Education																			
	E	1058	SYSTEMIC RENOVATIONS	2024	216,228	0	0%	42,434	0%	0	42,434	0	0	0	Policy 8.8 e	M			Medium priority for adequate public facilities that includes projects that are needed to bring older facilities up to current standards in lighting, electrical, HVAC systems, reconfiguring space, handicap accessible improvements, vehicle purchase including but not limited to dump trucks, and provide for upgrades to other building systems. POLICY 8.8 Optimize planning and use of available funds to ensure school facilities continue to support high-quality school programs. Implementing Action e. Fund Maintenance, Renovation, and Program Initiatives. Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renovate school facilities and to allow program initiatives that will sustain and enhance the quality of the Public School System.
	E	1059	ROOFING	2024	46,000	0	0%	1,000	0%	0	1,000	0	0	0	Policy 8.8 e; and Policy 8.18 a	M			Medium priority - addresses aging roofs on various Howard County Public School System schools. POLICY 8.8 Optimize planning and use of available funds to ensure school facilities continue to support high-quality school programs. Implementing Action e. Fund Maintenance, Renovation, and Program Initiatives. Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renovate school facilities and to allow program initiatives that will sustain and enhance the quality of the Public School System. POLICY 8.18 – Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance County facilities. Implementing Action a. Funding Priorities. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize County investments in technology upgrades and systemic renovation for County offices and other facilities.
	E	1060	FAULKNER RIDGE CENTER	2029	21,725	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	Policy 6.1 h; Policy 8.8 e; and Policy 8.18 a	H			High priority for adequate public facilities that includes a renovation of the existing building in accordance with recommendations from the Feasibility Study for a regional early childhood center. POLICY 6.1- Maintain adequate facilities and services to accommodate growth. Implementing Action h. Make efficient use of existing school capacity avoiding unnecessary capital outlays. POLICY 8.8 Optimize planning and use of available funds to ensure school facilities continue to support high-quality school programs. Implementing Action e. Fund Maintenance, Renovation, and Program Initiatives. Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renovate school facilities and to allow program initiatives that will sustain and enhance the quality of the Public School System. POLICY 8.18 – Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance County facilities. Implementing Action a. Funding Priorities. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize County investments in technology upgrades and systemic renovation for County offices and other facilities.
	E	1061	MURRAY HILL MS RENOVATION/ ADDITION	2031	41,640	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	Policy 6.1 h; Policy 8.8 c and e; Policy 8.18 a	H			High priority for adequate public facilities that includes the renovation and expansion of the existing school facility. POLICY 6.1- Maintain adequate facilities and services to accommodate growth. Implementing Action h. Make efficient use of existing school capacity avoiding unnecessary capital outlays. POLICY 8.8 Optimize planning and use of available funds to ensure school facilities continue to support high-quality school programs. Implementing Action c. Minimize New School Construction. Accommodate the projected enrollments by using modular classrooms and additions whenever possible. Implementing Action e. Fund Maintenance, Renovation, and Program Initiatives. Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renovate school facilities and to allow program initiatives that will sustain and enhance the quality of the Public School System. POLICY 8.18 – Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance County facilities. Implementing Action a. Funding Priorities. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize County investments in technology upgrades and systemic renovation for County offices and other facilities.

Reference Material

Proj. Type	Proj. Num.	Name	Start Date	Total Amount (\$000)	Appropriation	% Prior	Amount(\$000)	Prop. FY24	Prop. Total %	FY24 Pay Go	FY24 Bond Funds	FY24 Grant Funds	FY24 Other Funds	Consistent w/ PH 2030	DPZ Priority	Public Comment	PB Priority	DPZ Comments	
	E	1062	APPLICATIONS AND RESEARCH LAB RENOVATION	2033	5,000	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	Policy 8.8 e; Policy 8.18 a	M			<p>PH 2030 Policies</p> <p>Medium priority for adequate public facilities that includes maintenance of an existing building to include new electrical, mechanical, plumbing, technology, roofing, and life safety systems.</p> <p>POLICY 8.8 Optimize planning and use of available funds to ensure school facilities continue to support high-quality school programs. Implementing Action e. Fund Maintenance, Renovation, and Program Initiatives. Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renovate school facilities and to allow program initiatives that will sustain and enhance the quality of the Public School System. POLICY 8.18 – Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance County facilities. Implementing Action a. Funding Priorities. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize County investments in technology upgrades and systemic renovation for County offices and other facilities.</p>
	E	1063	THOMAS VIADUCT MS ADDITION	2023	14,373	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	Policy 6.1 h; Policy 8.8 c and e; Policy 8.18 a	H			<p>POLICY 6.1- Maintain adequate facilities and services to accommodate growth. Implementing Action h. Make efficient use of existing school capacity avoiding unnecessary capital outlays. POLICY 8.8 Optimize planning and use of available funds to ensure school facilities continue to support high-quality school programs. Implementing Action c. Minimize New School Construction. Accommodate the projected enrollments by using modular classrooms and additions whenever possible; e. Fund Maintenance, Renovation, and Program Initiatives. Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renovate school facilities and to allow program initiatives that will sustain and enhance the quality of the Public School System. POLICY 8.18 – Continue to invest judiciously to maintain and enhance County facilities. Implementing Actions a.) Funding Priorities. Use the Capital Improvement Program to evaluate and prioritize County investments in technology upgrades and systemic renovation for County offices and other facilities</p>
Sidewalk																			
	K	5070	DOBBIN ROAD SHARED USE PATHWAY	2024	7,000	0	0%	4,500	0%	0	500	4,000	0	0	Policy 5.7 c; Policy 7.2; Policy 7.6; Policy 7.7 e; Policy 8.5 d	H			<p>POLICY 5.7 – Plan for future transportation services and facilities that connect Downtown Columbia, the Snowden River Parkway area, Gateway, and Route 1 to regional connections to Baltimore, Washington, and Fort Meade. Implementing Action c Alternative Modes of Transportation. Study the feasibility of alternative modes transportation, including facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, to connect Downtown Columbia, the Snowden River Parkway area, Gateway, Route 1, and other major business and residential nodes in and near the County. POLICY 7.2 – Coordinate State, regional, and local planning and implementation for critical improvements and new transportation facilities based on evaluation of options using a wide range of performance, health, environmental, and financial criteria. POLICY 7.6 – Reduce highway congestion, energy consumption, and greenhouse gases by increasing the number of residents using alternate modes of transportation. POLICY 7.7 – Reduce highway congestion, energy consumption, and greenhouse gases. Implementing Action e Alternative Modes of Transportation. Make pedestrian, bicycle, and transit modes of transportation attractive and viable options. POLICY 8.5 – Continue to invest in multimodal transportation infrastructure to enhance mobility and access to diverse transportation options. Implementing Action d. Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections. Implement priority pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects and, whenever possible, include as part of road construction or maintenance projects.</p>
Recreation and Parks																			
	N	3980	ELKHORN PARK	2024	7,800	0	0%	200	0%	0	200	0	0	0	Policy 8.12 a	H			<p>High priority for quality of life or facility/program enhancements to plan, design and construct a 10 acre community park on former HCPSS property located at 6500 Oakland Mills Road Columbia, MD 21045</p> <p>POLICY 8.12 – Expand the County park system and recreational facilities. Implementing Action a. Land Acquisition. Establish acquisition goals for environmental conservation and active recreation in the 2012 update to the Howard County Land Preservation and Recreation and Parks Plan (LPRPP). Accelerate land acquisition to meet long-term recreation needs while suitable sites are still available, particularly inside the Planned Service Area where population is greatest.</p>
	N	3981	ILCHESTER PARK and RECREATION CENTER	2024	1,600	0	0%	850	0%	0	850	0	0	0	Policy 8.12 a	H			<p>High priority for quality of life or facility/program enhancements to plan, design and renovate the existing 16-acre former Camp Ilchester Girl Scout Camp located at 5042 Ilchester Road Ellicott City, MD 21043.</p> <p>POLICY 8.12 – Expand the County park system and recreational facilities. Implementing Action a. Land Acquisition. Establish acquisition goals for environmental conservation and active recreation in the 2012 update to the Howard County Land Preservation and Recreation and Parks Plan (LPRPP). Accelerate land acquisition to meet long-term recreation needs while suitable sites are still available, particularly inside the Planned Service Area where population is greatest.</p>