



PTA Council of Howard County

PTA[®]

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General Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

HOMWOOD CENTER
CAFETERIA

WWW.PTACHC.ORG |
BOARD@PTACHC.ORG

President Report

Cat Carter

president@ptachc.org

- ▶ IMPORTANT DATES
- ▶ NOMINATING
COMMITTEE VOTE
- ▶ EMAIL PTACHC BOARD
NOMINATIONS TO
NOMINATIONS@PTACHC.
ORG

Join PTACHC Board

PTA Council of Howard County

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Important Dates

- ▶ 1/28 Statewide Legislative Public Hearing
- ▶ 2/2 County Council Legislative Session 7:00 PM – George Howard Building
- ▶ 2/9 County Council Joint Meeting with BOE 10:00 AM – George Howard Building
- ▶ 2/17 County Council Legislative Public Hearing 7:00 PM – George Howard Building
- ▶ 2/23 County Council Legislative Work Session 10:00 AM – George Howard Building

- ▶ 1/29, 2/9, & 2/12
 Board of Education Superintendent's Proposed FY27 Operating Budget
 Public Hearing
- ▶ 2/26 Board of Education Regularly Scheduled Meeting 4 & 7:00 PM
- ▶ 3/26 Board of Education Regularly Scheduled Meeting 4 & 7:00 PM
- ▶ **3/2 PTACHC March General Meeting 7:30 PM – Homewood School**

Resources Highlight

National PTA: Science Festivals - STEM + Families - Programs
| National PTA

The STEM + Families Science Festival program, sponsored by Bayer Fund, aims to:

- ▶ Empower PTAs with information on hosting hands-on science experiments that bring students and families together
- ▶ Provide families with ready-to-go activity facilitator and family guides
- ▶ Help all kids experience and explore activities and careers in STEM



Free State
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Join your fellow Free State PTA
members for a day of direct advocacy
with your state legislators!
Reception to follow.

ANNAPOLIS, MD



The PTA Council of Howard County



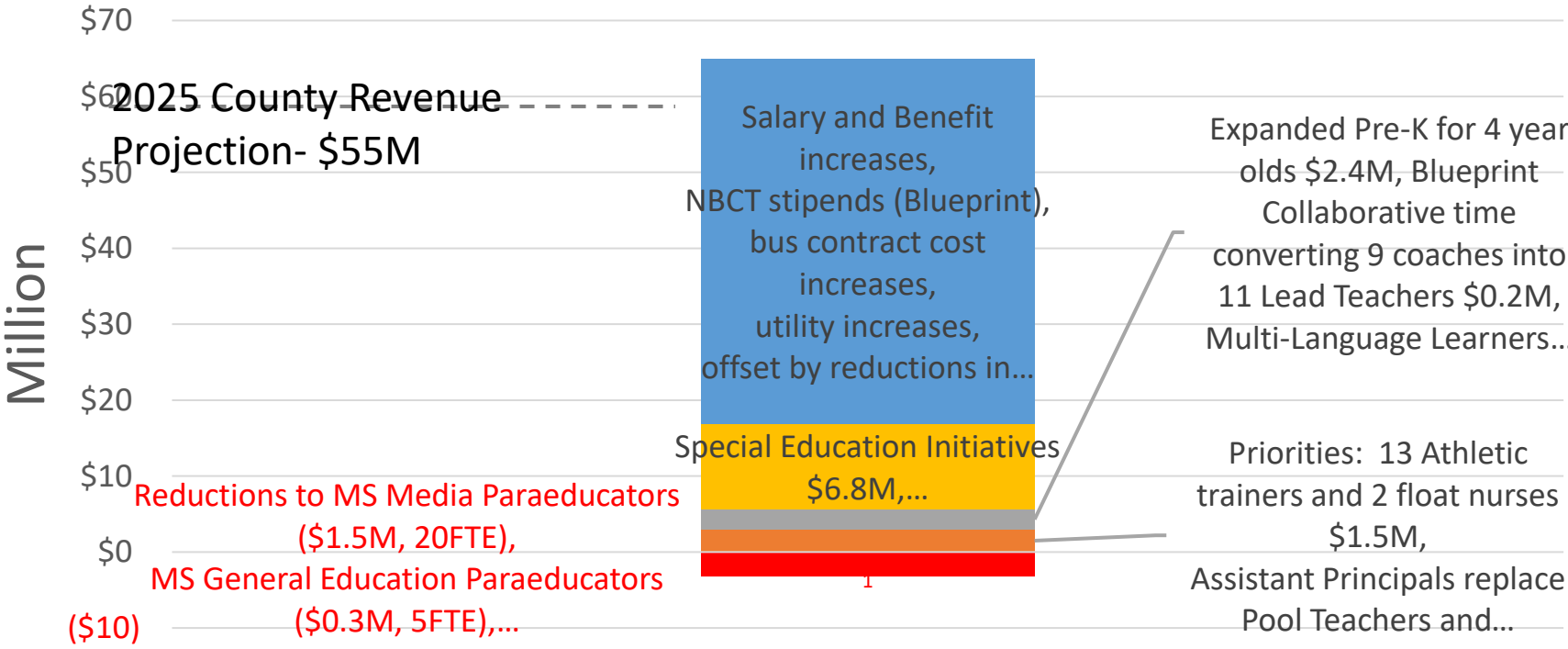
Budget Committee Report

February 2025

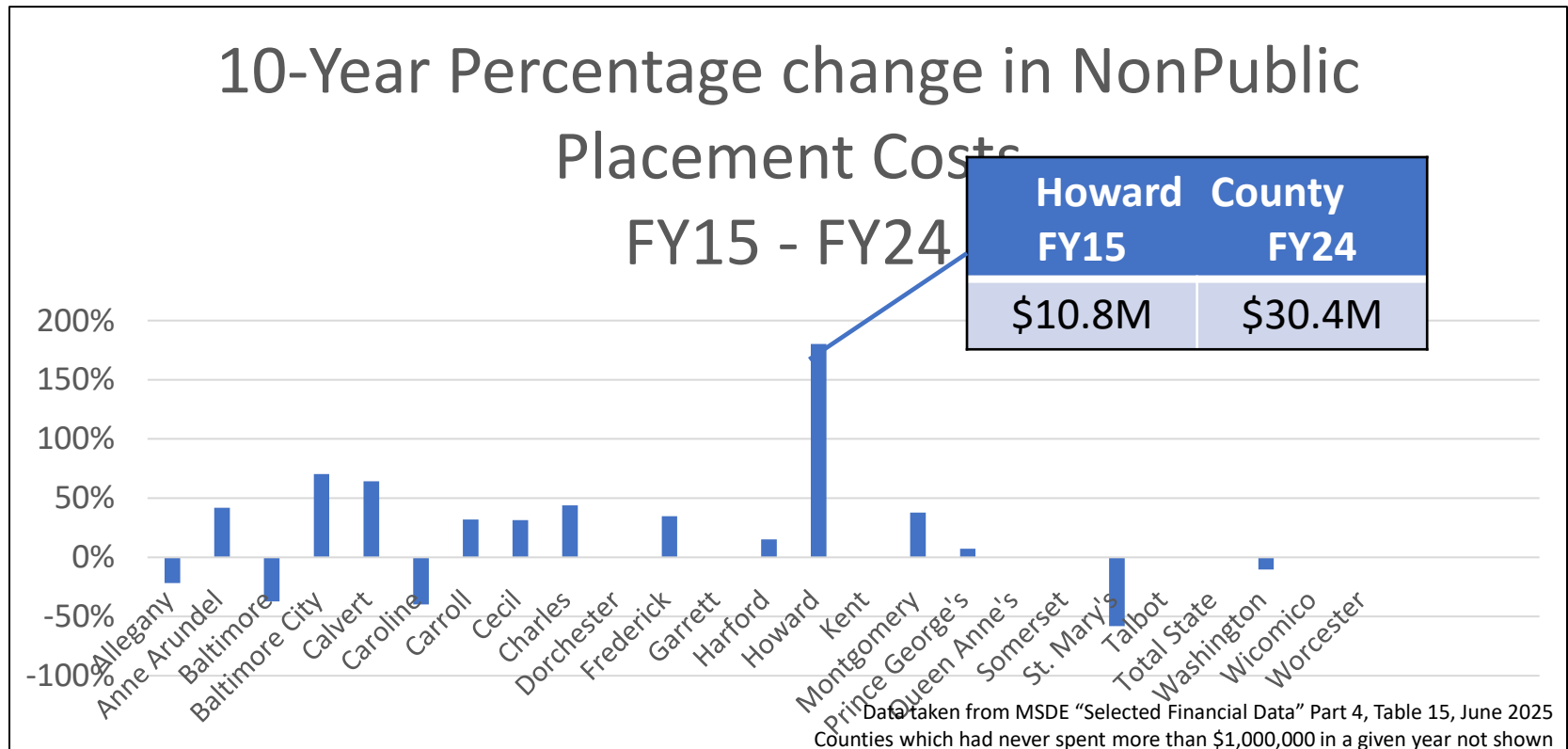
Anthony DeBella, Sara Fry, Shamieka Preston, Laura Darby Singh
Karina Fisher, Brent Loveless PTACHC Board Support

Superintendent's Proposed FY27 Budget

\$62M of Additional Costs



Superintendent's Plan- A Strategic Investment



Our superintendent's proposed 2027 operating budget is bringing more students who receive special education services back to our Howard County public schools

JAN 8, 2026
SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTS
RECOMMENDATIONS TO
BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

JAN 15 - FEB 19
BOE HOLDS (2) PUBLIC
HEARINGS AND CONDUCTS
(4) BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

FEB 27
BOE HOLDS BUDGET
DELIBERATIONS

MARCH 1
SPENDING AFFORDABILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)
REPORT DUE TO COUNTY EXEC

MARCH 3
BOE SUBMITS FY27 BUDGET
REQUEST TO COUNTY EXEC

HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY27 OPERATING BUDGET TIMELINE

MARCH
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
HOLDS (1) PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 20
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
PROPOSES BUDGET TO
COUNTY COUNCIL

APRIL - MAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HOLDS
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND
BUDGET WORKSESSIONS

APRIL - MAY
BOE HOLDS PUBLIC
HEARINGS AND
WORK SESSIONS

MAY 16
BOE ADOPTS FY27
OPERATING BUDGET

JUNE 1
LAST DAY FOR COUNTY
COUNCIL TO APPROVE
FY27 OPERATING BUDGET

	SUPERINTENDENT
	BOARD OF EDUCATION
	COUNTY EXECUTIVE
	COUNTY COUNCIL
	OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

PTACHC Advocacy
critical to influence
County Executive
Discretion over Budget



Courtesy of Laurie Chin, CAC

Budget Committee Activities

- Met to support PTACHC Comments to January 20 County Council Hearing
- Next Meetings February 24, March 10
- Operating Budget Review Committee Update- 3 motions approved
 - BoE recommended to reconsider converting “2nd” HS Library Teacher to Paraeducator
 - BoE recommended to approve funding increase to approve staffing and software support for HR
 - BoE recommended to approve funding increase for budget analyst
 - Other budget changes under discussions

Legislative Report

Brent Loveless

legislative@ptachc.org

► Legislative Committee



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FEB 2 2026 PTACHC Legislative

County Council Dates

FEB 2 – 7:00PM – Howard County Council Legislative Session

Vote on CB-1; \$7.6M debt for Oakland Mills Middle

Vote on CB-3; Zoning accessory dwelling units **without APFO**

school overcrowding protections. 10 Amendments possible, none of which address school impact

Vote on CB-10; Ability (not mandate) to use excess surplus revenue for education in FY2028, no amendments

PREFILE for March – CB14-2026 (APFO exempt) age-restricted apartments allowed between Residential and commercial zoned properties

Feb 4, 8:30AM Howard County State Delegation (local bills related to Howard County)

<http://mgaleg.Maryland.gov> – Usually meets each Wednesday morning

HOCO 5-26 Voting age for BOE elections

HOCO7-26 Student BOE member voting

Feb 17 – 7:00PM – Testimony on March Council Bills

Feb 23 – 10:00AM – Work session on March Bills

2026 Legislative Agenda



The Free State PTA is committed to advocating for a high-quality, equitable education for every child in Maryland. Our legislative priorities for 2026 focus on strengthening instruction, improving school safety, and ensuring families and educators have the support they need for student success. We advocate for full support for students with disabilities, adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and accessible resources for all families. We also prioritize meaningful parent and student engagement, along with transparency and accountability in educational outcomes and Blueprint funding.

Free State PTA's Advocacy Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session

- *Ensure appropriate class sizes, and paraeducator support in the classroom.*
- *Following the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation of starting school no earlier than 8:30 am.*
- *Ensuring children receive nutritional support they need with compassion and dignity, including universal meals and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.*
- *Migrating to electric buses and using renewable energy sources and electrifying schools to move to a net zero model.*
- *Increased access to mental health services.*
- *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.*
- *Reduce cell phone usage during instructional time to maximize student engagement and minimize distractions, by ensuring that students have their phones silenced and put away during class.*

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

- 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.
- Develop policy alignment between dual enrollment programs of community colleges and post secondary schools, with adequate communications to parents and guardians.

Operating and Capital Funding

- 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.

Use of Public 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 and opposing redirection of funding towards vouchers.
- Funding for ADA projects at schools.

Special Needs

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

www.fspta.org



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.
- Sizable increases in funding public school construction, including more funds dedicated to building renovations or replacing old buildings.
- Evaluation of schools for ADA compliance.
- Using renewable energy sources, promoting the Green Schools program, and electrifying schools to move to a net zero model.
- 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.

Improve Quality and Ensure Equitable Public Education

- 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.
- 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.
- Establishing universal voluntary early childhood (Pre-K) education.
- Establishing appropriate virtual learning plans and programs to be executed as need occurs.
- Implementing Inclusive curriculum.
- Providing and encouraging evidence-based literacy and math instruction and strategies.
- Support diverse opportunities for students to obtain academic credit for equivalent extracurricular work outside of school.
- Providing accommodations to any students during and returning from an extended absence (illness, injury, immigration, legal issues, etc.) to keep them on track academically.
- Correlating state and classroom assessments to curriculum and homework assignments, and ensuring that they are aligned with fair and adequate pre-assessment reviews.

Safe Schools and Violence Prevention

- Training teachers, students, families and staff about school safety and violence prevention and 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.
- Along with proper signage, 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 evidence-based 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.

Support for Teachers and Staff

- 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, and with an adequate amount of staffing
- 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 for instructional support.
- Enhanced mental health services for staff.
- Collaborating with local universities and community colleges in order to address the substitute teacher shortage and to provide enhancement that address learning gaps.

www.fspta.org

HCPSS Legislative <https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/Public>

Information found in Leg Committee and BOE Agenda

NOTE – PTACHC provides as information only – HCPSS potions may not mirror PTACHC positions

Motion & Voting

- ★ Move that the Board support HoCo 1-26 Howard County – Public Schools – School Schedule Options.

Motion by Antonia Watts, second by Jennifer Swickard Mallo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Linfeng Chen, Meg Ricks, Antonia Watts, Erin Alistar, Jacquelin McCoy, Andrea Chamblee, Jolene Mosley, Jennifer Swickard Mallo

- ★ Move that the Board oppose HoCo 5-26 Howard County – Voting Age – Board of Education Elections.

Motion by Linfeng Chen, second by Meg Ricks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Linfeng Chen, Meg Ricks, Antonia Watts, Jacquelin McCoy, Andrea Chamblee, Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Nay: Erin Alistar, Jolene Mosley

- ★ Move that the Board support HoCo 7-26 Howard County Board of Education - Student Member - Voting.

Motion by Erin Alistar, second by Jolene Mosley.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yea: Antonia Watts, Erin Alistar, Jolene Mosley, Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Nay: Linfeng Chen, Meg Ricks, Jacquelin McCoy, Andrea Chamblee

- ★ Move that the Board support with amendments HoCo 10-26 Howard County – Board of Education Budget – Minimum Funding.

Motion by Linfeng Chen, second by Antonia Watts.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Linfeng Chen, Meg Ricks, Antonia Watts, Erin Alistar, Jacquelin McCoy, Andrea Chamblee, Jolene Mosley

Nay: Jennifer Swickard Mallo

- ★ Move that the Board support HoCo 11-26 Howard County – Board of Education – Mandatory School Holidays.

Motion by Jolene Mosley, second by Linfeng Chen.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yea: Linfeng Chen, Jolene Mosley

Nay: Meg Ricks, Antonia Watts, Erin Alistar, Jacquelin McCoy, Andrea Chamblee, Jennifer Swickard Mallo

- ★ Move that the Board oppose HoCo 11-26 Howard County – Board of Education – Mandatory School Holidays.

Motion by Antonia Watts, second by Meg Ricks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Meg Ricks, Antonia Watts, Erin Alistar, Jacquelin McCoy, Andrea Chamblee, Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Nay: Linfeng Chen, Jolene Mosley

- ★ Move that the Board support CB10-2026 Excess Surplus Revenue - Modification.

Motion by Antonia Watts, second by Jennifer Swickard Mallo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Linfeng Chen, Meg Ricks, Antonia Watts, Erin Alistar, Jacquelin McCoy, Andrea Chamblee, Jolene Mosley, Jennifer Swickard Mallo



Department of Legislative Services
General Assembly of Maryland
Dates of Interest
2026 SESSION
449th Session

JANUARY						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- January 14** **GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES** (*noon, Wednesday*)
21 Final date for Governor to introduce budget bill
21 Final date for the Governor to introduce the capital budget bill
23 **10th Day – SENATE AND HOUSE BILL REQUEST GUARANTEE DATE**
26 **13th Day** – Administration bills introduced in the Senate after this date referred to Senate Rules Committee
28 **15th Day** – Final date for introduction of Governor's Salary Commission, General Assembly Compensation Commission, and Judicial Compensation Commission recommendations. Legislative action must be taken within 50 days after introduction of the joint resolutions of the Governor's Salary Commission and the Judicial Compensation Commission.

- February 9** **27th Day – SENATE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**
Senate bills introduced after this date referred to the Senate Rules Committee
Deadline for members to send LBI requests to DLS to guarantee preparation by 55th day.
11 Governor delivers the State of the State Address (noon)
12 Day before House Bill Introduction Date; "Hopper" will close at 5:00 P.M.
13 **31st Day – HOUSE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**
House bills introduced after this date referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
Deadline for members to send LBI requests to DLS to guarantee preparation by the 55th day.
22 **40th Day** – "Green Bag" appointments submitted by Governor (*Delivered on Friday, February 20*)

- March 9** **55th Day** – Final date for introduction of bills and LBIs without suspension of Rules
17 **63rd Day** – Committee Reporting Courtesy Date
Each Chamber's committees to report their own bills by this date
23 **69th Day** – Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date
Each Chamber to send to other Chamber those bills it intends to pass favorably.
Opposite Chamber bills received after this date subject to referral to Rules Committees (Senate Rule 32(c), House Courtesy Date)

- April 6** **83rd Day** – Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
13 **90th Day – ADJOURNMENT "SINE DIE"** (*Monday*)

- May 13** Final date for an extended session (Wednesday)

POST-SESSION

- May 3** 20th Day after adjournment – Final date for presentment of bills to Governor
June 1 Other than emergency bills and as otherwise provided, earliest date for bills to take effect
June 2 30th Day after presentment–Governor to sign/veto bills by this date
July 1 Budgetary, tax, and revenue bills to take effect
October 1 Usual effective date for bills

FEB 2 2026 PTACHC Legislative



FEB 2 2026 PTACHC Legislative

Sate bills found on <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/>

Bills of note

Land Use, Density, Overcrowding, Class sizes

SB31, SB36, HB548, HB337, HB64, HB473

Operations, School start times, Cell Use

SB103, HB128, HB163

Student Representation

HB140, SB144

Safety, Monitoring

SB71, SB158, HB395, HB73, HB76, HB110, SB51

Blueprint

HB78, HB73

Budget, MOE

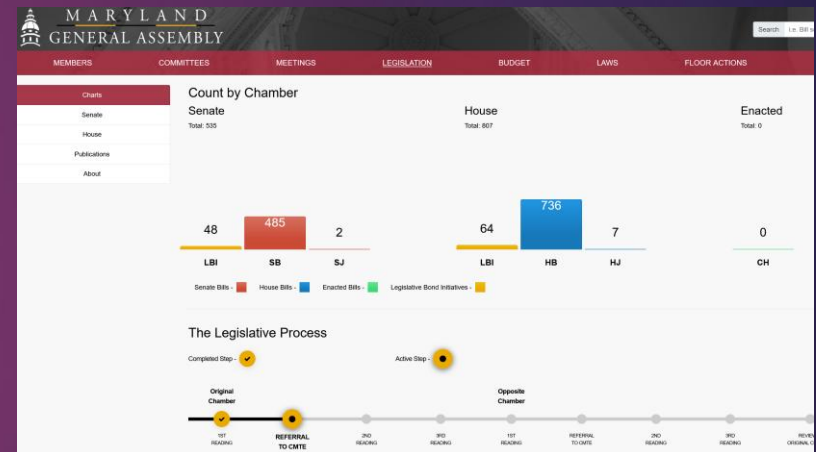
HB 562 Maintenance of effort Modernization Act

Record Keeping

HB358

Post College Reediness

HB29



What to do?

- *Learn more
- *Disseminate info to your PTA
- *Attend Hearings and Work Sessions
- *Vote on Positions
- *Testify
- *Write
- *Vote
- *Be involved in advocacy

On that note – PTACHC will host a
primary election forum for all Howard
County candidates March 14th 2026
11AM-1PM At Wilde Lake HS
Auditorium

Howard County Council — 2025–2026 (Current as of 11.01.2025)

The Council is the Legislative branch of Howard County's government, as established by the County Charter. Its main job is to make laws for the County. It also approves the County's operating and capital budgets, sets tax rates, authorizes all County bonds, and approves master plans for the County's physical development. In addition, the Council amends zoning regulations and approves the Comprehensive Zoning Plan, which is based on Plan Howard 2030, the County's General Plan.



All council member seats are up for election in 2026. Council members serve a term of four (4) years.



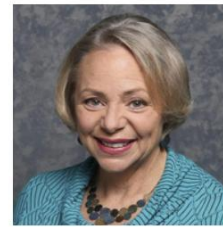
Liz Walsh, Chair
District 1
ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov



Opel Jones, Vice Chair
District 2
ojones@howardcountymd.gov



Christiana Rigby
District 3
crigby@howardcountymd.gov



Deb Jung
District 4
djung@howardcountymd.gov



David Yungmann
District 5
dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov



County Executive:
Calvin B. Ball III, Ed.D.
cball@howardcountymd.gov

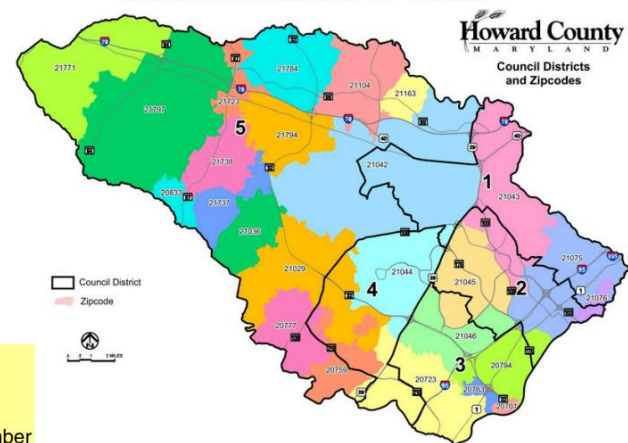
Head of the Executive Branch. The Executive proposes and manages the county budget, carries out Council policies, and delivers services to residents. The Executive oversees departments and coordinating with other government bodies.

Who represents me?

Check out the map to the right, or use the online tool:

<https://data.howardcountymd.gov/DataExplorer/Search.aspx?Application=CouncilMember>

Council Districts and ZIP Codes



Board of
Education
Representative

- ▶ Meg Ricks: District 1
- ▶ meg_ricks@hcpss.org



**Howard
County**
Public School System

Howard County Board of Education 2025–26 School Representation

District / Seat	Board Member	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	HighSchools / Other
D1	Meg Ricks	Elkridge ES, Hollifield Station ES, Ilchester ES, Northfield ES, Veterans ES, Worthington ES, Ducketts Lane ES	Elkridge Landing MS, Ellicott Mills MS, Dunloggin MS	Marriott's Ridge HS, Wilde Lake HS
D2	Antonia Watts (Vice Chair)	Bellows Spring ES, Deep Run ES, Jeffers Hill ES, Phelps Luck ES, Stevens Forest ES, Thunder Hill ES, Waterloo ES	Mayfield Woods MS, Bonnie Branch MS, Oakland Mills MS	Howard HS, Long Reach HS, Homewood Center
D3	Jolene Mosley (Chair)	Atholton ES, Bollman Bridge ES, Cradlerock ES, Forest Ridge ES, Gorman Crossing ES, Hammond ES, Laurel Woods ES	Hammond MS, Murray Hill MS, Patuxent Valley MS	Guilford Park HS, Oakland Mills HS, Cedar Lane School
D4	Jennifer Swickard Mallo	Bryant Woods ES, Clarksville ES, Clemens Crossing ES, Fulton ES, Longfellow ES, Pointers Run ES, Swansfield ES	Wilde Lake MS, Harpers Choice MS, Clarksville MS, Lime Kiln MS	Atholton HS, Reservoir HS
D5	Andrea Chamblee	Bushy Park ES, Dayton Oaks ES, Lisbon ES, Manor Woods ES, Triadelphia Ridge ES, Waverly ES, West Friendship ES	Burleigh Manor MS, Mount View MS, Folly Quarter MS	Centennial HS, Mt Hebron HS, River Hill HS
County At-Large #1	Jacquelin "Jacky" McCoy	Centennial Lane ES, Guilford ES, Hanover Hills ES, Rockburn ES, Running Brook ES, St Johns Lane ES, Talbott Springs ES	Patapsco MS, Thomas Viaduct MS, Lake Elkhorn MS, Glenwood MS	Hammond HS, Glenelg HS, Applications & Research Lab (ARL)
County At-Large #2	Dr. Linfeng Chen (Vice Chair)	See D3 coverage	See D3 coverage	See D3 coverage
Student Member	Erin Alistar (2025–26)	—	—	Represents all students countywide



Note: BOE election district boundaries may have individual student attendance areas that extend outside council district boundaries.



**Howard
County**
Public School System

Howard County Public Schools Representative

- ▶ James LeMon
- ▶ jameslemon@hcpss.org

Spring 2026 Training
Program for
Parents/Guardians of
Anxious Students –
HCPSS News

Friends of Education
Award Nomination
Period Open Through
February 20, 2026 –
HCPSS News

Judges Needed for
Howard County History
Day, to be Held March
21, 2026 – HCPSS News

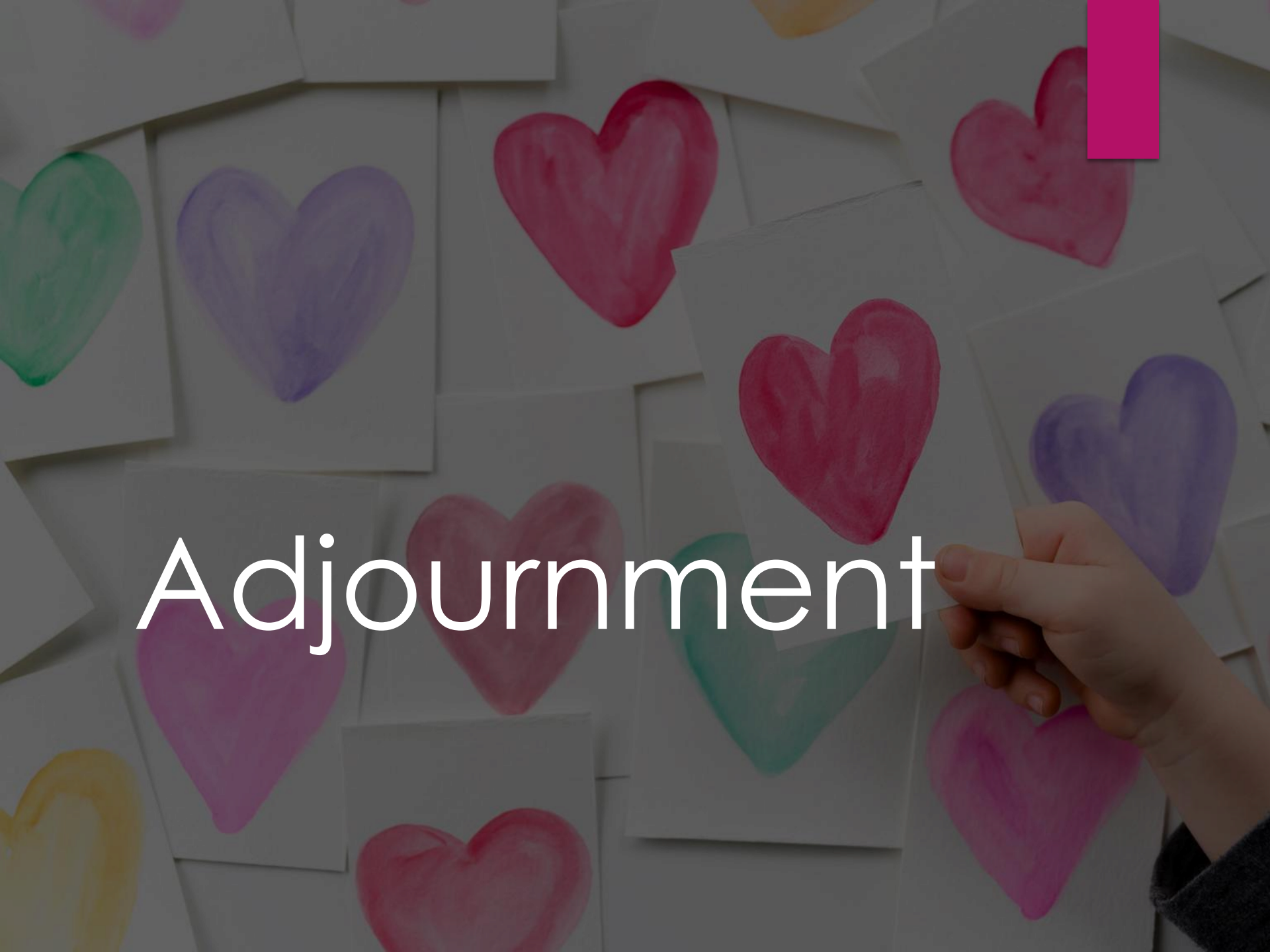
Save the Date: 2026
HCPSS Family
Academy Conference
– HCPSS News



**Howard
County**
Public School System



Guest Speaker:
Danielle
Lueking, HCPSS
Legislative and
Legal Affairs

The background of the slide features a hand holding a white card with a pink heart. Surrounding this card are several other white cards, each with a heart drawn in a different color: green, purple, red, pink, and yellow. The entire scene is set against a dark, semi-transparent background. A solid pink vertical bar is located in the top right corner.

Adjournment