



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

MARYLAND

Maryland General Assembly

The 2011 Maryland General Assembly session began on January 12 and will end on April 11. Montgomery County will retain three seats on the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, with Senator-Elect Roger Manno taking the place of defeated Senator Rona E. Kramer.

Maryland Budget

Maryland is facing a budget deficit of up to \$1.6 billion. With federal stimulus funds running out, the Assembly must seriously consider all of its revenue increase and spending cut options. In addition to the budget hole, Maryland's large structural deficits, unfunded pensions and looming health care costs could total over \$30 billion over the next 30 years. The Assembly will have to make a number of painful choices over the next 90 days, which could result in higher taxes, as well as reductions in services.

Legislative Update

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission introduced two pieces of legislation regarding water/sewer bills: (1) ***MC/PG 105-11: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Transfer of Single-Family Residential Real Property – Payment of Outstanding Charges and Costs*** would prohibit the transfer of single-family residential real property until all outstanding water/sewer bills were paid in full and (2) ***MC/PG 106-11: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Residential Property – Delinquency – Receiver*** authorizes the WSSC or certain persons to institute an action for receivership in certain cases of water/sewer bill delinquency provided to a residential rental property in the sanitary district under certain circumstances. Both are bi-county bills and need to get through Prince George's County and Montgomery County.

GCAAR's Adrian Hunnings testified in opposition to the legislation on December 9 before the Montgomery County Delegation. He noted that residential transactions are already very complicated. Neither bill has support in the Montgomery County Delegation. GCAAR is hopeful that neither bill will move forward.

http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/documents/MC-PG_105-11.pdf - pdf of ***MC/PG 105-11***

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Montgomery County

Budget

On December 14, 2010 the Montgomery County Council approved a mid-year operating budget plan that will reduce spending for the remainder of FY 2011 by \$32.3 million. The savings plan will help address a projected \$300 million budget gap in FY 2012 caused mainly by declines in projected revenue. The Council will be looking into restructuring union contracts, county wide furloughs, and reducing pension costs to fill the budget gap.

County Council

The Montgomery County Council unanimously elected Valerie Ervin as Council president and Roger Berliner as vice president of the 17th County Council for one-year terms on December 7, 2010. Incumbents Phil Andrews, Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal and Nancy Navarro and newly elected Hans Riemer and Craig Rice were also sworn in. All were elected in November to four-year terms.