



GOCA

Legislative Update

Senator **Zucker**, Delegates **Kaiser**, **Luedtke** and **Queen**

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

7:30 pm

Agenda from D14 Delegation

- Federal, state, and local COVID Resources
- Recognition of Local Heroes
- 2020 Legislative Update
- Questions

Local Government & Non-Profits

3

- Montgomery County is sharing updated information regularly through the press, social media, and [MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](https://www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov).
- The County Department of Health is coordinating efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and supporting hospitals, senior facilities, and other key institutions.
- MCPS is providing online learning opportunities and nutritional support for students.
- The County has announced new programs to support non-profits and small businesses with grants.
- Things you can do locally:
 - Support the National Capital Food Bank, Manna Foods, Maryland Food Bank, Olney HELP
 - Support local businesses, for example by ordering takeout and delivery
 - Donate any PPE in your possession at county donation sites



State Government

- Governor Hogan announced this week that he secured **500,000 COVID** tests from South Korea, which will allow Maryland to ramp up testing.
- State-administered unemployment insurance and small business programs are working seven days a week to get through backlogs in applications; staff has been transferred from other agencies to help.
- The State Department of Health has been working closely with our medical systems to ensure that hospitals and other care providers have adequate support.
- The primary portal for all state information regarding COVID-19 is at: **coronavirus.maryland.gov**

Federal Government

- Federal stimulus checks are in the process of being distributed to taxpayers.
- Congress has approved increased funding for unemployment insurance programs.
- The federal small business support programs are oversubscribed but Congress is in the process of authorizing more funding.
- There is ongoing debate about funding for local and state governments to ensure that critical services will continue to be provided.

How much is my stimulus check?

- \$1,200** For Individuals
whose adjusted gross income (AGI) is **\$75,000** or less
- \$2,400** For Married Couples
whose AGI is **\$150,000** or less
- \$1,200** For Heads of Household
whose AGI is **\$112,500** or less

+ \$500 per child claimed as a dependent

What if my income is higher?

Individuals		Married Couples		Head of Household	
Adjusted Gross Income	Stimulus Check Amount	Adjusted Gross Income	Stimulus Check Amount	Adjusted Gross Income	Stimulus Check Amount
\$ 75,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 150,000	\$ 2,400	\$ 112,500	\$ 1,200
\$ 80,000	\$ 950	\$ 160,000	\$ 1,900	\$ 117,500	\$ 950
\$ 85,000	\$ 700	\$ 170,000	\$ 1,400	\$ 122,500	\$ 700
\$ 90,000	\$ 450	\$ 180,000	\$ 900	\$ 127,500	\$ 450
\$ 95,000	\$ 200	\$ 190,000	\$ 400	\$ 132,500	\$ 200
\$ 99,000+	\$ 0	\$ 198,000+	\$ 0	\$ 136,500+	\$ 0

The above amounts are incremental examples. The check amount decreases by \$5 for every \$100 above the income threshold.

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

6



STAY HOME

Even if you're feeling healthy, social distancing will help us stop the spread of COVID-19.



STAY SAFE

Wash your hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you're feeling ill.



STAY AWARE

Reputable sources include Governor Hogan, Maryland state agencies, and the CDC.



STAY CALM

No need to panic, hoard, or listen to rumors. We will all get through this together.

VISIT [CORONAVIRUS.MARYLAND.GOV](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov) AND [GOVERNOR.MARYLAND.GOV](https://governor.maryland.gov) FOR RESOURCES.

State and Local Crisis Resources

- Montgomery County mental health Hotline: **301-738-2255**
- Maryland Health and Human Service Helpline: **211**
- Every Mind has tremendous mental health resources online at **every-mind.org**
- Montgomery County Abused Persons Program: **240-777-4000**

Recognition of Local Heroes

Thank you to all of our:

- Hospital and health care employees
- Police, Fire and EMS personnel
- Essential employees:
 - Mail delivery persons
 - Grocery employees
 - Restaurant workers
 - Teachers

... and all others who are supporting the community during this difficult time.

2020 Legislative Update

- Highlights of FY 2021 Budget
- Impacts and response to COVID-19
- Education highlights
- Health highlights
- Election law highlights and changes to Primary

Highlights of FY 2021 Budget

10

- A record **\$7+ billion** in total K-12 public education funding plus over **\$300M** for school construction.
- Higher education: **\$350 million** in community college funding and nearly **\$6.6 billion** in higher education funding; and a cap on in-state college tuition increases.
- More than **\$11.8 billion** for the state's Medicaid program.
- **\$9.5 billion** sent to local jurisdictions for aid to local governments.
- **\$160 million** to fight the COVID-19 virus.
- A **4% increase** for behavioral /mental health providers and for those serving the developmentally disabled.
- **\$1.9 billion** for public safety in our communities.
- **\$2.4 billion** spent on transportation projects across Maryland.

COVID-19 Reduces Budgets in 3 Ways

11

- **Increased state spending on direct response to virus**, including: public health response, small business assistance, pay increases for essential workers and overtime.
- **Uptick in entitlement caseloads**, such as Temporary Cash Assistance and Medicaid.
- **Decline in state revenues.** FY 2020 revenues expected to drop by nearly **\$2 billion** less than previously estimated, a **10-15% drop**. Revenues will likely decline in FY 2021 as well. Casino closures through June will cost the Education Trust Fund over **\$150 million**.

Federal Infusion of Dollars

12

Federal COVID-19 Assistance for MD	
(\$ in Millions)	
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$2,344.3
Disaster Relief Fund	\$800.0
Grants to Hospitals and Medical Providers	\$742.2
Transit Grants	\$695.0
Enhanced Medicaid Funding	\$275.0
Others (education, housing, child care, energy assistance, food, etc.)	\$708.7
TOTAL	\$5,565.2
Source: MD Department of Legislative Services	

COVID-19 Emergency Bills

13

State Budget - Revenue Stabilization Account Transfers - Coronavirus: Law allows the Governor to transfer up to **\$50 million** from the state's Rainy Day Fund to mobilize the necessary resources to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

State Government - State Of Emergency and Catastrophic Health Emergency - Authority of Governor (Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Protection Act Of 2020): Law allows the Governor to take several actions to expand healthcare coverage, unemployment benefits and consumer protections throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Highlights: Public Health Emergency Protection Act of 2020

14

- Changes the definition of a work week to allow state hospital nurses to work more hours to care for COVID-identified patients and be eligible to receive full-time benefits.
- Eliminates co-pays and other out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 testing and immunization.
- Allows certain telehealth protocols for COVID-19 to be waived to allow more patients to be diagnosed and treated over the phone and online.
- Provides unemployment insurance benefits to workers who are temporarily out of work or quarantined due to COVID-19.
- Prohibits retailers from price gouging necessary goods and services such as food, water, fuel and medicine.
- Places stringent restrictions on social gatherings and have taken significant action to encourage social distancing.

Bringing Dollars Home to District 14

15

PROJECTS	CITY	AMOUNT
Hero Dogs	Brookeville	\$30,000
Patuxent State Park Black History Trail	Brookeville	\$100,000
CSAAC	Brookeville	\$974,000
Planning funds for Route 198	Burtonsville	\$1,000,000
OASIS Farm	Damascus	\$44,000
Fairland Recreational Park	Fairland	\$100,000
Olney Family Park	Olney	\$200,000
Olney Theatre Center	Olney	\$2,000,000
Sandy Spring Meadow Basketball Court	Sandy Spring	\$7,000
Sandy Spring Museum	Sandy Spring	\$34,500
TOTAL		\$4,489,500

Protecting the Affordable Care Act

16

- Allows young adults to stay on their parents' plan until they turn 26.
- Eliminates co-pays for certain preventive services.
- Prohibits health insurance companies from limiting how much they would pay for any individual's medical bills over a lifetime.
- Expands coverage for individuals with “pre-existing conditions”.
- Provides base level healthcare plans.

Making Elections Easier

17

- Improves the absentee ballot process in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Changes the name of “no-excuse absentee ballots” to “Mail-in ballots” to ensure voters understand that they are allowed to cast a mail in vote regardless if they are able to vote on election day or not.
- Ensures mail-in ballots come with prepaid postage. This gives all Marylanders the equal opportunity to cast a ballot conveniently, for free.

Changes to 2020 Primary Election

18

- Election Day is now Tuesday, **June 2**. Ballot drop-off locations available **May 21- June 2**.
- Largely conducted by mail. Every **Active** registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail; there is no need to request one.
- There will be limited in-person voting that will be set up with necessary health and safety precautions.
- There will be no charge to return the ballot; you will not need to put a stamp on the ballot envelope.
- Use the voter lookup tool. Text the word 'CHECK' to **77788** and get a link to confirm your voter registration record.
- We'll email a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions.

Contact Us Anytime

20

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MD General Assembly Website:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebiste>