



# Greater Olney Civic Association

## 2021 MGA Legislative Wrap-up

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

**Monday, May 11th, 2021**

**7:30 PM**

# Agenda

- COVID-19 Response and Relief
- 2021 Legislative Highlights – Education, Election Law, Police Reform, Health Access, Economic Equity, Transportation
- Budget Highlights – State, County, District 14
- Montgomery County Highlights
- Questions and Answers

# COVID-19 Response & Relief

*The Relief Act* provides over **\$1 billion** of economic stimulus and tax relief to Maryland's most vulnerable residents, small businesses, and nonprofits hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **\$83 million** to erase household utility debt.
- **\$279 million** for small businesses
- Nearly 40,000 Marylanders received a **\$1,000** unemployment direct payment as their cases are adjudicated by the Department of Labor.
- **\$300 million** from federal funds to connect more than 500,000 people to the Internet.

# Legislative Highlights – Education

- Override the Governor's Veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
- Pass "Blueprint 2.0" to fast-track tutoring, summer school, educational technology and supporting students' socio-emotional health.
- Invest record money in K-12 and higher education.
- Increase funding to build more schools.
- Enhance funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

# Legislative Highlights – Election Law

- Eliminate hurdles that hamper the voting rights of some groups, including: students, members of the military and eligible incarcerated individuals.
- Create more time and opportunities for people to exercise their right to vote:
  - 2 more early voting sites in the county.
  - Early voting hours expanded to 7am – 8pm.
  - More drop boxes throughout the county.
- Require the Board of Elections to mail a ballot to all registered voters.
- Create a permanent absentee ballot list.
- Study how to make website and election materials easier to understand.

# Legislative Highlights – Police Reform

- Provide landmark Police Reform and Accountability policy.
- Increase body worn cameras, establish a use of force policy, and provide mental health supports for officers.
- Create transparency in the disciplinary process and curtail no- knock warrants.
- Demilitarize the police and independently investigate police-involved deaths.
- Repeal and replace the Law Enforcement Officer’s Bill of Rights, and create a Law Enforcement Scholarship Program for Higher Education attainment.

# Legislative Highlights – Healthcare Access

- Expand tele-health options and coverage.
- Increase medical debt protections.
- Extend maternal Medicaid eligibility.
- Establish an Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities.
- Require health equity and bias training for all health care providers.
- Establish a mental health services phone call program (Thomas Bloom Raskin Act).

# Legislative Highlights – Economic Equity

- Create a tax-free savings accounts for all first-time homebuyers to promote and prepare a path to homeownership.
- Require companies to report their racial diversity on Boards, Executive Leadership and Mission to qualify for State capital funding, tax credits or certain contracts.
- Add \$10 million to TEDCO's Builder's Fund to provide more meaningful venture capital opportunities for minority entrepreneurs.
- Prevent housing loan and credit applicants from being denied if applicants can provide alternate forms of creditworthiness.
- Implement the Digital Connectivity Act of 2021 to create a plan for all state residents to have access to high-quality, affordable broadband Internet service.

# Legislative Highlights – Transportation

- Override veto of Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act:
  - Make alterations to budget calculations for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and clarifies annual reporting requirements to be submitted to the Department of Transportation.
- Pass Transit Safety and Investment Act
  - Ensure adequate funding for repairs to the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA).
  - Provide assistance to small businesses in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties that have seen revenues decline due to construction of the Purple Line.

# Budget Highlights – State (\$52.4B)

- Balanced the budget, erased the structural deficit for the next 3 years; and has more than **\$2.1 billion** in savings.
- **\$572 million** to expand COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and vaccinations.
- **\$13.5 billion** in Medicaid funding to provide health care coverage to 1.5 million residents.
- **\$1.6 billion** for Transportation and Unemployment Insurance Trust Funds.
- **\$600 million** to reopen schools safely, including **\$80 million** for HVAC and ventilation improvements.
- **\$371.5 million** for Maryland's community colleges.
- **\$85 million** for local parks and playgrounds throughout the State.

# Budget Highlights – State and County

- Nearly **\$4.5 billion** in capital funds this year gets Marylanders back to work. The FY22 **Capital Budget** is projected to create nearly 30,000 jobs as we rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- More than **\$125 million** dollars was allocated to **Montgomery County**. Projects funded in Montgomery County include:
  - **\$43 million** - School renovations, and upgrades
  - **\$13 million** - Montgomery College
  - **>\$3 million** - Health Facilities and Housing & Community Dev.
  - **\$3.4 million** - Public Safety
  - **\$45 million** - Parks, Recreation, Environment and Land Preservation
  - **\$4.8 million** - Transportation
  - **\$5 million** - Local Community Projects

# Budget Highlights – District 14

## FY22 Capital Budget Allocations:

- Burtonsville Parking garage: **\$5 million.**
- Dolores R. Miller Park in Laytonsville: **\$20,000.**
- Damascus Recreational Park: **\$225,000.**
- Sandy Spring Museum: **\$100,000.**
- Friends House Retirement Community in Sandy Spring: **\$200,000.**

# Greater Olney Highlights

- Over \$8.5 million in capital budget allocations since 2016, including the following this year:
  - Town of Brookeville road improvements: **\$200,000.**
  - Olney Satellite Police Station and Community Facility: **\$175,000.**
- The State Highway Administration (SHA) will begin work on road improvements on Route 108 between Olney Mill Road and New Hampshire Avenue.
  - Resurfacing, installing traffic barriers and adding placement markers.
  - Design work to begin 6/21 with completion expected in summer of 2023.

# Montgomery County Highlights

- Returning **\$7-10 million** to county homeowners due to a State Department of Assessments and Taxation error in calculating property tax credits.
- Allows Burtonsville area to tap into a \$7 million Economic Development Fund (National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund)
- **26** Local bills introduced, **13** of which passed. The highlights:
  - Refund some alcohol fees to our struggling bars and restaurants.
  - Improve transparency at the Housing Opportunities Commission and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.
  - Allow the county and municipalities to set lower speed limits.
  - Establish a Community Choice Energy pilot program for county.

# Contact Us Anytime

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# Questions?

