



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

MACo Briefing



General Assembly
of Maryland

House Environment & Transportation

Committee

1/22/2019



Introduction to Maryland Counties

- 🏰 **Maryland has 23 counties plus Baltimore City (which is legally both a county and municipality)**
- 🏰 **Maryland counties are very diverse with vastly different needs and demographics**
 - “America in Miniature”
- 🏰 **County Trivia Questions**
 - 🏰 **#1 – Which county has the most population?**
 - 🏰 **#2 – Which county has the least population?**
 - 🏰 **#3 – Which county has the highest population density?**
 - 🏰 **#4 – Which county has the lowest population density?**
 - 🏰 **#5 – Which county has the largest operating budget?**
 - 🏰 **#6 – Which county has the smallest operating budget?**
- 🏰 **One size does not fit all!**



Services Provided by Maryland Counties

- 🏰 Unlike in many other states, Maryland counties are very powerful and provide a very wide range of services
(* = *services required or governed under state law*)
 - 🏰 **Community Colleges*** - Support of the county or regional board of trustees of a community college that operates under state law.
 - 🏰 **Debt Service** - Annual principal and interest payments on debt issued for the development of public capital facilities (i.e., roads, schools, libraries, parks, etc.).
 - 🏰 **General Government** - Executive and legislative control, judicial support*, election supervision*, financial administration (budgeting and accounting), legal (counsel and prosecution*), personnel administration, general services, and alcoholic beverage control*.
 - 🏰 **Health*** - Support of the state-required and state-regulated county health department.
 - 🏰 **K-12 Education*** - Support of the state-required county board of education (which operates under state law).



Services Provided by Maryland Counties

- 🏰 **Maryland counties provide a very wide range of services**
(* = *services required or governed under state law*)
 - 🏰 **Land Planning and Development** – Zoning, urban and rural development and redevelopment, housing, economic development, and economic opportunity programs.
 - 🏰 **Libraries*** - Support of the county board of library trustees, which operates under state law.
 - 🏰 **Public Safety** - Law enforcement, fire protection, corrections, building inspection, animal control, and traffic engineering.
 - 🏰 **Public Works** - Road construction and maintenance, sewer, water, storm drains, and solid waste collection and disposal (in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, sewer and water services are provided by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission).
 - 🏰 **Recreation and Parks** - Recreation activities and facilities, park and open space maintenance and development.



Types of County Governments in Maryland

Three types of county governments

Commission

 Calvert, Carroll, Garrett, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington = 6

Charter

 Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, Wicomico = 12

Code Home Rule

 Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Kent, Queen Anne's, Worcester = 6



Introduction to MACo

-  **Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) is a nonpartisan organization whose membership consists of all 23 counties + Baltimore City**
-  **MACo Activities**
 -  **Advocate for county interests before Maryland General Assembly and Executive Branch**
 -  **Provide information and research on policy issues important to both our members and the State**
 -  **Provide training and educational opportunities to both county elected officials and professional staff**
-  **We don't normally paint cars
(but we're willing to give anything a shot!)**



MACo Resources

- 🏠 Website: www.mdcountries.org
- 🏠 *Conduit Street Blog:*
www.conduitstreet.mdcountries.org
- 🏠 Twitter: @mdcountries
- 🏠 Facebook: facebook/MDCountries
- 🏠 *Conduit Street Podcast:*
www.mdcountries.org/Podcast
- 🏠 Legislative Tracking Database:
www.mdcountries.org/Legislation
- 🏠 Directory of County Officials
- 🏠 MACo County Budget and Tax Rate Survey
- 🏠 MACo County Salary Survey
- 🏠 County Fact Sheets





2019 Session – MACo Initiatives

- 🏛️ **Continue State Commitment to Education**
 - 🏛️ MACo advocates for a partnership approach to meeting the education and facility needs of Maryland’s students that fairly balances state responsibilities with local obligations, and seeks equitable and efficient solutions to meet current expenses and future goals.
- 🏛️ **Re-prioritize Public Health**
 - 🏛️ MACo advocates to prioritize public health in the face of the opioid epidemic and crises to come by reviving local health department funding and targeting drug treatment funding to address demand where it is needed most.
- 🏛️ **Repeal “Implied Preemption” Court Doctrine (2-year effort)**
 - 🏛️ Legislation should specify that preemption should not take place in the courts by mere interpretation, but in the open and accessible lawmaking process, where all stakeholders may be heard on the merits of their arguments.
- 🏛️ **Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Implementation**
 - 🏛️ Updating state laws, and the 9-1-1 financing system, to provide the flexibility and resources needed for this important step is a public safety priority affecting every part of Maryland.





Solar Siting Issue

- ☐ **MACo: supportive of solar development but it is important that local zoning and siting requirements apply**
- ☐ **Solar Siting Priorities**
 - ☐ **Rooftop**
 - ☐ **Grayfields (parking lots, warehouse rooftops, etc.) and Brownfields**
 - ☐ **Open space zoned by local governments**
- ☐ **Areas of Concern**
 - ☐ **Prime farmland**
 - ☐ **Forested lands**
 - ☐ **Critical Areas and wetlands**
 - ☐ **Regions of cultural/historical importance**





Recycling Issue

- 🏰 Mandated on counties

- 🏰 Single stream

- 🏰 The China Factor

 - 🏰 “National Sword” Policy

 - 🏰 Looming local crisis over cardboard, mixed paper, plastics

 - 🏰 Counties have little option but to landfill where no product market exists

 - 🏰 Need for more recycling processing (heavy industry) in United States

- 🏰 Composting





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