

Resolution No: 18-24

RESOLUTION:

To Adopt Rockville's 2025
State Legislative Priorities and Legislative
Bond Initiatives for the
Maryland General Assembly Session to
Begin on January 8 and end on
April 7, 2025

WHEREAS, the City of Rockville prioritizes engagement in the work of the Maryland General Assembly as it relates to the Rockville community and municipal government; and

WHEREAS, the 447th Maryland General Assembly Session is scheduled to begin on January 8, 2025 and conclude on April 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of Rockville identified State legislative priorities, legislative bond initiatives, and issues to monitor as a framework for their advocacy and engagement in the 2025 General Assembly Session;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of Rockville, adopt the following State Legislative Priorities, Legislative Bond Initiatives, and issues to monitor for the 2025 Maryland General Assembly Session (not in order of importance) in preparation for the upcoming 2025 Session:

Legislative Priorities:

1. Support legislation that would require the State Highway Administration to be responsible for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks and bicycle pathways on State-owned roads.
2. Support legislation that would expand access for low-and-moderate income homeowners to the State Homeowner's Property Tax Credit, to provide relief from inflationary pressures and cost of living increases.
3. Preserve and Protect Municipal Highway User Revenues from the State that contributes to the cost of maintaining and repairing Rockville's transportation infrastructure.
4. Support the Maryland Municipal League priority to amend State law to permit municipalities to utilize non-sworn personnel, trained with the same standards as Police officers, to sign off on speed camera violation notices.
5. Support the Maryland Municipal League priority for enabling legislation that would expand the Admissions and Amusement tax by adding a 2% local fee on food and beverages and generate additional municipal revenues.
6. Advocate for State funding for school construction projects and operations to support education from birth through community college, including childcare, and the following:
 - Advocate for Montgomery County to receive a fair funding share from the State to cover the cost of implementing the Blueprint for Maryland. A revised formula is needed to help prevent larger class sizes and potential furloughs and layoffs.
7. Advocate for youth and at risk youth programming, including:
 - Youth Service Bureau funding restoration;
 - Out of school activities; and

- Juvenile services for youth involved in repeat crimes who do not have access to restoration services support.
8. Advocate for increased funding for senior transportation services, recreation and wellness programs, senior programs in neighborhoods, aging in place and village initiatives, and senior outreach.
 9. Advocate in support of the City's Vision Zero and Master plan efforts, including:
 - A comparative negligence law that allows pedestrians to claim damages at the percent in which they are determined to be at fault in a vehicle crash.
 - Revising the State transportation code to make it clear that the State is responsible for maintaining all transportation facilities, including sidewalks, and streetlights at State intersections along State roadways, and providing dedicated State funding for such maintenance.
 - Advocating for the State to mitigate the increase in streetlight outages in support of pedestrian safety and to address increased overtime for City Police to maintain safety and direct traffic during outages.
 - Advocating for Don't Block the Box legislation that that would prohibit a vehicle facing a green or yellow signal from entering an intersection if the vehicle is unable to proceed completely through the intersection.
 - Advocate for additional complete streets implementation along MD 355, Veirs Mill Road, and all State roads with high numbers of crashes or fatalities.
 10. Advocate for legislation Supporting Rockville's Climate Action plan goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, prioritizing equity, and building resiliency.
 11. Advocate for Just Cause Eviction Legislation that would prohibit a landlord from failing to renew a lease during the lease period or seeking to terminate a holdover tenancy without good cause.
 12. Support MML's work with the State Board of Elections (SBE) and the Governor's Office to create emergency legislation for the upcoming year that explicitly authorizes SBE to enter into Memorandums of Understanding with municipalities for election support moving forward.

Legislative Bond Initiatives:

1. **Elwood Smith Community Center** - \$500,000 State funding request
This project supports the City and State goals to prioritize equity and inclusion. The project would fund the design and construction of the center renovation, including removing ADA barriers, reconfiguring office space to support out of school activity programs, community gatherings, classes, and install flooring, and convert gender specific restrooms to multiple single user ADA compliant restrooms.
2. **Talbot Street Park** - \$500,000 State funding request
This project supports the City and State goals to prioritize equity and inclusion. This project includes the demolition and removal of a decommissioned water tower as well as the design and construction of a .5 acre park on the City owned parcel. This project would provide a park to several nearby multifamily complexes, including the Woodmont Park Apartments.
3. **Provide Technical Assistance and Advocacy Support for a Rockville Volunteer Fire Department (RFVD) Legislative Bond Initiative** to recoup funding stolen by a scammer when RFVD attempted to purchase two new ambulances.

Watch List:

- Legislation related to prioritizing native species and restrictions against invasive species and aligns with Rockville's efforts.
- Legislation related to spotted lantern fly mitigation and eradication.
- Legislation pertaining to tenant issues and protections.
- Legislation that enhances pedestrian, bike safety, and transportation safety.

Other – State Agencies:

- Request that the Maryland Courts and State Police review the speeding fines framework in order to update and appropriately increase speeding fines.

I hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at its meeting on October 21, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara Taylor Ferrell", is written over a horizontal line.

Sara Taylor Ferrell City Clerk/Director of Council Operations

