

Resolution No: 13A-26

RESOLUTION: To Adopt Rockville's 2027 State Legislative Priorities and Legislative Bond Initiatives for the Maryland General Assembly Session to Begin on January 13 and end on April 12, 2027

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 450th Maryland General Assembly Session is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2027, and conclude on April 12, 2027; 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 2027 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 2027 Maryland General Assembly Session (not in order of importance) in preparation for the upcoming 2027 Session:

- 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.
- Support legislation that would expand access for low-and moderate-income homeowners (including income-challenged seniors and individuals with disabilities) to the State Homeowner's Property Tax Credit, to provide relief from inflationary pressures and cost-of-living increases.
- Support MML's priority to Modernize Municipal Revenue Structures. This includes protecting Municipal Highway User Revenue and Police Aid Protection funds) that contribute to the cost of maintaining/repairing Rockville's transportation infrastructure and support Police protection services in the Rockville community.
- 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 a fair share of State funding for Montgomery County to cover the Implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland and prevent larger class sizes, potential furloughs, and layoffs.
- 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.

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- 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.
- Advocate in support of the City's Vision Zero and Master Plan efforts, including:
 - A comparative negligence law that allows pedestrians to claim damages in proportion to the percentage to 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.
 - Advocate for State Stop Sign Monitoring Systems in school zones legislation that would provide this authority to all local governments.
 - Advocate for crosswalk monitoring systems legislation.
 - Advocate 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.
 - Advocate for Don't Block the Box legislation 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 legislation that would authorize the establishment of Regional Transportation Authorities that would implement regional transportation plans and raise transportation revenues for the State and local governments.
 - Advocate for additional complete streets implementation along MD 355, Veirs Mill Road, and all State roads with high numbers of crashes or fatalities.
- Advocate for legislation supporting Rockville's Climate Action plan goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, prioritizing equity, and building resiliency.
- Advocate for Legislation Strengthening Tenant Protections, including:
 - Advocate for Just Cause Eviction Legislation, as originally introduced in 2025 (HB 709- not amended), 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.
 - Advocate for Landlord-Tenant Residential Leases Fee Disclosure Legislation, including the disclosure of rent history (period to be determined by the State), broken out by year.
 - Advocate for legislation prohibiting a landlord from using certain algorithmic devices to determine the amount of rent to charge a residential tenant.
- Advocate for legislation requiring Boards of Education to consult with municipalities and incorporate municipal data into their annual student residency and school zones report.
- Advocate for consideration of a regulatory framework for FAMLI (Maryland Family and Medical Insurance Program) including paid salary continuation approaches that allow municipalities to offer equal or better leave programs without the paid insurance model. This would help achieve the shared goal of providing employees the benefits of the Time to Care and parental leave program.

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Legislative Bond Initiatives:

The following 2027 legislative bond initiative options will be shared with the District 17 Delegation for their input on which projects are most likely to be successful in receiving capital improvement funds from the State:

- Option #1 –

Playground Equity Project \$700,000

This project would provide equitable and modern playgrounds for children of all abilities at two locations in Rockville:

1. **Loan Oak Playground Replacement** - \$350,000 in project funding would replace the 25-year-old playground equipment in the Twinbrook community. It would be inclusive and follow ADA requirements. Children of all abilities could enjoy the park.
2. **Mattie Stepanek Park Playground Accessibility Enhancement** - \$350,000 in project funding would create a completely accessible and inclusive playground that meets the criteria for PLAYGROUNDS FOR ALL! Maryland initiative. Few playgrounds in Maryland meet the program requirements.

- Option #2 -

Rockville City Hall Accessibility and Security Project - \$550,000

Funding for this project would support improvements to the front entrance of Rockville City Hall, including:

- Gender neutral restroom;
- Adult-changing station;
- Code-compliant restrooms;
- Doorway improvements; and
- Security upgrades.

Watch List Items:

- Legislation supportive of native plant and animal species and restricting invasive species, including measures for spotted lanternfly mitigation and eradication, in alignment with Rockville's efforts.
- Legislation relating to tenant issues and protections.
- Legislation that would impact Rockville's development review process and/or local planning and zoning authority.
- Legislation that enhances pedestrian, bike safety, and transportation safety.
- Legislation relating to financial empowerment.

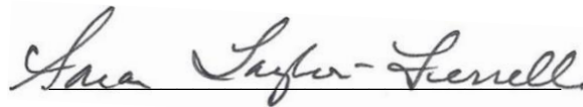
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- Legislation supportive of single-staircase buildings.
- Legislation supportive of patio solar use.

Other:

- Advocate for Montgomery County enabling legislation for municipalities to have the authority to negotiate memorandums of understanding with Montgomery County to ensure that school impact tax funds collected flow back to schools in the area where the development will occur.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a
Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville at its
meeting of October 5, 2026

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Taylor-Ferrell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sara Taylor-Ferrell, City Clerk Director of Council Operations