

Resolution No: _____

RESOLUTION:

To Adopt Rockville's 2026
State Legislative Priorities and Legislative
Bond Initiatives for the
Maryland General Assembly Session to
Begin on January 14 and end on
April 13, 2026

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 448th Maryland General Assembly Session is scheduled to begin on January 14, 2025, and conclude on April 13, 2026; 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 2026 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 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session (not in order of importance) in preparation for the upcoming 2026 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 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.
- Preserve and Protect 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.
- Support the MML's approved priority on Modernizing Municipal Revenues. This may include enabling legislation that would expand the Admission and Amusement Tax by adding up to a 3% local fee on food and beverage consumption and/or Local Government Revenues Workgroup legislation.
- 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.
- 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.
 - 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 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 Legislation, 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 in support of the health care safety net and access to vaccines for all.

Legislative Bond Initiatives:

The following 2026 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 - Twinbrook Park and Dogwood Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacements** – \$570,000 State funding request for each project. These projects support the Mayor and Council priorities of equity and inclusion as well as Vision Zero. These projects involve the design and construction of the replacement of the steel truss pedestrian bridges which provide access for residents to critical school and community facilities.
- **Option #2 – Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park Gender Neutral Restroom** - \$150,000 State funding request. This project supports the Mayor and Council priorities on equity and inclusion. This project includes the design and construction of converting a storage space within the concession building into a single-user, accessible restroom.

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.