

Mayor and Council Worksession
2026 State Legislative Priorities and
Legislative Bond Initiatives
September 15, 2025





Outline

- Introduction
- Background
- Proposed Priorities
- Discussion
- Next Steps
- Requested Feedback
- Questions



Introduction

- Annual discussion of State Legislative Priorities
- General Assembly Session – January 14 to April 13, 2026



Why Adopt State Legislative Priorities

- Disseminate the elected body's position on important bills.
- Provides a roadmap for the City's legislative advocacy.
- Allows staff to effectively position the City when bills drop.
- Focuses the City's legislative advocacy on the highest priorities.



Factors Impacting the 2026 General Assembly Session

- June 2026 primary elections for the Governor and General Assembly
- Deepening State Budget Shortfall/Fiscal Uncertainty Around Anticipated Federal Job Losses and Grant Reductions
- Turnover in key positions within the State Administration



Approved 2026 MML Legislative Action Request Priorities

- Preservation of Municipal Highway User Revenue and State Aid for Police Protection
- Statewide Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Legislation
- Regional Transportation Authorities Legislation



Proposed 2026 State Legislative Priorities

- **MML LC Recommended - Legislation Modernizing Municipal Revenue Structures (may include Admissions and Amusement Tax Expansion and/or Local Government Revenues Workgroup)**
- **Legislation to Support Funding for Youth Service Bureaus and Initiatives, and juvenile services for Teens During Out-of-School Hours**
- **Legislation Strengthening Tenant Protections**
- **Legislation Expanding Access to the State Property Tax Credit (Income challenged, Seniors, Individuals with Disabilities)**

- **Advocate in Support of the City's Vision Zero and Pedestrian Master Plan Efforts**
- **Advocate in Support of Educational Needs Across the Spectrum (capital and operating funding)**
- **Advocate for Senior programming**
- **Advocate for Legislation Supporting Climate Action Goals.**

Legislative Bond Initiative:

- **Twinbrook and Dogwood Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement**
- **Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park Gender Neutral Restroom**



Next Steps

- Staff will prepare a resolution based on Mayor and Council direction provided.
- October 6, 2025 – Mayor and Council Adoption of 2026 State Legislative Priorities
- November 19, 2025 – Testimony at the Montgomery County House and Senate Legislative Priorities hearing.
- Collaborate with District 17 Delegation and other stakeholders to advance Rockville's 2026 priorities in the 448th General Assembly Session.



Requested Feedback

Does the Mayor and Council support the proposed 2026 State Legislative Priorities?

Does the Mayor and Council have any priorities to add?

- **MML LC Recommendation- Legislation Modernizing Municipal Revenue Structures (may include Admissions and Amusement Tax Expansion and/or Local Government Revenues Workgroup)**
- **Legislation to Support Funding for Youth Service Bureaus and Initiatives for Teens During Out-of-School Hours.**
- **Legislation Strengthening Tenant Protections**
- **Legislation Expanding Access to the State Property Tax Credit (Income challenged, Seniors, Individuals with Disabilities)**

- **Advocate in Support of the City's Vision Zero and Master Plan Efforts**
- **Advocate in Support of Educational Needs Across the Spectrum (capital and operating funding)**
- **Advocate for Legislation Supporting Climate Action Goals.**
- **Advocate for Senior Programming**

Legislative Bond Initiative:

- **Twinbrook and Dogwood Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement**
- **Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park Gender Neutral Restroom**



Questions?