

PRESS RELEASE

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION ANNOUNCES 2021 SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Delegation Members Successfully Lead on Historic County and State Legislation

ANNAPOLIS, April 14, 2021 – The 32-member Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly this week concluded a successful 2021 legislative session.

The first priority of the 2021 Session, Montgomery County legislators led the way in addressing the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic through their advocacy and work on the Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act (SB 496), that provides financial support for small businesses and Maryland residents to ensure that all Marylanders receive the help they need to recover from the economic strain of the pandemic. This measure aids low-income Marylanders through direct stimulus payments and reduces taxes for many businesses and taxpayers.

“Montgomery County residents sent us to help provide recovery and relief for them this session. We worked together to deliver record funding for our county’s residents, small businesses, non for profits, and those in need. We kept our promise and delivered for our constituents,” said Senate Delegation Chairman, **Craig J. Zucker**.

“Across the Board, Montgomery County legislators led the way on the crucial issues before the Maryland General Assembly and the state during the legislative session,” said House Delegation Chair, **Marc Korman**.

Members of the Delegation sponsored legislation and led on a wide range of statewide and local policy issues, improving the lives of Montgomery County residents. Some of the major legislative accomplishments of Delegation members include:

- **Policing and Sentencing Reform:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, including Senate Committee **Chair Will Smith** (District 20), **Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher** (District 18), **Senator Susan Lee** (District 16), **Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield** (District 19), **Delegate Lesley Lopez** (District 39), **Delegate David Moon** (District 19), and **Delegate Emily Shetty** (District 18), worked throughout the 2021 Session to successfully deliver policing and sentencing reform. These measures include the repeal of the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights (HB 670), requiring all on-duty officers to wear body cameras (SB 71), Anton’s Law (SB 178) – sponsored in the House by Montgomery County’s **Delegate Gabe Acevero** (District 39) – that allows police misconduct records to be accessible for the public and restricts no-knock warrants, and the Juvenile Restoration Act (SB 494) that prohibits a life without parole sentence for juvenile offenders. Further sentencing reform that removes the Governor from parole decisions (SB 202) was led in part by **Delegate Pam Queen** (District 14) and awaits action by the Governor.

- **Environmental Protection:** Numerous members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee, including Senate Committee **Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan** (District 17), House Committee **Chair Kumar Barve** (District 17), **Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo** (District 15), **Delegate Sara Love** (District 16), and **Delegate Vaughn Stewart** (District 19), were involved in the successful passage of environmental protection bills. Notable accomplishments include forest conservation legislation (HB 991) sponsored by **Delegate Jim Gilchrist** (District 17), legislation sponsored by **Senator Craig Zucker** (District 14) and **Delegate Marc Korman** (District 16) that requires the state to transition its transit bus fleet to zero-emission buses (SB 137/HB 334), and legislation to reduce pollution in Maryland’s waterways (HB 507/SB 119). These bills are awaiting action by the Governor.
- **Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Revisions and School Construction:** Montgomery County Delegation members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, including **Delegate Gabe Acevero** (District 39), **Delegate Marc Korman** (District 16), **Delegate Kirill Reznik** (District 39), and Senate **Majority Leader Nancy King** (District 39), led the way in ensuring full funding for Maryland school construction through the veto override of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and provision in the capital budget of more than \$13 million to Montgomery College for the Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building. Education and Economic Development Subcommittee **Vice Chair Jared Solomon** (District 18) helped to advance revisions (HB 1372) to the Blueprint to address learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill became law without the Governor’s signature on April 9.
- **Purple Line Construction Zone Grant Program (HB 114):** Long championed by **Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins** (District 20), this legislation creates a grant program to aid small businesses affected by the construction of the Purple Line. The bill awaits action by the Governor, who has already agreed to fund the program for at least one year.
- **Homeowners’ Property Tax Credit Revision (HB 158/SB 593):** Led by primary sponsors **Delegate Al Carr** (District 18) and **Senator Craig Zucker** (District 14), this legislation clarifies how the Homeowners’ Property Tax Credit, a key tool used to help lower income property owners, should be calculated, and authorizes the State Department of Taxation and Assessment to refund homeowners for credits owed to them for the previous three tax years. This bill is awaiting action from the Governor.
- **Electoral Reform:** Montgomery County Delegation members led the way in passing reforms to improve Maryland’s elections including **Majority Leader Eric Luedtke’s** (District 14) bill to improve ease of access to early voting centers (HB 745), enacted on April 9, and Election Law Subcommittee **Chair Jheanelle Wilkins’** (District 20) legislation that establishes a permanent absentee ballot list (HB 1048), currently awaiting the Governor’s approval.
- **Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion (SB 218/HB 143):** Sponsored by **Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr** (District 17) and Senate **Majority Leader Nancy King** (District 39) with the leadership of Ways & Means Committee **Chair Anne Kaiser** (District 14) and Revenues Subcommittee Chair—as well as House Majority Leader—**Eric Luedtke** (District 14), this legislation creates a child tax credit for low income families with dependents with disabilities under the age of 17, and extends the earned income tax credit to those who use Individual Taxpayer Identification

Numbers to pay taxes, who are excluded from the federal EITC. This legislation was enacted without the Governor's signature on March 5.

- **Maryland Health Equity Resource Act (HB 463)**: Montgomery County's Health and Government Operations Committee members, including **Delegate Bonnie Cullison** (District 19) and **Delegate Ariana Kelly** (District 16), successfully advocated for the allocation of state resources to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, and reduce health care costs. The bill is awaiting action by the Governor.
- **Dignity Not Detention Act (HB 16/SB 478)**: Led by primary sponsors **Delegate Vaughn Stewart** (District 19) and **Senator Will Smith** (District 20) and House floor leader **Delegate David Moon** (District 20), this legislation prohibits local jurisdictions from establishing a detention facility for undocumented migrants, and closes existing facilities. This bill awaits action by the Governor.

These bills provide a description of only some of the legislation that members of the Montgomery County Delegation championed and fought for during the legislative session to improve the lives of their constituents and Marylanders across the state.

The Montgomery County Delegation also considered 26 pieces of legislation affecting only Montgomery County, or in some cases Montgomery and Prince George's counties. 13 of this year's local or bi-county bills are now on the Governor's desk awaiting action, including Community Choice Energy (HB 768). Sponsored by **Delegate Lorig Charkoudian** (District 20) and Senate Finance Committee **Vice Chair Brian Feldman** (District 15), this legislation establishes the Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program in Montgomery County, empowering the County to procure power on behalf of residents, small businesses, and government. Senate Finance Committee member Senator **Ben Kramer** (District 19) and House Economic Matters Committee **Vice Chair Kathleen Dumais** (District 15) and committee member **Delegate Lily Qi** (District 15) were also involved in advancing this legislation that will help the County meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals.

A complete list of local legislation is available at:

<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/legislation.html>. Pandemic restrictions also led to livestreaming of all full Delegation and committee meetings for the first time.

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