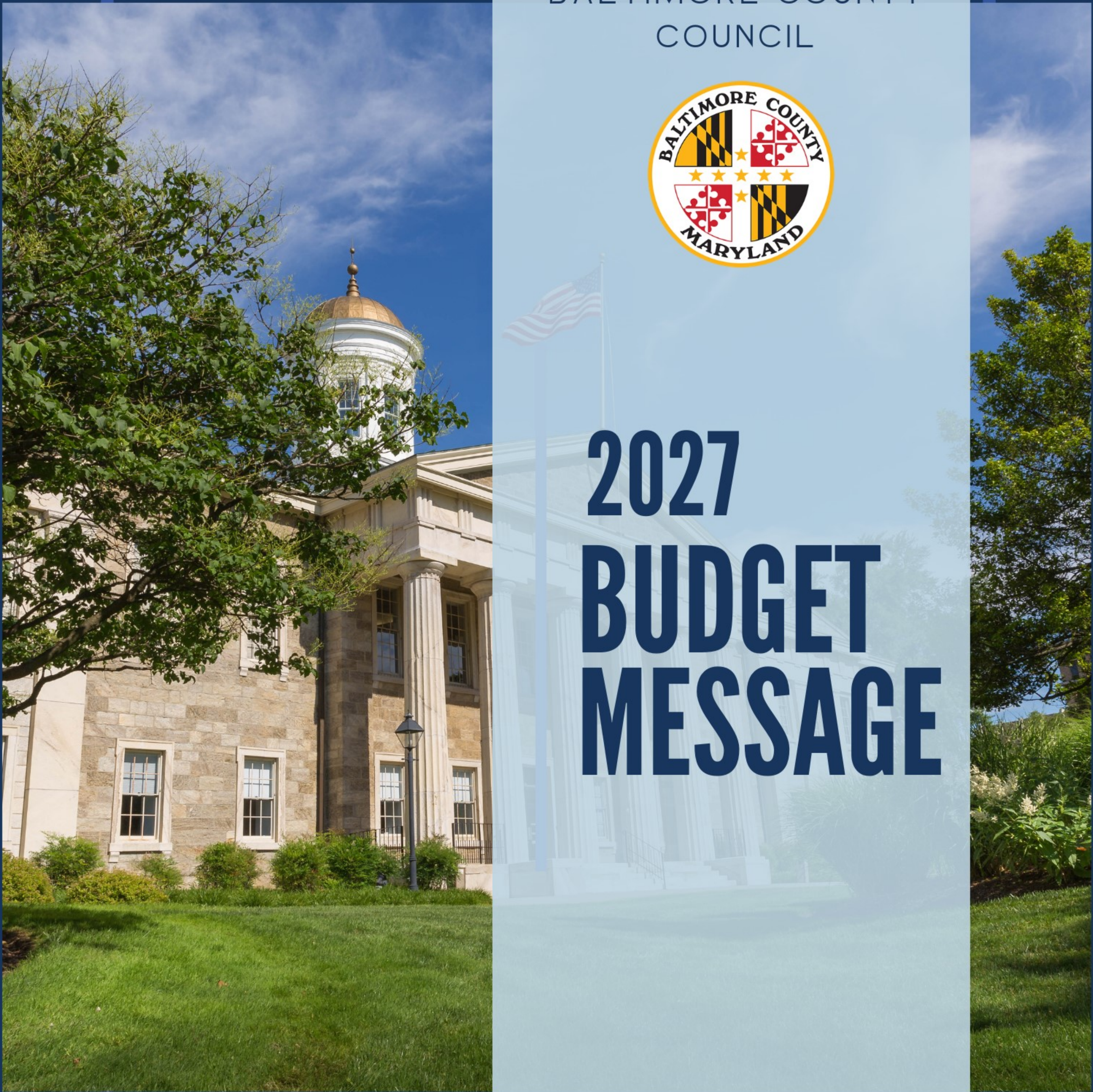
BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL



# 2027 BUDGET MESSAGE

MAY 21, 2026

# BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Michael Ertel**
Chair
Sixth District

**Pat Young**
First District

**Izzy Patoka**
Second District

**Julian E. Jones, Jr.**
Fourth District

**David Marks**
Fifth District

**Todd K. Crandell**
Seventh District

---

**Thomas H. Bostwick**
Secretary

**Elizabeth Irwin**
Acting Auditor

# BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL
# BUDGET MESSAGE
# FY 2027

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

# SECTION I

# BUDGET MESSAGE

Good morning!  As Chair of the County Council, I would like to welcome everyone to our newly renovated Council Chamber for the Council's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.  Since the beginning of February, contractors and trades under the supervision of Property Management have worked hard to renovate the dais and the Chamber in preparation for the new nine-member Council.  It is my honor to welcome you all for this special occasion.

Before discussing this year's budget, I'd like to welcome our elected leaders, in particular our State Delegates and Senators, as well as members of our federal delegation in the audience.  I also want to extend a welcome and thank you to all the County employees and Department heads here today and recognize your wonderful service to Baltimore County.  I'd like to give special acknowledgment to our partners in education, Superintendent Dr. Myriam Rogers and members of the County School Board in attendance for their excellent leadership of BCPS.  I also want to thank Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, for her steady hand as President of CCBC, and the members of the Public Library Board of Trustees in attendance, including Yara Cheikh, the Board President.  I want to acknowledge our public safety leaders, including our State's Attorney, Scott Shellenberger, Police Chief Rob McCullough, and Fire Chief Joe Dixon. I also want to thank County Sheriff R. Jay Fisher, who is retiring after 24 years in office.

Most importantly on this day, I would like to thank Madame County Executive, Kathy Klausmeier.  As you all know, this is the last budget of County Executive Klausmeier's administration.  Though shorter than some, Kathy's tenure as County Executive has been no less impactful.  When this Council unanimously elected Kathy as County Executive, we could see the horizon of historic change just two years away.  We needed a leader who could take the reins from day-one and lay a foundation for growth that today we can see right around the corner. County Executive Klausmeier promised to do the work, make tough fiscal decisions, and leave Baltimore County in a better place. Not only has she made good on that promise, but she has done so with the care, discipline, and good humor of an exceptional leader. As the first woman ever elected to serve as County Executive, I can think of no finer capstone to a three-decade career of incredible service to the people of Baltimore County. Please join me in honoring and celebrating our County Executive, Kathy Klausmeier.

This is my second year presenting the Council's Budget Message as the Council Chairman. I want to express my sincere appreciation to each of my Council colleagues for electing me to serve as Chairman during this time of change. Each of us represent diverse districts and come to this job with a variety of backgrounds and beliefs. That is one of our greatest strengths, but it can sometimes make it hard to come to a consensus. Even so, in every meeting, I try to make sure everyone on this dais has a chance to be heard, and that we get everything out on the table.

Indeed, change is coming soon to Baltimore County. For several of our County leaders, this is also their last budget adoption before moving on to other phases in life or into retirement. I want to recognize our longtime Councilmember Wade Kach. Wade served in the General Assembly for 40 years and then served on the Council from 2014 until just recently. We wish him well in the coming years. By the end of this year, we will also bid farewell to four other Councilmembers due to retirement or potentially being elected to higher office.

Councilman Crandell is retiring from the Council. Although he will always be synonymous with the transformation of Bethlehem Steel and the success of Tradepoint Atlantic, he has represented all of the 7th District with distinction and he will be missed. Councilmembers Young, Patoka, and Jones will also conclude their Council service this December. In only one term, Councilman Young has left his mark, not only with his constituents, but also on how the Council does business. It was his idea for the Council to go to two work sessions for bills to give more time for vetting and discussion. Councilman Patoka and I spearheaded Council expansion, and he has been a great supporter of reimagining the Pikesville Armory. His experience as a certified planner has also been helpful over two terms as the Council has considered redevelopment and growth issues. Councilman Jones has served the longest since 2014 and chaired the Council for three straight years during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic. His steady hand was invaluable during this extremely difficult and uncertain time. All three of these fine men are running for County Executive and therefore will not return to the Council after this year. We wish each of them well.

These Councilmembers are not the only local leaders leaving service in Baltimore County. I would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Myriam Rogers, who is retiring on July 1st. Her dedication to our children and BCPS has been exemplary. Under her leadership, we have seen test scores and attendance rise across the board. We truly wish her the best in her retirement and wish the School Board the best of luck in their superintendent search.

This time next year, our county government is going to look very different. With a new County Executive and a new nine-member Council with seven freshman members, the picture of a prosperous and thriving Baltimore County will continue to come into focus thanks in large part to the hard work and dedication of the leaders serving today.

In 2019, the Council approved a Charter amendment to establish a public financing system for County Council and County Executive elections. A public campaign system evens the playing field and gives grass-roots campaigns with smaller-dollar donors the opportunity to have success in our local elections. While it took several years to fully implement, this cycle, we now have candidates on the ballot who are publicly financed.

In 2024, this Council took the historic, bipartisan step of asking County voters whether they wanted to amend the Charter to expand the Council to nine districts. This Council knew that, while implementing this growth would be difficult, it should result in a stronger and more representative County legislative body. The voters agreed, approving the ballot question by over 60% two years ago.

In response, this Council got to work in 2025 and formed a Redistricting Commission to hear from the public and recommend a nine-district map to the Council. Their recommendation formed the basis of the Council's redistricting efforts, which culminated in the bi-partisan passage of Redistricting Bill 55-25 last September.

While not everyone was in complete agreement with the final product, there can be no doubt that this redistricting process was the most open and public-facing in the history of this Council. Council and GIS staff worked tirelessly for months to make sure the people of Baltimore County understood the process and had a voice in the outcome. In-person and virtual public hearings and Commission meetings gave County residents great influence in the final results.

I want to give special recognition to our GIS Office, especially GIS Chief Rob Livermore and Specialist Christine Hensler. In recognition of their tremendous work, ESRI, a leading world-wide GIS provider, has selected Baltimore County to receive a "Special Achievement in GIS" Award. Recipients of this award are selected from around the globe in recognition of their outstanding work with GIS technology. Baltimore County was selected from a pool of thousands of other projects, and we will be the first recipients of this award for a redistricting project. Christine will be presenting this summer at an international GIS Conference. Please join me in congratulating OIT Director Chris Martin, Rob Livermore, Christine Hensler, and our wonderful GIS Office for receiving this award.

Over the last few months, we have seen all of these efforts begin to pay off. For the first time, we have candidates in both the County Executive race and County Council races being financed by a combination of public money and small-dollar donations from regular Baltimore County residents. With over 40 candidates on the primary ballots, we have more County residents stepping up and running for Council than in any previous election cycle. All across the County we have a diverse pool of candidates from different backgrounds breathing new life into our local democratic process.

While we continue to look towards that bright future, we must also meet the fiscal needs of today. Just five weeks ago, County Executive Klausmeier presented the Administration's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. The County Executive delivered to us a budget rooted in the fundamentals of local government – fiscal discipline, strong public safety, efficient services, and investments in our schools and infrastructure. This budget lives within the means of our County by not raising taxes and by maintaining our Triple-A Bond Rating from all three major credit rating agencies.

Our budget process is governed by the County Charter, which entrusts the Council as the watchdog over County finances. That role begins with the Spending Affordability Committee. Before the budget is even proposed, the Committee reviews projections of the County's revenues and expenditures and sets annual spending and debt guidelines as safeguards against County spending outpacing the growth of our local economy. When we review the Executive's budget proposals, we use the recommendations produced by the Committee to make sure the government's spending decisions are consistent with the County's economic growth.

We are fortunate to have experienced leadership and staffing on the Spending Affordability Committee. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee, Councilman Pat Young, and Council Committee members Julian Jones and David Marks. I also want to thank Committee members Edwin Crawford and Dr. Deborah Carter and the Committee's economic consultant, Dr. Anirban Basu, for their time and expertise in helping the Committee develop its recommendations.

This year, from the date County Executive Klausmeier submitted the budget to us, we had only 35 days to conduct our review. Analyzing a $5 billion dollar budget would be a tall task with twice that amount of time. But our Auditor's Office – under the excellent leadership of Liz Irwin – was able to successfully dive into every spending request and program, and provide us with a concise analysis of each agency budget. I want to congratulate and thank Ms. Irwin and the entire Auditor's Office staff on a job well done. I also want to thank our Administrative Officer, D'Andrea Walker, and Budget and Finance Director Kevin Reed and his staff for their work in preparing the Budget submitted by the County Executive and for their responsiveness to Auditor requests for additional information, clarification, and context during the review process.

When we review the budget, it is important to recognize the Council's oversight role under the County Charter. While the Council may decrease or delete items in the budget, we cannot change the form of the budget or increase expenditures recommended by the County Executive. Even with those limitations, it remains the Council's responsibility to look under the hood of every agency and program to ensure taxpayer dollars are well spent.

Today we adopt a Total Operating Budget of nearly $4.97 billion, which includes a General Fund Budget of $2.99 billion. We also approve a six-year Capital Budget and Program totaling more than $1.4 billion, including roughly $174 million for Fiscal Year 2027. We fund the government for the fiscal year without raising property or income tax rates and staying within the growth guidelines set by the Spending Affordability Committee.

We also approve a projected General Fund reserve balance, sometimes referred to as the County's "rainy-day fund," of approximately $642 million, representing approximately 21.9% of General Fund revenues. Maintaining healthy reserves consistent with Spending Affordability Committee guidance and bond rating agency expectations helps support the County's long-standing Triple-A Bond rating, and keeps borrowing costs as low as possible.

I am also pleased to announce that for Fiscal Year 2027, this Council is making no cuts to the Budget submitted by the County Executive. This is a credit not only to the

Executive Branch's budgeting and spending priorities, but also to the Auditor's analyses of agency budgets and each Councilmember's vetting of those agency budgets. Although the Auditors identified minor budget flexibility in some agencies, as discussed during our Deliberations last week, we as a Council did not see the prudence in offering cuts this year.

Every year, more than half of the County's government-wide operating budget is spent on Baltimore County Public Schools. In FY 2027, that government-wide budget, including Enterprise Funds, totals approximately $5.47 billion. The public school system is also the single largest budget item in the County's General Fund operating budget. The investments we make in educating our children are among the most important budget decisions. Currently, we are in the last year of a three-year labor agreement for BCPS teacher salary increases. Funding this agreement has been difficult, particularly last year in the face of uncertain budget conditions. But our commitment to honor the agreement has been at the forefront of our funding decisions.

So, for Fiscal Year 2027, the County contributes $1.14 billion to BCPS from our General Fund, which includes ongoing operating support that is $44.5 million above the required Maintenance of Effort threshold. This investment comes as the County's General Government budget also continues to absorb significant State-driven funding obligations, including more than $20 million in shifted teachers' retirement and private pre-kindergarten costs over the last two years. In addition, the County's six-year Capital Improvement Program continues to dedicate a significant share of planned capital investment toward school facilities and infrastructure.

In total, the Education budget we adopt today includes nearly $9 million in County General Fund support above the School Board's request, as well as increased authorization to expend non-County funds. We applaud the Spending Affordability Committee and the County Executive for recognizing that maintaining manageable class sizes and continuing investment in school facilities remain critical County priorities, even in the face of difficult fiscal constraints. I hope the School Board and the teacher's union also recognizes and appreciates this Council's commitment to BCPS.

During the past year, the Public Library system has navigated significant operational and workforce challenges in the face of budgetary pressures and evolving community needs. The Council recognizes the difficulties associated with leadership transitions and organizational change, including the importance of maintaining open communication with employees and library stakeholders throughout the process. The Council also appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Library Board of Trustees to support system operations and advance the search for new leadership. We hope the Board will continue to do so through employee engagement and public input efforts.

Shifting to public safety, one of the fundamental responsibilities of County government is maintaining a safe environment for residents to work, play, and raise families. That starts with the fundamentals – a fully-staffed Police Department, a well-funded Fire Department, and a modernized 9-1-1 operation.

I am happy to say that our Police Department – the 18th largest in the nation – is on track to close the vacancy rate for sworn officers to under 5% by this time next year. In the last 12 months, the Department has gone from 230 sworn officer vacancies to 176. We commend Chief McCullough and his team for their continuing efforts in this area, especially their creative recruitment efforts that are clearly helping close the vacancy gap. It cannot be emphasized enough that filling these positions has a positive impact on the Police Department and the County. But let me be clear, the vacancies have not hindered the Department's effectiveness. Over the last year, homicides are down 9%, shootings have declined, and property crime is down 16%. The Department has accomplished this while maintaining clearance rates over 30 percentage points above the national average.

We also applaud the Police Department efforts in partnering with other agencies to crack down on the unpaid speeding tickets from drivers with out-of-state tags. We also look forward to the Department's new initiatives, like the summer crime plan to address youth crime in public spaces, such as the Towson and White Marsh Malls, as well as the drone first responder program, which promises quicker response times while being quieter and less obtrusive than conventional aerial support.

I also want to applaud the efforts of our Fire Department under the direction of Chief Joe Dixon. We are excited to fully fund 12 new Battalion Fire Chief positions in this year's budget. These leadership positions will ensure timely command-level presence at emergency incidents, improve span of control, and strengthen operational supervision across the County. We are pleased to hear that the Department plans to fill these positions internally rather than looking for outside leadership. Expanding the opportunities for skilled and dedicated Department employees to move up the chain of command improves morale and provides incentives for everyone to bring their A-game. We also appreciate the longer-term planning of the Department to fill vacancies and move towards full staffing by 2029.

In addition to the Career Fire investments, we applaud the Administration's ongoing efforts to boost contributions to our Volunteer Fire Companies. This year, the County contribution will increase by over 13%, which represents an extra $800,000 toward EMS Attended Status hours. This much-needed increase will better align volunteer medic reimbursement support with actual operational demand.

Beyond the significant investments in public safety, we are continuing to support the essential work of our Department of Public Works and Transportation. With over 1,000 employees, DPWT is the one of the County's largest operational departments. And as with schools and public safety, we are beginning to see real progress in reducing vacancy levels within DPWT. In 2024, 19% of DPWT positions were vacant while today, that figure is down to 11%. Those employees do important front-line work that touches nearly every part of daily life in the County.

For example, Baltimore County has more bridges than any other jurisdiction in Maryland. In the last year, DPWT met the task of maintaining them by inspecting 250 bridges and repairing 50 bridges. But DPWT doesn't just provide ongoing infrastructure maintenance – they actively seek out longer-term improvements and pursue resiliency efforts, such as the ongoing flood reduction and risk mitigation efforts in Turner Station. The County was just awarded a $3.1 million dollar grant to continue those improvements.

Beyond the basic blocking and tackling of infrastructure maintenance, DPWT answers the call when the unexpected happens. This past winter, the region was pelted by heavy snow and an immediate freeze that has been coined "snowcrete". The word was an all-too-accurate description for the frozen mess covering our roads and sidewalks that was nearly impossible to shovel or even walk on. In the wake of that storm, the weekly call volume for DPWT service rose from an average of 180 to over 12,000. The County needed extraordinary help digging out and DPWT crews and contractors worked alongside many others across County government to meet that challenge. During the response, plow operators worked around the clock – eating on the road and sometimes sleeping in their trucks – to clear our streets. They truly went above and beyond to get us back to normal and for that we are grateful.

The investments we make in our schools, public safety, and infrastructure are not limited to our operating budget. This year, we are proud to approve a Capital Budget that funds exciting projects around the County. On the east side, these include $2.5 million towards a new Essex Library, $4.5 million for Sparrows Point Fire Academy, and $1.7 million for Fort Howard Park renovations and enhancements. On the west side, these include $3.2 million for Pikesville Armory development, $1.8 million for a traffic circle at the intersection of Edmondson and Academy Heights, and $6.0 million to support Phase 2 of Windsor Mill Road for pedestrian safety, bicycle connectivity, and intersection improvements. And in Towson, the Capital budget funds $2.5 million for more field space.

In addition to the great work of our County agencies, the Council has enacted legislation over the last year that moves Baltimore County towards a brighter future. In the area of economic development, the Council passed a landmark tax credit in Bill 88-25 to support the expansion of container terminal operations at Sparrows Point. This multi-billion-dollar container terminal will bring over 8,000 new jobs to Baltimore County. This will be the largest private container terminal investment in the U.S. To say this investment will be transformative for the region may be an understatement. Without the critical legislation passed by this Council, our Federal, State, and local leaders may not have been able to celebrate the ground breaking at Sparrows Point earlier this month.

But the Council's investments in Baltimore County did not stop there. Recognizing the shifting retail landscape, the Council passed Bill 61-25 to reform the County's revitalization property tax credit to spur re-investment in our West-side commercial centers at Security Square Mall and the Owings Mills Metro Center. The Council appreciates that breathing new life into these areas is critical to the economic health of the County. Earlier this year, with an eye toward better understanding the long-term impacts and economic vitality of this emerging industry, the Council placed a temporary pause on data center development with Bill 3-26. During this pause, the Planning Board will study the potential impacts of data centers and provide a report of their findings and recommendations. While data centers have the potential to strengthen our economy, they also present public infrastructure challenges, including impacts on the electric grid and water supply, that need to be carefully understood and considered.

As Baltimore County continues to grow and evolve, the Council has remained focused on preserving the County's agricultural heritage and historical character. Thanks to legislation passed by this Council, County voters this November will see a question on their ballot asking if they would like to enshrine the creation of a Department of Agriculture in the County Charter. If approved, this new department will be responsible for promoting agriculture as a viable component of the County's economic sector, while also encouraging local food production and distribution as a method of addressing food insecurity in the County. Another ballot question passed by the Council will give County voters the ultimate decision regarding the important Urban Rural Demarcation Line. If approved by the voters, any changes to the URDL will require the recommendation of the Planning Board and approval by a super-majority of the County Council. This will ensure that any proposed changes to the URDL in the future will be considered only after careful review and deliberation.

Beyond preserving our agricultural heritage, the Council enacted major reforms to the County's historic and architectural preservation process. With Bill 52-25, we closed a procedural gap that allowed properties nominated to the Final Landmarks List to possibly face demolition without a Council vote. We also empowered the Landmarks Preservation Commission to delay demolitions of structures with great importance to the County, the State, or the Nation, and granted the Commission greater flexibility in determining which structures it may consider for preservation.

Before concluding my remarks, I want to thank our more than 7,800 County employees for their dedicated service to Baltimore County. Serving a jurisdiction of more than 850,000 residents is no small task. Plans and priorities matter, but they only become reality through the work of dedicated public employees. It is their hard work that ensures Baltimore County continues to thrive. Both the County Executive and this Council recognize that hard work and we are grateful for it. But we don't just recognize their efforts with words alone. Today, this Council fully funds all proposed compensation adjustments, including 3% mid-year COLAs for eligible County employees.

During the Budget Hearings and our deliberations, a number of other specific issues came to our attention that warrant brief comment. These comments are set forth in Section IV of this Budget Message.

As I conclude, and before we set off on the path towards the bright future of growth and change laid out before us, I want to urge everyone to think about our history. This year is the nation's 250th birthday and the 70th anniversary of Baltimore County's Charter adoption. In that time, we have come so far as a country and a County. Have there been challenges both large and small? Absolutely! But what makes America and Baltimore County a great place to live is our willingness to work together to overcome those challenges. The preamble to the U.S. Constitution says we are always striving to form a more perfect union. As our new nine-member dais demonstrates, we have worked hard in the last few years to form a more perfect union between County residents and their local government. In just a few short months, I am confident we will see the fruits of that work begin to blossom.

Finally, during this Memorial Holiday weekend, as you're enjoying time with family and friends, please take a moment to give thanks to the men and women who serve our great nation, especially those serving in harm's way in Iran and elsewhere in the world. Most importantly, please remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in our wars and conflicts, protecting us and, most importantly, our freedom.

Thank you all, and have a great holiday weekend.

Respectfully submitted,

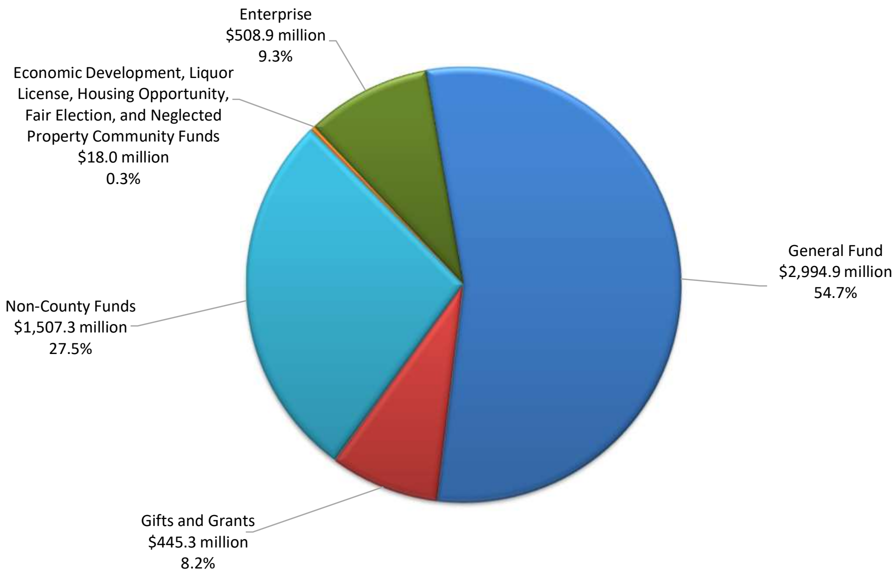
Michael Ertel, Chairman
Baltimore County Council

# SECTION II

# OPERATING BUDGET

## OPERATING BUDGET

### Total Government-Wide

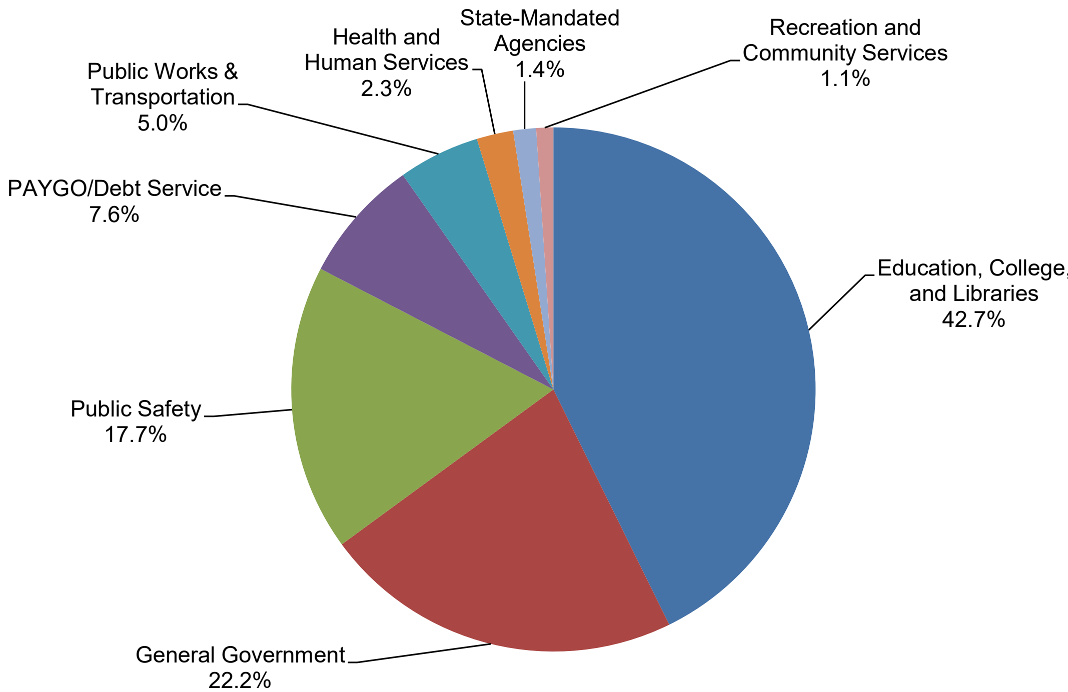



| **Operating:** | FY 2026 | | FY 2027 | Amount of Increase (Decrease) | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Appropriations: | | | | | |
| General Fund | $ 2,893,137,086 | (3) | $ 2,994,866,673 | $ 101,729,587 | 3.5% |
| Gifts & Grants Fund | 452,367,906 | (4) | 445,343,207 | (7,024,699) | -1.6% |
| Liquor License Fund | 822,291 | | 762,525 | (59,766) | -7.3% |
| Fair Election Fund | 2,650,000 | | 1,875,000 | (775,000) | -29.2% |
| Housing Opportunity Fund | 3,300,000 | | 12,873,346 | 9,573,346 | 290.1% |
| Neglected Property Community Fund | 1,500,000 | | 2,000,000 | 500,000 | 33.3% |
| Econ. Development Revolving Financing Fund | 690,000 | | 475,000 | (215,000) | -31.2% |
| Total Operating Budget Appropriations | 3,354,467,283 | | 3,458,195,751 | 103,728,468 | 3.1% |
| Other Budget Authorizations: | | | | | |
| Non-County Funds (1) | 1,441,747,639 | | 1,507,329,752 | 65,582,113 | 4.5% |
| Total Operating Budget | 4,796,214,922 | | 4,965,525,503 | 169,310,581 | 3.5% |
| Enterprise Funds (2) | 456,500,895 | | 508,879,094 | 52,378,199 | 11.5% |
| Total Government-Wide | $ 5,252,715,817 | | $ 5,474,404,597 | $ 221,688,780 | 4.2% |

(1) Federal, State and other funds received primarily by BCPS, CCBC, and BCPL.
(2) The budget & appropriations ordinance does not include enterprise fund appropriations.
(3) Adjusted for $4.5 million in Unassigned General Fund Balance (Surplus) appropriated as of May 4, 2026 not reflected in the Executive's budget documents.
(4) Adjusted for approximately $7.0 million in grant funds appropriated as of May 4, 2026 not reflected in the Executive's budget documents.

# FY 2027

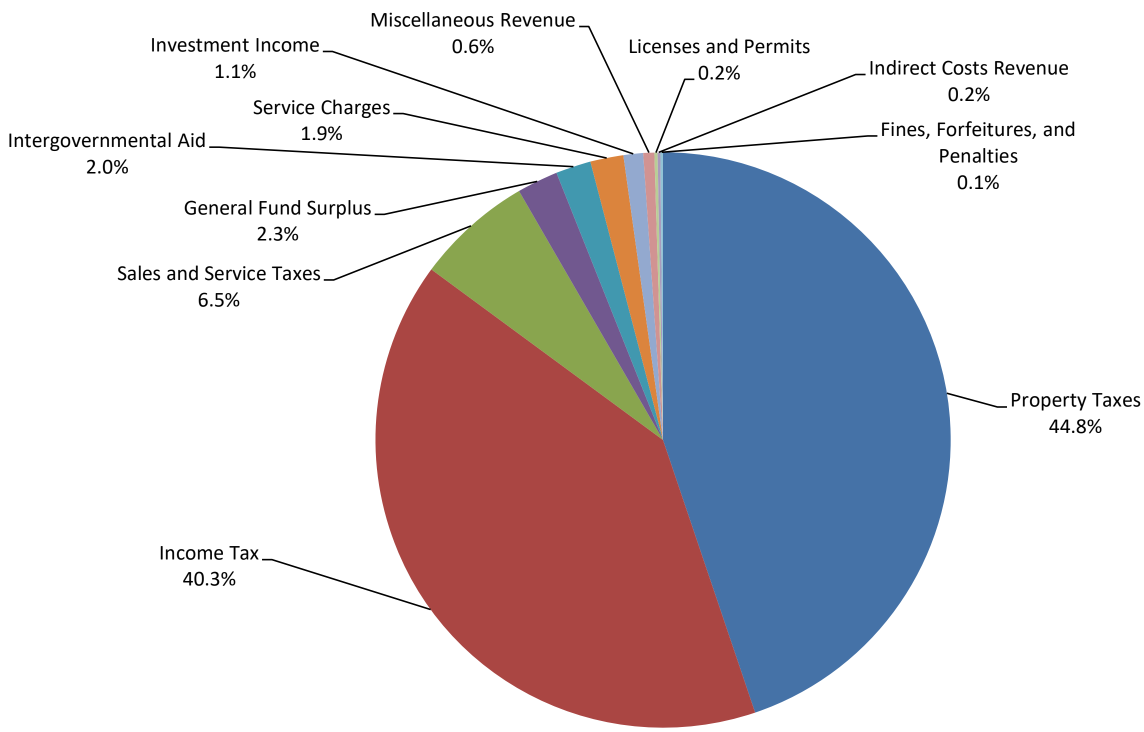
## SERVICES PROVIDED




| | Amount | % of Total |
|---|---|---|
| Education, College, and Libraries | $ 1,279,349,744 | 42.7% |
| General Government | 665,501,926 | 22.2% |
| Public Safety | 529,152,754 | 17.7% |
| Capital (PAYGO)/Debt Service [1] | 229,151,534 | 7.6% |
| Public Works & Transportation | 150,389,115 | 5.0% |
| Health and Human Services | 67,641,261 | 2.3% |
| State-Mandated Agencies | 41,966,701 | 1.4% |
| Recreation and Community Services | 31,713,638 | 1.1% |
| Total | $ 2,994,866,673 | 100% |

[1] Excludes component unit amounts, which are included within component unit total.

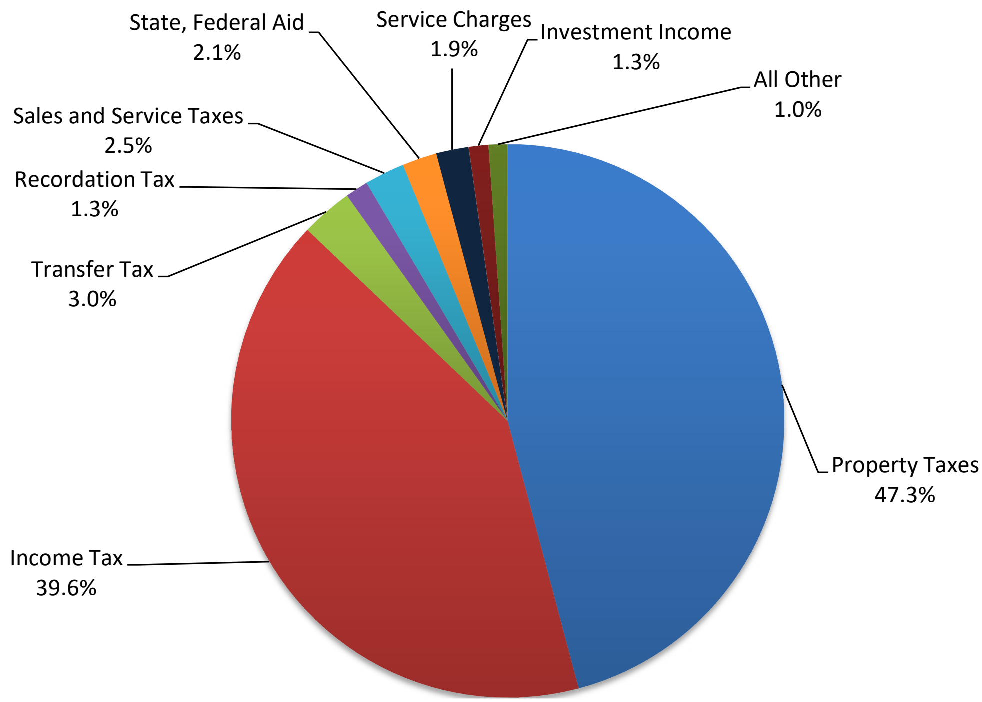
## FY 2027
## SOURCES OF FUNDING




| | Amount | % of Total |
|---|---|---|
| Property Taxes | $1,342,242,896 | 44.8% |
| Income Tax | 1,206,335,518 | 40.3% |
| Sales and Service Taxes | 196,098,467 | 6.5% |
| General Fund Surplus | 69,243,336 | 2.3% |
| Intergovernmental Aid | 59,300,060 | 2.0% |
| Service Charges | 55,427,169 | 1.9% |
| Investment Income | 33,500,000 | 1.1% |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 18,259,361 | 0.6% |
| Licenses and Permits | 5,200,760 | 0.2% |
| Indirect Costs Revenue | 5,000,000 | 0.2% |
| Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties | 4,259,106 | 0.1% |
| Total | $ 2,994,866,673 | 100% |

# GENERAL FUND REVENUES

## FY 2027 Budget




**($ in Millions)**

| Source | FY 2025 Actual[1] | FY 2026 Estimate[2] | FY 2027 Forecast[3] | Change $ | Change % | **FY 2027 Budget[4]** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Property Taxes | $ 1,191.8 | $ 1,267.7 | $ 1,331.7 | $ 64.0 | 5.0% | **$ 1,342.2** |
| Income Tax | 1,179.1 | 1,237.8 | 1,199.7 | (38.1) | -3.1% | **1,206.3** |
| Transfer Tax | 79.1 | 87.5 | 90.1 | 2.6 | 3.0% | **88.3** |
| Recordation Tax | 34.9 | 38.9 | 40.1 | 1.2 | 3.1% | **39.2** |
| Sales and Service Taxes | 70.3 | 69.0 | 69.0 | 0.0 | 0.0% | **68.6** |
| State, Federal Aid | 60.4 | 54.2 | 54.2 | 0.0 | 0.0% | **59.3** |
| Service Charges | 58.2 | 58.2 | 59.4 | 1.2 | 2.1% | **55.4** |
| Investment Income | 51.1 | 45.5 | 33.5 | (12.0) | -26.4% | **33.5** |
| Other Misc. Revenue | 56.2 | 24.9 | 23.3 | (1.6) | -6.4% | **23.3** |
| Licenses & Permits | 6.0 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 0.1 | 1.8% | **5.2** |
| Fines/Forfeitures | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 0.0% | **4.3** |
| Total | $ 2,792.6 | $ 2,894.6 | $ 2,912.0 | $ 17.4 | 0.6% | **$ 2,925.6** |

[1] Represents actual FY 2025 revenues according to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY 2025.

[2] Represents the Office of the County Auditor FY 2026 estimate, which is $10.0 million lower than the Office of Budget and Finance FY 2026 estimate.

[3] Represents the Office of the County Auditor FY 2027 forecast, which is $13.6 million lower than FY 2027 total revenues as estimated by the Office of Budget and Finance.

[4] The FY 2027 budget is represented in the pie chart above; this revenue total reflects an increase of $21.0 million, or 0.7%, over the Office of Budget and Finance FY 2026 revenue estimate of $2,904.6 million.

# GENERAL FUND SURPLUS

| Unappropriated Surplus | FY 2026 Estimate | | FY 2027 Forecast [1] | FY 2027 Budget [2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning Balance | $ 446,913,429 | | $ 435,819,320 | **$ 435,748,221** |
| Estimated Revenues | 2,894,600,000 | (3) | 2,912,000,000 | **2,925,623,337** |
| Prior Year Liquidations | - | | - | **-** |
| Estimated Expenses | (2,887,620,569) | (4) | (2,994,866,673) | **(2,994,866,673)** |
| Current Year Savings/(Deficit) | 6,979,431 | | (82,866,673) | **(69,243,336)** |
| Available Surplus | 453,892,860 | | 352,952,647 | **366,504,885** |
| RSRA[5] Transfer | (18,073,540) | | (17,024,168) | **(17,024,168)** |
| Year-End Surplus | $ 435,819,320 | | $ 335,928,479 | **$ 349,480,717** |
| % of Budgeted Revenue (est.) | 15.8% | (5) | 11.5% | **11.9%** |

| RSRA [6] | FY 2026 Estimate | | FY 2027 Forecast | FY 2027 Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning Balance | $ 257,464,626 | | $ 275,538,166 | **$ 275,538,166** |
| Investment Income | - | | - | - |
| RSRA Transfer (10%) | 18,073,540 | | 17,024,168 | **17,024,168** |
| Year-End Reserve | $ 275,538,166 | | $ 292,562,334 | **$ 292,562,334** |
| % of Budgeted Revenue (est.) | 10.0% | (5) | 10.0% | **10.0%** |

| Year-End Surplus | FY 2026 Estimate | | FY 2027 Forecast | FY 2027 Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Year-End Surplus | $ 711,357,486 | | $ 628,490,813 | **$ 642,043,051** |
| % of Budgeted Revenue (est.) | 25.8% | (5) | 21.5% | **21.9%** |

(1) Represents the Office of the County Auditor FY 2027 forecast.
(2) Represents the Office of Budget and Finance FY 2027 forecast.
(3) Represents the Office of the County Auditor FY 2026 estimate.
(4) Reflects Office of Budget and Finance estimated expenses based on anticipated total appropriations, including approved and pending supplemental appropriations, less $10.1 million in estimated reversions.
(5) Reflects the percentage of FY 2026 Budgeted Revenues, which totaled $2,755,381,658.
(6) Revenue Stabilization Reserve Account.

# SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINE

| | FY 2026 | | FY 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|
| General Fund Budget Appropriations | $ 2,888,637,086 | | $ 2,994,866,673 |
| Supplemental Appropriations | $ 4,500,000 | (4) | |
| Estimated Final Spending | $ 2,893,137,086 | (A) | |
| General Fund Exclusions: | | | |
| Local Matching Appropriations | | | |
| Local Matching Funds | (14,100,703) | | (15,324,653) |
| Capital Project Appropriations | | | |
| PAYGO | (121,154,380) | | (77,666,993) |
| Reserve Fund Appropriations | | | |
| Contingency Reserve | (2,500,000) | | (3,500,000) |
| One-Time-Only Appropriations | | | |
| Funding for OPEB Above Actuarial Determined Contribution | (2,500,000) | | (1,100,000) |
| Funding for ERS Above Actuarial Determined Contribution | | | (5,000,000) |
| One-time funding to support emergency food assistance[1] | (4,500,000) | | |
| State Retirement Cost Shifts[2] | | | (12,033,772) |
| Baltimore County Public Schools[3] | (10,804,000) | | (5,236,836) |
| Total Exclusions | (155,559,083) | (-B) | (119,862,254) |
| Base Spending (A - B) | $ 2,737,578,003 | (C) | $ 2,875,004,419 |
| Personal Income Growth Factor | 1.0502 | (D) | |
| FY 2027 Spending Guideline (C x D) | $ 2,875,004,419 | | |
| **Under (Over) Guideline** | | | **$ (0)** |

(1) Reflects exclusion of one-time funding approved by the Council on November 3, 2025 via Bill 78-25.

(2) For FY 2027 guideline compliance purposes, up to $15 million in State-shifted costs newly imposed on the County in FY 2026 or FY 2027 may be excluded.

(3) Reflects one-time BCPS costs excluded from the State's maintenance of effort requirement.

(4) A supplemental appropriation of Unassigned General Fund Balance (Surplus) totaling $4.5 million for one-time emergency food assistance for residents affected by the federal government shutdown was approved by the Council on November 3, 2025. Additional FY 2026 supplemental appropriations, which are pending approval at the June 1, 2026 Council meeting and are not reflected in this schedule, would not increase the FY 2026 base spending amount used to calculate the FY 2027 spending guideline.

# GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

| Agency/Program Name | FY 2026 Adjusted Appropriation | FY 2027 Proposed Budget | FY 2027 Budget Reduction | FY 2027 Adopted Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Office of the County Executive | | | | |
| Executive Direction | $ 1,402,108 | $ 1,523,213 | -- | $ 1,523,213 |
| Immigration Affairs | - | 370,446 | -- | 370,446 |
| Total Office of the County Executive | $ 1,402,108 | $ 1,893,659 | -- | $ 1,893,659 |
| Circuit Court | $ 7,272,338 | $ 7,564,917 | -- | $ 7,564,917 |
| Orphans' Court | $ 534,115 | $ 545,308 | -- | $ 545,308 |
| Board of Elections | $ 9,154,376 | $ 11,295,402 | -- | $ 11,295,402 |
| Office of Budget and Finance | | | | |
| Budget Formulation & Administration | $ 1,872,159 | $ 2,192,810 | -- | $ 2,192,810 |
| Financial Operations | 5,432,611 | 6,035,168 | -- | 6,035,168 |
| Pay Systems | 277,987 | 402,955 | -- | 402,955 |
| Investment & Debt Management | 525,648 | 509,314 | -- | 509,314 |
| Insurance Administration | 839,872 | 798,416 | -- | 798,416 |
| Purchasing & Disbursements | 3,064,931 | 3,114,397 | -- | 3,114,397 |
| Fair Election | 1,650,000 | 1,650,000 | -- | 1,650,000 |
| Total Office of Budget and Finance | $ 13,663,208 | $ 14,703,060 | -- | $ 14,703,060 |
| County Administrative Officer | | | | |
| Executive Direction | $ 3,115,236 | $ 3,583,803 | -- | $ 3,583,803 |
| Baltimore Metropolitan Council | 193,270 | 196,200 | -- | 196,200 |
| BCSTAT | 645,507 | 317,575 | -- | 317,575 |
| Total Administrative Officer | $ 3,954,013 | $ 4,097,578 | -- | $ 4,097,578 |
| Department of Corrections | $ 57,781,260 | $ 60,267,437 | -- | $ 60,267,437 |
| State's Attorney | $ 12,676,672 | $ 13,665,238 | -- | $ 13,665,238 |
| Vehicle Operations & Maintenance | $ 540,000 | $ 1,050,000 | -- | $ 1,050,000 |
| Office of Law | | | | |
| General Legal Services | $ 6,023,651 | $ 7,073,297 | -- | $ 7,073,297 |
| Legislative Relations | 734,920 | 773,368 | -- | 773,368 |
| Workers' Compensation | 1,189,565 | 990,522 | -- | 990,522 |
| Liability Claims Investigation | 482,549 | 437,578 | -- | 437,578 |
| Total Office of Law | $ 8,430,685 | $ 9,274,765 | -- | $ 9,274,765 |

# GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

| Agency/Program Name | FY 2026 Adjusted Appropriation | FY 2027 Proposed Budget | FY 2027 Budget Reduction | FY 2027 Adopted Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department of Planning | | | | |
| Community Development | $ 3,211,945 | $ 3,500,349 | -- | $ 3,500,349 |
| Administrative Hearing Office | 701,690 | 729,261 | -- | 729,261 |
| People's Counsel | 270,438 | 290,593 | -- | 290,593 |
| Total Department of Planning | $ 4,184,073 | $ 4,520,203 | -- | $ 4,520,203 |
| Office of Human Resources | | | | |
| Personnel Administration | $ 5,220,285 | $ 7,004,747 | -- | $ 7,004,747 |
| Fair Practices | 547,369 | 504,015 | -- | 504,015 |
| Total Office of Human Resources | $ 5,767,654 | $ 7,508,762 | -- | $ 7,508,762 |
| Emergency Communications Center | $ 17,861,078 | $ 19,491,750 | -- | $ 19,491,750 |
| Police Department | | | | |
| Office of the Chief | $ 2,824,210 | $ 2,806,416 | -- | $ 2,806,416 |
| Professional Standards Bureau | 20,001,336 | 21,589,393 | -- | 21,589,393 |
| Criminal Investigation Bureau | 35,506,401 | 37,548,861 | -- | 37,548,861 |
| Vice/Narcotics Section | 11,113,783 | 11,206,665 | -- | 11,206,665 |
| Operations Bureau | 150,352,741 | 155,681,182 | -- | 155,681,182 |
| Support Operations Division | 27,444,140 | 30,488,191 | -- | 30,488,191 |
| Administrative & Technical Services Bureau | 25,856,669 | 28,280,055 | -- | 28,280,055 |
| School Safety | 4,578,641 | 4,645,128 | -- | 4,645,128 |
| Total Police Department | $ 277,677,921 | $ 292,245,891 | -- | $ 292,245,891 |
| Fire Department | | | | |
| General Administration | $ 2,598,636 | $ 2,672,613 | -- | $ 2,672,613 |
| Investigative Services | 2,184,826 | 2,268,844 | -- | 2,268,844 |
| Alarm & Communication System | 881,957 | 932,400 | -- | 932,400 |
| Field Operations | 120,209,565 | 130,537,786 | -- | 130,537,786 |
| Office of Homeland Security/Emerg. Mgmt. | 593,436 | 583,684 | -- | 583,684 |
| Field Operation Administration | 3,650,035 | 3,916,313 | -- | 3,916,313 |
| Fire/Rescue Academy | 1,645,930 | 1,739,922 | -- | 1,739,922 |
| Contributions Volunteer Fire | 12,812,514 | 14,496,116 | -- | 14,496,116 |
| Total Fire Department | $ 144,576,899 | $ 157,147,678 | -- | $ 157,147,678 |

# GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

| Agency/Program Name | FY 2026 Adjusted Appropriation | FY 2027 Proposed Budget | FY 2027 Budget Reduction | FY 2027 Adopted Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permits, Approvals and Inspections | | | | |
| General Administration | $ 2,464,334 | $ 2,186,521 | -- | $ 2,186,521 |
| Electrical Licensing & Regulation | 21,682 | 21,682 | -- | 21,682 |
| Plumbing Licensing & Regulation | 35,890 | 35,890 | -- | 35,890 |
| Development Review | 1,133,861 | 1,562,953 | -- | 1,562,953 |
| Inspections & Enforcement | 6,461,934 | 5,354,886 | -- | 5,354,886 |
| Permits and Licenses | 1,405,756 | 1,322,558 | -- | 1,322,558 |
| Total Permits, Approvals and Inspections | $ 11,523,457 | $ 10,484,490 | -- | $ 10,484,490 |
| County Sheriff | $ 7,586,808 | $ 8,534,968 | -- | $ 8,534,968 |
| Property Management | | | | |
| Administration | $ 3,286,816 | $ 3,551,457 | -- | $ 3,551,457 |
| Building Maintenance | 11,212,676 | 12,757,847 | -- | 12,757,847 |
| Building Operations & Management | 23,991,745 | 27,395,562 | -- | 27,395,562 |
| Maintenance of Grounds & Recreation Sites | 10,211,593 | 10,715,177 | -- | 10,715,177 |
| Total Property Management | $ 48,702,830 | $ 54,420,043 | -- | $ 54,420,043 |
| Department of Health | | | | |
| General Administration | $ 5,091,384 | $ 5,480,013 | -- | $ 5,480,013 |
| Center-Based Services | 4,025,182 | 4,528,392 | -- | 4,528,392 |
| Acute Communicable Disease Control | 2,257,889 | 2,746,741 | -- | 2,746,741 |
| Environmental Health Services | 3,575,342 | 3,676,799 | -- | 3,676,799 |
| Healthcare Access | 513,980 | 297,296 | -- | 297,296 |
| Animal Services | 4,526,452 | 5,198,829 | -- | 5,198,829 |
| Child, Adolescent & School Health | 1,170,070 | 1,191,775 | -- | 1,191,775 |
| Prenatal & Early Childhood | 2,695,646 | 2,658,083 | -- | 2,658,083 |
| Eval. & Long Term Care Case Management | 3,481,718 | 3,591,733 | -- | 3,591,733 |
| Community Medical Assistance Programs | 2,240,627 | 2,386,866 | -- | 2,386,866 |
| Chronic Disease | 612,451 | 1,042,267 | -- | 1,042,267 |
| Dental Health Services | 995,857 | 1,125,723 | -- | 1,125,723 |
| Total Health Department | $ 31,186,598 | $ 33,924,517 | -- | $ 33,924,517 |

# G E N E R A L   F U N D   O P E R A T I N G   B U D G E T

| Agency/Program Name | FY 2026 Adjusted Appropriation | | FY 2027 Proposed Budget | FY 2027 Budget Reduction | FY 2027 Adopted Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department of Social Services | | | | | |
| Adult Foster Care | $ 145,000 | | $ 145,000 | -- | $ 145,000 |
| Welfare to Work Program | 400,000 | | 400,000 | -- | 400,000 |
| Emergency Funds | 693,679 | | 693,679 | -- | 693,679 |
| Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault | 127,260 | | 127,260 | -- | 127,260 |
| In-Home Care Program | 341,335 | | 350,779 | -- | 350,779 |
| Adult Services | 1,635,263 | | 1,673,451 | -- | 1,673,451 |
| General Administration | 2,344,434 | (2) | 2,595,708 | -- | 2,595,708 |
| Children's Services | 586,647 | | 590,821 | -- | 590,821 |
| Family Investment Division | 1,122,182 | | 1,196,697 | -- | 1,196,697 |
| Homeless Services | 8,764,856 | | 8,921,074 | -- | 8,921,074 |
| Family Services | 2,072,584 | | 2,237,787 | -- | 2,237,787 |
| Total Department of Social Services | $ 18,233,240 | | $ 18,932,256 | -- | $ 18,932,256 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | | | | | |
| Instruction | $ 35,213,416 | | $ 36,140,082 | -- | $ 36,140,082 |
| Academic Support | 4,834,291 | | 4,968,326 | -- | 4,968,326 |
| Student Services | 7,728,033 | | 8,563,792 | -- | 8,563,792 |
| Institutional Support | 15,326,859 | | 16,436,901 | -- | 16,436,901 |
| Operation/Maintenance of Plant | 6,613,819 | | 7,005,106 | -- | 7,005,106 |
| Mandatory Transfers (Grants) | 3,927,050 | | 3,475,000 | -- | 3,475,000 |
| Debt Service | 14,795,804 | | 14,436,402 | -- | 14,436,402 |
| Total Community College | $ 88,439,272 | | $ 91,025,609 | -- | $ 91,025,609 |
| Department of Aging | | | | | |
| General Administration | $ 1,069,368 | | $ 1,134,194 | -- | $ 1,134,194 |
| Senior Centers Network | 2,841,174 | | 3,029,705 | -- | 3,029,705 |
| Special Geriatric Services | 209,176 | | 219,465 | -- | 219,465 |
| Facilities | 289,250 | | 291,900 | -- | 291,900 |
| Program & Volunteer Services | 939,692 | (2) | 614,533 | -- | 614,533 |
| Total Department of Aging | $ 5,348,660 | | $ 5,289,797 | -- | $ 5,289,797 |

# GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

| Agency/Program Name | FY 2026 Adjusted Appropriation | FY 2027 Proposed Budget | FY 2027 Budget Reduction | FY 2027 Adopted Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department of Education | | | | |
| Administration | $ 37,041,378 | $ 35,266,287 | -- | $ 35,266,287 |
| Mid-Level Administration | 61,258,016 | 62,891,276 | -- | 62,891,276 |
| Instructional Salaries & Wages | 330,161,651 | 345,825,935 | -- | 345,825,935 |
| Instructional Textbooks & Supplies | 12,173,807 | 9,586,650 | -- | 9,586,650 |
| Other Instructional Costs | 30,270,491 | 21,395,201 | -- | 21,395,201 |
| Special Education | 151,901,015 | 161,583,969 | -- | 161,583,969 |
| Student Personnel Services | 9,815,872 | 9,135,859 | -- | 9,135,859 |
| Health Services | 11,940,016 | 11,788,796 | -- | 11,788,796 |
| Student Transportation Service | 50,036,738 | 51,645,108 | -- | 51,645,108 |
| Operation of Plant & Equipment | 77,111,933 | 79,068,118 | -- | 79,068,118 |
| Maintenance of Plant & Equipment | 25,245,259 | 25,716,371 | -- | 25,716,371 |
| Fixed Charges | 206,704,378 | 218,763,124 | -- | 218,763,124 |
| Capital Outlay | 2,959,399 | 3,105,057 | -- | 3,105,057 |
| Debt Service - Public Schools | 95,714,237 | 106,370,192 | -- | 106,370,192 |
| Contribution to Capital Budget | 3,800,000 | 1,700,000 | -- | 1,700,000 |
| Total Department of Education | $ 1,106,134,190 | $ 1,143,841,943 | -- | $ 1,143,841,943 |
| Department of Libraries | | | | |
| General Administration | $ 11,882,813 | $ 12,521,144 | -- | $ 12,521,144 |
| Circulation/Information Services | 20,185,803 | 20,967,134 | -- | 20,967,134 |
| Customer Support Services | 8,759,193 | 8,747,532 | -- | 8,747,532 |
| Buildings/Vehicle Maint. & Operation | 1,941,299 | 2,246,382 | -- | 2,246,382 |
| Total Department of Libraries | $ 42,769,108 | $ 44,482,192 | -- | $ 44,482,192 |
| University of MD Extension, Baltimore County | $ 348,358 | $ 360,868 | -- | $ 360,868 |
| Department of Recreation & Parks | | | | |
| General Administration | $ 3,825,878 | $ 3,887,669 | -- | $ 3,887,669 |
| Recreation Services | 15,244,643 (2) | 16,063,073 | -- | 16,063,073 |
| Total Department of Recreation & Parks | $ 19,070,521 | $ 19,950,742 | -- | $ 19,950,742 |
| Debt Service | | | | |
| General Public Facilities | $ 85,817,655 | $ 88,404,706 | -- | $ 88,404,706 |
| Pension Funding Bonds | 21,074,954 | 21,076,860 | -- | 21,076,860 |
| Non-General Obligation Debt | 43,570,909 | 43,702,975 | -- | 43,702,975 |
| Total Debt Service | $ 150,463,518 | $ 153,184,541 | -- | $ 153,184,541 |

# G E N E R A L   F U N D   O P E R A T I N G   B U D G E T

| Agency/Program Name | FY 2026 Adjusted Appropriation | | FY 2027 Proposed Budget | FY 2027 Budget Reduction | FY 2027 Adopted Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Retirement & Social Security | | | | | |
| Contribution-Employee Retirement System | $ 199,200,314 | | $ 208,178,287 | -- | $ 208,178,287 |
| Contributions Social Security | 27,797,000 | | 29,983,000 | -- | 29,983,000 |
| Contributions Non System Retirement | 10,772,812 | | 15,579,963 | -- | 15,579,963 |
| Total Retirement & Soc. Security | $ 237,770,126 | | $ 253,741,250 | -- | $ 253,741,250 |
| Environmental Protection & Sustainability | $ 9,100,585 | | $ 9,494,690 | -- | $ 9,494,690 |
| Insurance | $ 206,877,048 | | $ 219,028,158 | -- | $ 219,028,158 |
| Reserve For Contingencies | $ 2,500,000 | | $ 3,500,000 | -- | $ 3,500,000 |
| County Council | $ 3,381,543 | | $ 4,759,387 | -- | $ 4,759,387 |
| County Auditor | $ 1,941,445 | | $ 2,105,389 | -- | $ 2,105,389 |
| Board of Appeals | $ 448,073 | | $ 522,712 | -- | $ 522,712 |
| Economic & Workforce Development | $ 2,266,612 | | $ 2,522,038 | -- | $ 2,522,038 |
| Contribution to Capital Budget | $ 117,354,380 | | $ 75,966,993 | -- | $ 75,966,993 |
| Organization Contributions | | | | | |
| Organization Contributions | $ 2,734,000 | | $ 2,938,000 | -- | $ 2,938,000 |
| General Grant Program | 4,515,460 | (2) | 4,174,960 | -- | 4,174,960 |
| Total Organization Contributions | $ 7,249,460 | | $ 7,112,960 | -- | $ 7,112,960 |
| Local Share | | | | | |
| Private Pre-K | $ - | | $ 5,622,537 | -- | $ 5,622,537 |
| Local Share | 14,100,703 | | 15,324,653 | -- | 15,324,653 |
| Total Local Share | $ 14,100,703 | | $ 20,947,190 | -- | $ 20,947,190 |
| Housing & Community Development | $ 5,248,150 | (2) | $ 2,127,898 | -- | $ 2,127,898 |
| Office of Information Technology | | | | | |
| Business Operations | $ 5,371,451 | | $ 5,868,018 | -- | $ 5,868,018 |
| Applications | 17,259,625 | | 20,174,752 | -- | 20,174,752 |
| Infrastructure | 18,189,749 | | 20,678,814 | -- | 20,678,814 |
| Electronic Services | 3,740,215 | | 4,097,358 | -- | 4,097,358 |
| 311 Contact Center | 728,532 | | 724,530 | -- | 724,530 |
| Total Office of Information Technology | $ 45,289,572 | | $ 51,543,472 | -- | $ 51,543,472 |

# GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

| Agency/Program Name | FY 2026 Adjusted Appropriation | FY 2027 Proposed Budget | FY 2027 Budget Reduction | FY 2027 Adopted Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department of Public Works and Transportation | | | | |
| Office of the Director | | | | |
| General Administration | $ 984,971 | $ 1,097,012 | -- | $ 1,097,012 |
| Safety Office | 699,224 | 777,597 | -- | 777,597 |
| Bureau of Engineering & Construction | | | | |
| General Administration | 301,175 | 252,257 | -- | 252,257 |
| Structural Storm Drain & Hgwy. Design | 1,038,283 | 1,247,285 | -- | 1,247,285 |
| General Surveying | 479,549 | 246,037 | -- | 246,037 |
| Contracts/Construction Inspections | 822,447 | 854,212 | -- | 854,212 |
| Data Management | 396,941 | 393,289 | -- | 393,289 |
| Bureau of Highways & Equipment Maintenance | | | | |
| General Administration | 614,153 | 694,788 | -- | 694,788 |
| General Operations & Maintenance | 18,091,023 | 18,324,856 | -- | 18,324,856 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 9,315,729 | 9,398,608 | -- | 9,398,608 |
| Storm Emergencies | 5,970,821 | 6,082,617 | -- | 6,082,617 |
| Storm Drainage and Flood Mitigation | 992,877 | 973,421 | -- | 973,421 |
| Bureau of Solid Waste Management | | | | |
| General Administration | 651,434 | 814,098 | -- | 814,098 |
| Refuse Collection | 48,739,750 | 50,731,727 | -- | 50,731,727 |
| Refuse Disposal | 26,539,996 | 29,212,105 | -- | 29,212,105 |
| Recycling | 1,884,180 | 1,837,930 | -- | 1,837,930 |
| MRF Operations | 7,280,155 | 7,817,518 | -- | 7,817,518 |
| Bureau of Traffic Eng./Trans. Planning | | | | |
| Traffic Planning | 9,576,837 | 10,846,956 | -- | 10,846,956 |
| Traffic Sign Installation/Maintenance | 2,324,727 | 2,381,212 | -- | 2,381,212 |
| Traffic Signal Operations/Maintenance | 1,266,576 | 1,333,184 | -- | 1,333,184 |
| Transportation Services | 1,352,132 | 1,364,071 | -- | 1,364,071 |
| County Circulator | 3,221,366 | 3,224,945 | -- | 3,224,945 |
| Bureau of Utilities | | | | |
| Sewer/Water Operations/Maintenance | 477,875 | 483,391 | -- | 483,391 |
| Total Department of Public Works | $ 143,022,221 | $ 150,389,116 | -- | $ 150,389,116 |
| Office of the Inspector General | $ 903,102 | $ 950,790 | -- | $ 950,790 |
| Workforce Development | $ 401,108 | $ 451,021 | -- | $ 451,021 |
| General Fund Total (1) | $ 2,893,137,086 | $ 2,994,866,673 | -- | $ 2,994,866,673 |

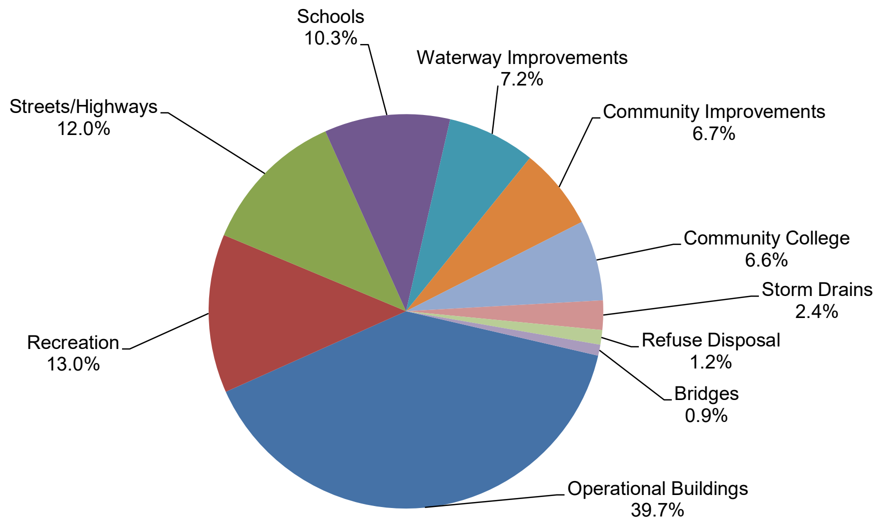
(1) Totals may not add due to rounding.

(2) Adjusted for a November 3, 2025 supplemental appropriation totaling $4.5 million to Housing and Community Development ($3,250,000), Organizational Contributions ($500,000), Aging ($350,000), Social Services ($300,000) and Recreation and Parks ($100,000) for emergency food assistance for residents affected by the federal government shutdown.

# SECTION III

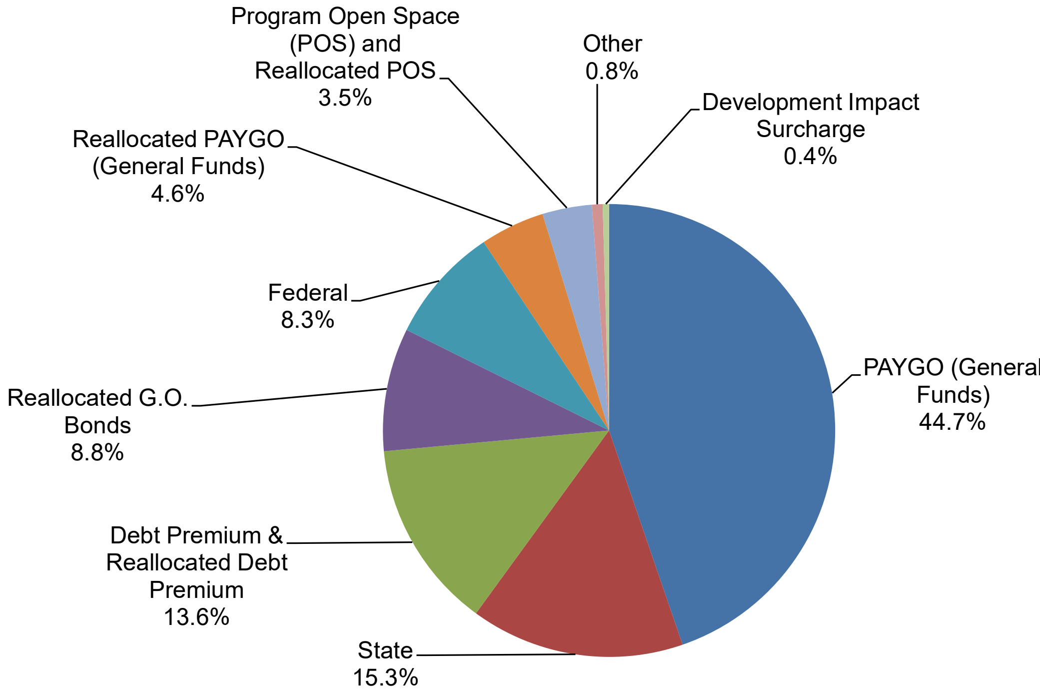
# CAPITAL BUDGET & PROGRAM

**FY 2027**
**Consolidated Public Improvement (CPI) Projects**




| Project Classification | | FY 2027 ($ in Thousands) |
|---|---|---|
| Operational Buildings | $ | 68,903 |
| Recreation | | 22,566 |
| Streets/Highways | | 20,900 |
| Schools | | 17,935 |
| Waterway Improvements | | 12,510 |
| Community Improvements | | 11,600 |
| Community College | | 11,507 |
| Storm Drains | | 4,225 |
| Refuse Disposal | | 2,000 |
| Bridges | | 1,500 |
| **CPI Projects** | **$** | **173,646** |

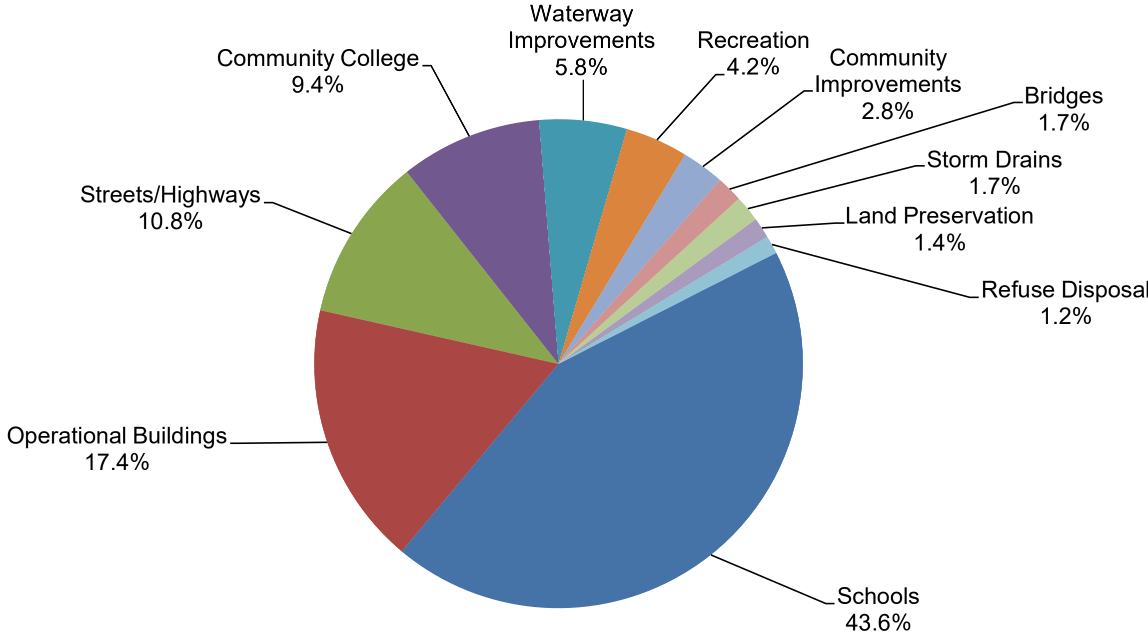
## FY 2027
## Consolidated Public Improvement (CPI) Sources of Funding




| Source of Funding | FY 2027 ($ in Thousands) |
|---|---|
| PAYGO (General Funds) | $ 77,667 |
| State | 26,564 |
| Debt Premium & Reallocated Debt Premium | 23,459 |
| Reallocated G.O. Bonds | 15,282 |
| Federal | 14,400 |
| Reallocated PAYGO (General Funds) | 8,029 |
| Program Open Space (POS) and Reallocated POS | 6,125 |
| Other | 1,340 [1] |
| Development Impact Surcharge | 780 |
| **CPI Sources** | **$ 173,646** |

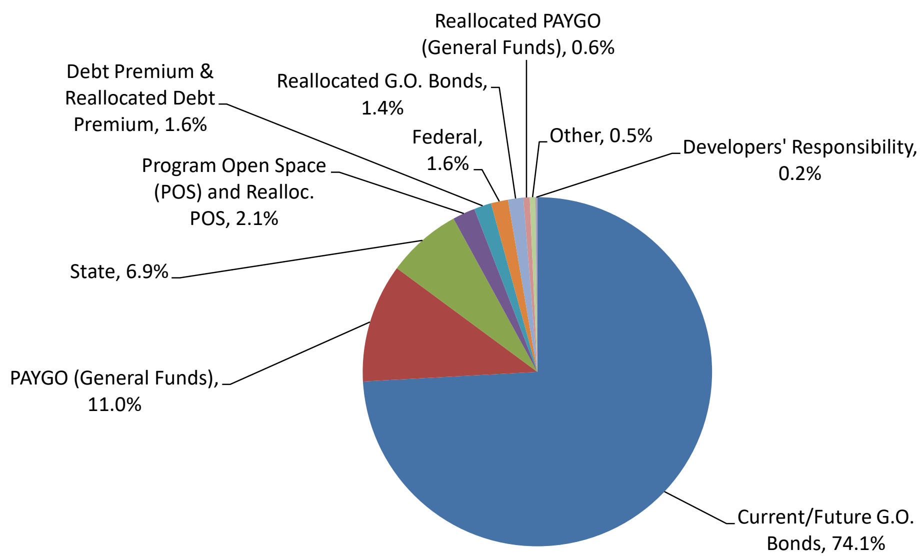
[1] Other includes Local Open Space Waivers, Student Fees, and undefined "Other" sources.

## 6-Year Program – FY 2027 - 2032
## Consolidated Public Improvement (CPI) Projects




| Project Classification | 6-Year Program ($ in Thousands) |
|---|---|
| Schools | $ 621,935 |
| Operational Buildings | 248,653 |
| Streets/Highways | 154,625 |
| Community College | 133,852 |
| Waterway Improvements | 82,510 |
| Recreation | 59,282 |
| Community Improvements | 40,100 |
| Bridges | 24,825 |
| Storm Drains | 24,775 |
| Land Preservation | 19,380 |
| Refuse Disposal | 17,000 |
| **CPI Projects** | **$ 1,426,937** |

## 6-Year Program – FY 2027 - 2032
## Consolidated Public Improvement (CPI) Sources




| Source of Funding | | 6-Year Program ($ in Thousands) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Current/Future G.O. Bonds | $ | 1,057,750 | |
| PAYGO (General Funds) | | 157,333 | |
| State | | 97,909 | |
| Program Open Space (POS) and Realloc. POS | | 30,125 | |
| Debt Premium & Reallocated Debt Premium | | 23,459 | |
| Federal | | 22,700 | |
| Reallocated G.O. Bonds | | 19,282 | |
| Reallocated PAYGO (General Funds) | | 8,029 | |
| Other | | 7,050 | (1) |
| Developers' Responsibility | | 3,300 | |
| **CPI Sources** | **$** | **1,426,937** | |

(1) Includes Agricultural Preservation Tax, Donations, Development Impact Surcharge, Local Open Space Waivers, Student Fees, and undefined "Other" sources.

**Debt Service[1] as % of General Fund Revenue**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guideline - 10.5% of General Fund Revenue [2] | | $ | 307,190,450 |
| FY 2027 Budget | | | (271,140,858) |
| Under (Over) Guideline | | $ | 36,049,592 |

**Debt Outstanding[1] as % of Total Property Value**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guideline - 2.5% of Assessed Property Value | | $ | 3,020,170,225 |
| Estimated Debt Outstanding as of 6/30/2027 | | | (1,985,036,210) |
| Under (Over) Guideline | | $ | 1,035,134,015 |

**Legal Debt Limit [3]**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated Assessable Base | | $ | 120,806,809,000 |
| | | x | 4% |
| Debt Limit Equal to 4% of Assessable Base | | $ | 4,832,272,360 |
| Estimated Debt Outstanding as of 6/30/2027 | | | |
| Public Facility Bonds | $ 614,370,000 | | |
| Public School Bonds | 1,094,471,000 | | |
| Pension Obligation Bonds | 273,913,000 | | |
| Community College Bonds | 99,794,000 | | (2,082,548,000) |
| Under (Over) Legal Debt Limit | | $ | 2,749,724,360 |

(1) Excludes Pension Obligation and Metropolitan District bonds.

(2) Estimated total revenues as provided by the Office of Budget and Finance.

(3) Excludes Certificates of Participation, Capital Leases, and Metropolitan District bonds.

# SECTION IV

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**Office of Budget and Finance (OBF) (006)**

Capital Budget Formulation and Reporting

For over a decade, the County Council has sought greater specificity in capital project appropriations and, last year, urged the Office to commit to reforming the County's capital budgeting process prior to the formulation of the FY 2028 budget, with a goal of moving towards a reporting of actual prior-year expenditures, budgeted expenditures, and planned expenditures over the ensuing five-year capital program. During this year's budget process, OBF indicated that, in response to the Council's recommendation, it is exploring enhancements to the County's capital budget formulation capabilities and included funding for a potential new system intended to support an outcome-based delivery model for both the operating and capital budgets. The Council views these efforts as a constructive step and encourages continued progress toward improved capital budget formulation, tracking, reporting, and communication in order to strengthen transparency, support informed legislative oversight, and provide clearer visibility into capital priorities, tradeoffs, and resource decisions over time.

Fiscal Sustainability and Long-Term Planning

This year's budget analysis continued to shed light on numerous long-term fiscal pressures affecting the County, including retirement system obligations, diminishing landfill capacity and increasing solid waste disposal expenses, state cost shifts and mandates, infrastructure maintenance needs, and other ongoing spending pressures. The FY 2027 budget cycle also highlighted the role of budgeting practices and funding mechanisms in budget formulation, affordability guideline compliance, and fiscal planning, including turnover and vacancy management, allocation methodologies, component unit fund balance accumulations and drawdowns, storm emergency budgeting assumptions, and the use of Spending Affordability Committee exclusions.

Viewed collectively, these issues underscore the importance of understanding how the County's fiscal pressures, budgeting practices, affordability considerations, and long-term obligations fit together within the County's longer-term financial outlook. As fiscal flexibility narrows and budgets are formulated consistently close to affordability guideline levels, tradeoffs among ongoing obligations, service expectations, and available fiscal capacity may become more difficult to defer or address through exclusions, reallocations, or other structural adjustments.

Accordingly, it would be useful for OBF to provide the Spending Affordability Committee and Council with greater visibility into how these fiscal pressures, budgeting practices, affordability considerations, and long-term obligations are being incorporated into the County's multi-year fiscal planning.

## **Administrative Officer (007)**

### Project Prioritization and Communication

This year's budget discussions reflected the challenge of balancing competing infrastructure, facility, educational, planning, and service priorities within limited fiscal and implementation capacity. Council discussions addressed roadway resurfacing priorities, school-related funding and facility pressures (including school library staffing assignments, position reductions, and northeastern high schools), grant program eligibility criteria, and other issues affecting communities across the County.

Agencies described various methodologies, planning tools, operational considerations, and funding constraints that inform project and resource decisions. Councilmembers emphasized the importance of ensuring that prioritization approaches remain attentive to community concerns, local conditions, and fairness across communities alongside technical methodologies, operational realities, and fiscal constraints. For example, Council members expressed concerns regarding neighborhood streets perceived as being overlooked for resurfacing, as well as the effect of Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) eligibility criteria on access to certain grant opportunities. Council members also emphasized the value of ongoing communication and engagement as projects are selected, refined, and advanced.

The Council encourages continued communication regarding prioritization criteria, decision factors, and how community needs, local conditions, resource constraints, and implementation considerations are weighed across County planning, funding, and investment decisions. The Council also reiterates the importance of the Perry Hall Mansion to the Perry Hall community and encourages continued attention to the future stewardship of this historic property. The Council additionally emphasizes the priority of expanding athletic field capacity in central Towson.