

## Appendix

### MACo Past Presidents

1951 U. Grant Hooper - Frederick County  
1952 U. Grant Hooper - Frederick County  
1953 Paul M. Widdowson, Sr. - Wicomico County  
1954 Walter V. Bennett - Carroll County  
1955 J. Thomas Kibler - Kent County  
1956 Ralph L. Lowman - Anne Arundel County  
1957 Thomas N. Kay - Cecil County  
1958 Herbert W. Reichelt - Prince George's County  
1959 Joseph G. Harrison - Worcester County  
1960 Delbert S. Null - Frederick County  
1961 H. T. Slaughter - Talbot County  
1962 Christian Kahl - Baltimore County  
1963 Wade H. Insley, Jr. - Wicomico County  
1963 Leslie H. Evans - Wicomico County  
1964 Jesse S. Baggett - Prince George's County  
1965 John W. Eveland - Caroline County  
1966 Francis J. Crawford - Carroll County  
1967 David C. Racine - Cecil County  
1968 Evan Crossley - Washington County  
1969 Ray F. Redden - Worcester County  
1970 Dale Anderson - Baltimore County  
1971 Douglas M. Sullivan - Talbot County  
1972 Charles E. Miller - Howard County  
1973 Lewis R. Riley - Wicomico County  
1974 John H. O'Neill - Harford County  
1975 C. Bernard Fowler - Calvert County  
1976 S. Glyn Edwards - Kent County  
1977 Leonard W. Dayton - Dorchester County  
1978 Francis B. Francois - Prince George's County  
1979 Burton R. Hoffman - Washington County  
1980 William Donald Schaefer - Baltimore City  
1981 James F. Dent - Charles County  
1982 Leonard E. Smith - Queen Anne's County  
1983 John W. O'Rourke - Baltimore County  
1984 Esther P. Gelman - Montgomery County  
1985 Edwin D. McGee - Somerset County  
1986 J. Hugh Nichols - Howard County  
1986 George R. Aud - St. Mary's County  
1986 Frank J. Hutchins - Harford County  
1986 Parris N. Glendening - Prince George's County  
1987 Parris N. Glendening - Prince George's County  
1988 Maureen Lamb - Anne Arundel County  
1989 John G. Braskey - Garrett County  
1990 K. Bennett Bozman - Worcester County  
1991 Frank P. Casula - Prince George's County  
1992 C. Vernon Gray - Howard County  
1993 Henry S. Parker - Wicomico County  
1994 Julia W. Gouge - Carroll County  
1995 Rochelle "Rikki" Spector - Baltimore City

*History of MACo*

MACo Past Presidents (continued)

1996	C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger - Baltimore County
1997	Clinton S. Bradley - Talbot County
1998	Joanne S. Parrott - Harford County
1999	Murray D. Levy - Charles County
2000	Terre R. Rhoderick - Frederick County
2001	Marvin F. Wilson - Prince George's County
2002	Clarence I. Laird, Somerset County
2003	Marilyn J. Praisner, Montgomery County
2004	James M. Harkins, Harford County
2005	Nelson K. Bolender, Cecil County
2006	James T. Robey, Howard County

Executive Secretaries/Directors

Robert Lovelace	June 1960 to November 1961
William T. Ratchford, II (Acting Ex. Secretary)	November 1961 to October 1961
Thomas C. Kelly	October 1962 to January 1964
William T. Ratchford, II	December 1963 to November 1968
Joseph Murnane	November 1968 to May 1978
Wallace Hutton	October 1978 - July 1981
Althea "Tee" O'Connor	September 1981 to August 1985
Raquel Sanudo	June 1985 to June 1991
David S. Bliden	July 1991 to present

MACo Office Locations

University of Maryland – Symons Hall - College Park	June 1960 to February 1961
University of Maryland - College Park Business & Public Administration Bldg.	February 1961 to August 1966.
5 State Circle, Annapolis	August, 1966 to October, 1973
169 Conduit St., Annapolis	October 1973 to present

Name Changes

State Association of County Commissioners of Maryland	1951 to December 1961
Maryland County Commissioners Association	December 1961 to December 1967
Maryland Association of Counties	December 1967 to present

Legislator Award Recipients

1984	Senator Thomas Bromwell Delegate Shelia Hixson Delegate Clayton Mitchell Delegate Lucille Maurer
1985 – 1992	Not Available
1993	Senate President Mike Miller Delegate James W. Campbell
1994	Senator Mike Collins Speaker of the House Casper R. Taylor, Jr.

Legislator Award Recipients (continued)

1995	Senator William H. Amoss Delegate John F. Wood Charles County Attorney Roger F. Fink
1996	Senator Barbara A. Hoffman Delegate Sheila E. Hixson
1997	Senator Walter M. Baker Delegate Norman H. Conway Delegate George C. Edwards
1998	Senator Thomas McLain Middleton Delegate K. Bennett Bozman
1999	Senator Patrick J. Hogan Delegate Kenneth C. Montague, Jr.
2000	Senator Robert R. Neall Delegate Lisa A. Gladden
2001	Senator Walter M. Baker Speaker of the House Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
2003	Senator Leonard H. Teitelbaum Delegate Maggie McIntosh Delegate James W. Hubbard
2004	Senate President Thomas V. Miller, Jr. Comptroller William Donald Schaefer Delegate Barbara Frush
2005	State Treasurer Nancy Kopp House Speaker Mike Busch House Minority Leader George Edwards
2006	Senator P.J. Hogan Senator Ed DeGrange Delegate Barry Glassman Delegate Rudy Cane

Winter Meeting/Conferences

<i>Year</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>County</i>
December 12, 1951	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 10, 1952	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 9, 1953	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 15, 1954	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 15, 1955	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 5, 1956	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 11, 1957	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
January 6, 1958	Colony Inn	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
February 5, 1960	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
January 12, 1961	Carvel Hall	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
January 4, 1962	Lord Baltimore Hotel	Baltimore City
December 13, 1962	Emerson Hotel	Baltimore City
January 15, 1964	Emerson Hotel	Baltimore City
January 13, 1965	Emerson Hotel	Baltimore City
January 11-12, 1967	Holiday Inn	Baltimore City
January 10-11, 1968	Holiday Inn	Baltimore County
January 8-9, 1969	Statler Hilton Hotel	Baltimore City
January 13-15, 1970	Holiday Inn	Baltimore City
December 2-3, 1970	UM - College Park	Prince George's County

*History of MACo*

Winter Meeting/Conferences (continued)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>County</i>
January 12-14, 1971	Holiday Inn	Baltimore City
January 19 - 21, 1972	Tidewater Inn	Easton, Talbot County
November 29-Dec. 1, 1972	Tidewater Inn	Easton, Talbot County
December 12-14, 1973	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 12-13, 1974	University of Maryland	College Park, Prince George's County
January 15-17, 1975	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 3 - 5, 1975	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 1-3, 1976	Hilton Hotel	Baltimore City
December 7-9, 1977	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
January 23-26, 1979	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 12-14, 1979	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 3-5, 1980	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
January 6-8, 1982	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
January 11-14, 1983	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 7-9, 1983	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 12-14, 1984	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 11-13, 1985	Ramada Inn	Hagerstown, Washington County
January 6-9, 1987	Hunt Valley Inn	Baltimore County
December 14-16, 1988	Hyatt Regency	Baltimore City
December 6-8, 1989	Marriott Hotel	Bethesda, Montgomery County
January 9-11, 1991	Hunt Valley Marriott	Baltimore County
December 4-6, 1991	Ramada Inn	Hagerstown, Washington County
December 2-4, 1992	Hyatt Regency	Baltimore City
December 1-3, 1993	Holiday Inn	Solomons Island, Calvert County
January 4-6, 1995	Hunt Valley Marriott	Baltimore County
Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1, 1995	Loews Annapolis Hotel	Anne Arundel County
December 4-6 1996	Holiday Inn	Solomons Island, Calvert County
December 3-5, 1997	Stouffer Hotel	Baltimore City - (now Renaissance Hotel)
January 6-8, 1999	Loews Hotel	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 1-3, 1999	Ramada Hotel	Hagerstown, Washington County
December 6-8, 2000	Hunt Valley Marriott	Baltimore County
December 5-7, 2001	Turf Valley Resort	Ellicott City, Howard County
January 8-10, 2003	Loews Annapolis Hotel	Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
December 10-12, 2003	Holiday Inn Select	Solomons Island, Calvert County
December 1-3, 2004	Clarion Hotel	Hagerstown, Washington County
January 4-6, 2006	Hyatt Regency Hotel	Cambridge, Dorchester County
January 3-5, 2007	Hyatt Regency Hotel	Cambridge, Dorchester County
January 2-4, 2008	Hyatt Regency Hotel	Cambridge, Dorchester County

Summer Meetings/Conferences

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
September 7-9, 1951	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
September 5-7, 1952	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
August 29-30, 1953	George Washington Hotel, Ocean City
August 27-28, 1954	George Washington Hotel, Ocean City
September 2-3, 1955	George Washington Hotel, Ocean City
July 13-14, 1956	Location N/A, Ocean City
September 6-7, 1957	George Washington Hotel, Ocean City
Exact Date Unknown 1958	Location N/A, Ocean City
August 28-29, 1959	Harrison Hall - Ocean City

Summer Meetings/Conferences (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
August 26-27, 1960	Harrison Hall - Ocean City
August 25-26, 1961	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
August 24-25, 1962	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
August 23-24, 1963	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
August 27-29, 1964	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
August 26-28, 1965	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
June 21-23, 1966	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
August 22 -24, 1968	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
August 21-23, 1969	George Washington Hotel - Ocean City
June 18-20, 1970	Commander Hotel, Ocean City
August 26-28, 1971	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 24-26, 1972	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 23-25, 1973	Convention Hall, Ocean City
July 25-27, 1974	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 21-23, 1975	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 19-21, 1976	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 18-20, 1977	Convention Hall, Ocean City
July 6-8, 1978	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 23-25, 1979	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 21-23, 1980	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 20-22, 1981	Convention Hall, Ocean City
July 29-31, 1982	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 18-20, 1983	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 16-18, 1984	Convention Hall, Ocean City
August 22-24, 1985	Ocean City Convention Center
July 31-Aug. 2, 1986	Ocean City Convention Center
August 20-22, 1987	Ocean City Convention Center
August 18, 19 & 20, 1988	Ocean City Convention Center
August 17, 18 & 19, 1989	Ocean City Convention Center
July 26, 27 & 28, 1990	Ocean City Convention Center
August 22, 23, & 24, 1991	Ocean City Convention Center
August 19, 20 & 21, 1992	Ocean City Convention Center
August 18, 19 & 20, 1993	Ocean City Convention Center
August 20- 23, 1997	Ocean City Convention Center
July 29 - August 1, 1998	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City (expanded same facility)
August 18-21,1999	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 16-19, 2000	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 15-18, 2001	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 14-17, 2002	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 13-16, 2003	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 18-21, 2004	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 17-20, 2005	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 16-19, 2006	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City
August 15-18, 2007	Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City

Administrators & Attorneys Conferences

<u>Date</u>	<u>Conference/Location/County</u>
October 1976	Administrators Fall Meeting - Garrett County
April 21-22, 1977	Administrators Spring Meeting - Kent County
1978 - 1983	Not Available
October 18-19, 1984	Administrators Fall Meeting, Ramada Hagerstown, Washington County
April 24-25, 1985	Administrators Spring Meeting, Sheraton, Salisbury, Wicomico County
April 16-18, 1986	Administrators Spring Meeting, Sheraton, Rockville, Montgomery County
October 15 -17, 1986	Administrators Fall Meeting, Great Oak Lodge, Kent County
April 19 - May 1, 1987	Administrators Spring Meeting, Solomons Island, Calvert County
October 21-23, 1987	Administrators Fall Meeting, Aberdeen Holiday Inn, Harford County
April 14-15, 1988	Administrators Spring Meeting, Tidewater Inn, Easton, Talbot County
October 19-21, 1988	Administrators Fall Meeting, Westminster, Carroll County
April 20-21, 1989	Administrators & Attorneys Spring Conference Radisson Hotel, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
October 25-27, 1989	Administrators & Attorneys Fall Conference Wisp Resort, Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County
April 26-27, 1990	Administrators and Attorneys Spring Conference Belvedere Motor Inn, St. Mary's County
October 25-26, 1990	Administrators and Attorneys Fall Conference Holiday Inn, Frederick, Frederick County
April 25-26, 1991	Administrators and Attorneys Spring Conference Fisherman's Inn, Grasonville, Queen Anne's County
April 30 - May 1, 1992	Administrators and Attorneys Spring Conference Holiday Inn Beltway, New Carrollton, Prince George's County
October 29 -30, 1992	Administrators and Attorneys Fall Conference Potomac Inn, Rockville, Montgomery County
June 3 - 4, 1993	Administrators and Attorneys Spring Conference Great Oak Lodge - Kent County
Sept. 29 - 30, 1994	Administrators and Attorneys Fall Conference Sandy Cove Conference Center, Cecil County
October 12-13, 1995	Wisp Resort Hotel, Garrett County
Oct. 17 - 18, 1996	Great Oak Lodge, Kent County
Sept. 24 - 26, 1997	Frederick Holiday Inn, Frederick County
October 23 - 24, 1998	Rocky Gap Lodge, Allegany County
November 3-5, 1999	Rocky Gap Lodge, Allegany County
Sept. 27-29, 2000	Rocky Gap Lodge, Allegany County
October 10-12, 2001	Rocky Gap Lodge, Allegany County
October 9 -11, 2002	Harbortown Golf Resort, Talbot County
October 8-10, 2003	Rocky Gap Resort, Allegany County
October 13-15, 2004	The Grand Hotel, Ocean City, Worcester County
October 26-28, 2005	The Maryland Inn, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
October 25-27, 2006	Doubletree Hotel, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
October 24-26, 2007	Doubletree Hotel, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

## Legislative Initiatives

### **1995**

*911 Fee* - Cellular phones are not subject to 911 charges. These charges provide critical funding for Maryland's state of the art 911 system. Advanced technology will result in the growing use of cellular and other wireless phones. This growth increases 911 system burdens and erodes the fee base. Thus, there is no reason to continue to exempt cellular phones from 911 charges.

*Circuit Court Takeover* - County required funding of circuit court costs is a burdensome mandate. This burden is aggravated by the lack of county management control over the circuit courts. The State fully funds and manages the district and appellate courts and already funds around 60% of circuit court operating costs. Full State circuit court funding and management would not only provide justified mandate relief, but would also implement needed efficiencies and equities.

*Executive Branch Mandates* - Executive branch regulations often have significant local government fiscal impacts. The 1994 GA enacted legislation requiring that bills proposing local government mandates receive special attention. Regulations that propose local government mandates should also be given this special attention.

*Local Health Funding* - Local health funding suffered significant and disproportionate reductions during the fiscal crisis. In 1993 a baseline-funding requirement was enacted. This funding is now at \$39 million per year, which is substantially below previous years' funding. Last Session, the Governor vetoed a bill which would increase funding to \$63 million by FY 99. Legislation providing reasonable growth in local health funding is needed.

### **1996**

*County Budget Security* - County budgets are strained by massive student population growth, a depressed real estate market, permanent State funding reductions, and mandates. County officials have responded responsibly to these challenges. State imposed reductions in existing statutory financial commitments or in county revenue sources would place intolerable burdens on county budgets. Hence, MACo is committed to promoting county budget security.

*School Board Fiscal Accountability* - A significant and increasing share of county budgets is annually directed to public education. However, counties have very limited school board fiscal oversight. Increased fiscal oversight would promote needed accountability. Accountability efforts should be focused on maintenance of effort adjustments, budget category and sub-category refinements, and performance audit authority. These efforts should not compromise classroom funding or general school board autonomy.

### **1997**

*County Funded State Agency Liability* - Court decisions indicate that employees of county funded State offices are State agents. Regardless, liability expenses may ultimately fall upon counties since counties fund these offices and the offices' employees, except for those employed in Sheriffs' offices, are not shielded by the State Tort Claims Act. Legislation is needed to include these State agents in the State Tort Claims and to insulate counties from liability exposure for their actions.

*Prisoner Mental Health Billings* - Recent legal challenges and clarifications authorize the State to charge a county sheriff or corrections supervisor for a prisoner who receives mental health services from a state psychiatric facility. While these billings are now administratively "frozen", this issue may be raised in the future. Legislation is needed to formally implement the current practice, i.e., the State being responsible for these prisoner referral costs.

*Traffic Safety Technology Implementation* - Violation of intersection controls presents a serious traffic safety problem. New technology, facilitating remote traffic control monitoring systems, could dramatically improve intersection traffic safety. The use of these systems would also permit more efficient use of law enforcement personnel. Statutory authorization is needed to accommodate the new technology's usage.

### **1998**

*Circuit Court Funding* - County required funding of circuit court costs is a burdensome mandate on local governments. This burden is aggravated by the lack of county management control over the circuit courts. The State fully funds and manages the district courts and already funds approximately 60% of circuit court operating costs. State commissions continually recommend increased State support. An assumption of certain targeted circuit court functions would be a responsible and prudent course.

*Sheriff Cost Recovery* - Sheriffs are statutorily allowed to recover a fee for various services, including serving of court papers and impounding of vehicles. These fees have not been adjusted for increased costs of services or inflation for over two decades, and do not support the costs of the operations, requiring general taxpayer subsidies. State authorization for increased sheriff fees would address this inequity, transferring more actual costs to service users.

*Tax Sale Reform* - Investor speculation and process abuse have disrupted local government tax sales. Investors have identified properties for tax sale bids based on likelihood of tax repayment, interest charged on overdue taxes, and recovery of related legal costs. In many cases, these investors make unfathomable bids on properties at tax sales. These high bids disrupt the conduct of the sale itself, and undermine the effectiveness of the tax sale as a device for tax collection. Statutory reform is needed to eliminate abuse and establish a more reasonable system.

*County Supplemental Health Funding Discretion* - Many counties provide supplemental funding for specified programs or facilities operated through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Counties providing this funding to certain programs for the developmentally disabled currently are denied flexibility regarding the county contribution's accounting. Increased county accounting flexibility can provide access to additional federal matching funds, increasing total program support. This flexibility should also permit counties opting to supplement State funding for specified facilities to gain assurances the contributions will be spent in accordance with the county's wishes. Hence, statutory authorization for this flexibility would be appropriate.

### **1999**

*Circuit Court Funding* - County required funding of Circuit Court costs is a burdensome mandate on local governments. This burden is aggravated by the lack of county management control over the circuit courts. The State fully funds and manages the district and appellate courts, and already funds approximately 60% of circuit court operating costs. The present mandated county funding promotes inequities and inefficiencies, which can be resolved through greater State fiscal support.

*Local Health Funding Incentive Program* - Currently, counties may provide optional local funding for several health programs. An incentive program could encourage and stabilize counties' investment in local programs, as well as assist in capturing federal matching funds. Counties could be encouraged by several factors, including elimination of an existing funding mandate and additional local control of funding.

*County Recordation Tax Collection* - In nearly every county, the local recordation tax is collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Courts, a State operation. Counties must pay a 3-5% fee for these collection duties, totaling nearly \$5 million annually statewide. Each county already maintains its own tax collection offices, and has necessary resources to conduct the collection of this locally imposed tax.

*Pension Enhancement/Reform* - Recent legislation enacted benefit enhancements for state government employees and teachers. Local governments participating in the state-operated pension pool were excluded from these benefits, creating intra-county inequities between employee classes (e.g. teachers and other school employees, county employees and county-funded state employees). Creating an optional participation program for local governments within the state pool would allow local governing bodies to weigh the offering the enhanced retirement benefits. Local governments that have previously withdrawn from the system continue to make “liability payments” based on dated actuarial assumptions and funding status. These payments should be adjusted to reflect current funding status and historical asset performance.

## **2000**

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*Substance Abuse Program Support* - Substance abuse leads to numerous societal and governmental costs—violence and crime, criminal justice, health care, unemployment and public assistance. Increased commitment to substance abuse treatment and support could help address or alleviate these complex but connected problems that plague communities and governments.

## **2001**

*Circuit Court Funding* - County required funding of Circuit Court costs is a burdensome mandate on local governments. The present mandated county funding promotes inequities and inefficiencies, which could be resolved through greater State fiscal support. Working with MACo, the Judiciary has proposed a multi-year plan to increase State funding of Circuit Court responsibilities. Last Session, the portion of the plan proposing State funding of judicial masters and an additional \$10 in per diem juror reimbursement was enacted.

\* In partnership with the Judiciary, secure legislation implementing increased State funding of Circuit Courts.

*Reinstitute Local Government Tort Cap* - The Court of Appeals recently held that the liability limits established in the Local Government Tort Claims Act (LGTCa) do not apply to direct actions against a local government, as opposed to actions against a local government employee. This decision rejects almost thirteen years of accepted practice, raising significant unanticipated liability exposure.

\* Clarify that the LGTCa liability limits apply to all actions against a local government.

*Sheriff Liability Issues* – There are ongoing disputes regarding the apportionment of liability in lawsuits against sheriffs and sheriffs’ office employees. Compromise legislation enacted in 1990 sought to limit county liability to sheriffs’ law enforcement related actions, creating a clear delineation between State and county liability. In

several pending cases, it has been suggested that county liability extends to other functions, primarily those relating to office management, such as employment discrimination actions.

\* Clarify the statutory limitation on county liability and responsibility in actions against sheriffs.

*Public School Funding* – Counties devote significant local resources to education, funding almost 55% of K-12 operating expenditures statewide, providing over 60% of public school construction costs, and dedicating more local funding to education than all other local expenditures combined. Maintaining this local commitment is difficult because of little growth in the property tax base and increasing demands generated by significant student population increases and educational initiatives, and by mandates focused on teacher recruitment and retention, class size reductions, and student performance. Maryland's public school funding structure is being studied to identify funding adequacy and equity issues, looking toward corresponding funding reforms. Since final recommendations are not expected for consideration during the 2001 session, interim funding measures are necessary.

\*Secure funding to preserve existing local allocations, including continuation of expiring State funding commitments, and to address increased local education funding demands and local revenue capacity challenges.

## **2002**

*Public School Funding* - Counties devote significant local resources to education, funding almost 55% of K-12 operating expenditures and over 60% of public school construction costs. More local funding is dedicated to education than all other local expenditures combined. Maintaining this commitment is difficult because of meager property tax base growth, demands generated by significant student population growth and education initiatives, and mandates focused on teacher recruitment and retention, class size reductions, and student performance. Increased State funding is necessary, particularly for programs where State funding shortfalls are clearly evident, such as special education and student transportation.

*Circuit Court Funding - Rental Payments* - County required funding of Circuit Court costs is a burdensome mandate on local governments, which promotes inequities and inefficiencies. Working with MACo, the Judiciary has proposed a multi-year plan to increase State funding of Circuit Court responsibilities. Last Session, the portion of the plan proposing State funding of law clerks was enacted, with an additional proposal to establish space rental payments for Court Clerk offices being stricken. That component of the plan should now be enacted. County savings must be directed to court or related public safety purposes, providing additional resources for counties to respond to increased public safety burdens.

*Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund Restoration* - The State's Vehicle Theft Prevention Program has enjoyed success in addressing a pressing crime problem, supporting additional personnel and coordinating efforts reduce theft and to apprehend offenders. Jurisdictions receiving funding have experienced significant reductions in vehicle thefts during its existence. Funding reductions in the FY 2002 budget document the need for legislation ensuring the program's continuation. This legislation should also enhance funding to expand program participation.

*Health Nuisance Abatement Authority* - Local Health Departments are charged with eliminating nuisances that are public health hazards. An abatement action initiated by a Health Officer is an important mechanism to motivate individuals to eliminate nuisances. The \$50 fine authorized by the State law and upon which Health Offices rely in many jurisdictions is not sufficient to encourage compliance, having not been increased in over 100 years. Legislation to give Health Officers more leverage to abate nuisances is clearly needed and justified

## **2003**

*County Budget Security* - The State government faces a substantial fiscal crisis, with current forecasts envisioning an imbalance beyond a billion dollars. During the same period as the state's recent and unprecedented income tax reduction, 18 counties raised taxes to support essential public services like education and public safety. Reducing "local aid" (almost all of which goes to public schools) to solve the State's budget woes amounts to an unfair shift of burden-- balancing the state budget on the backs of local tax increases, past and future. The State should maintain its commitments to public education, and to its modest share of costs for programs like police protection, local health departments, and targeted grant programs.

*Transfer and Recordation Taxes - Controlling Interest Transfers* - When individuals sell residential or commercial property, transfer and recordation taxes are paid on the value of that sale. However, an increasingly common tax avoidance technique for commercial property involves the use of "single purpose entities" (most often a limited liability company) whose ownership or membership interest may be sold, without any new filing of land records and therefore no taxes collected. This inequity in tax collection forces residential and taxpaying commercial properties to subsidize public services on behalf of large commercial entities using controlling interest transfers. The State should apply transfer and recordation taxes to real estate entity transfers just as a simple transfer would be taxable.

*911 System Funding* - County emergency number centers are partially funded by user fees, paid by all users of telephone services that can access 911 systems. However, Maryland's fee is lower and narrower than those of other states, resulting in counties needing to subsidize 911 center operations with substantial general tax revenues -- typically fees only cover 20-40% of actual costs. With current needs already outstripping funds available, 911 centers are ill-prepared for the next critical round of needed improvements, including location technology for wireless callers. The State should increase the state 911 fee to provide additional resources to support cellular location technology, and authorize counties to adjust local 911 fees, to fairly balance local fee and tax revenues as the means to support the 911 call center operations.

*Traffic Speed Monitoring Technology - Enforcement Authority* - Maryland's use of traffic signal monitoring technology has been shown to reduce violations, accidents, and injuries at affected intersections. Similar technology is available for use in deterring speed violations on public roadways, with a goal of reducing dangerous speed violations, reducing accidents and injuries. Similar protections for special vehicle classes and/or non-owner operation may be implemented to recognize the nature of the enforcement technology. The State should authorize local governments to implement speed monitoring cameras, and issue civil citations to vehicle owners for registered violations.

## **2004**

*County Budget Security* - The State government faces a substantial fiscal crisis. County budgets are also challenged with tax and fee hikes having been implemented to assure the continued delivery of critical education and public safety services. State reductions in statutorily mandated distributions to local governments, as a budget reconciliation strategy, is poor policy, in part because such reductions constitute an unfair shift of burden-- balancing the state budget on the backs of local tax increases. If reductions are unavoidable they should not be structural or permanent and must not include any diversion of county-generated revenues.

*Admissions & Amusements Tax Revision* - A recent Court of Special Appeals decision (Clyde's v. Comptroller of Maryland) overturned decades of collection practice by the Comptroller of this local revenue source. Under long-standing practice, restaurants providing entertainment in connection with refreshments would be assessed the admissions tax on the receipts from the refreshments, independent of whether refreshment prices were increased during the entertainment, or an entry fee was charged. This sensible practice prevents the complete avoidance of tax liability by declining to assess a cover charge. In the Clyde's case, this practice was struck down, jeopardizing millions in local revenue and opening the door to multi-year appeals from taxpayers.

Legislation should rectify this decision by affirming the long-standing practice of taxing revenues from entertainment, whether they appear as gate receipts or as increased sales of refreshments.

*Public Information Act and Discoverable Documents* – Current law prevents abuse of the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) by allowing custodians the ability to deny access to public documents and information that would ordinarily be subject to the judicial rules of discovery. However, a recent Court of Appeals case, *Hammen v. Baltimore County Police Department*, found that this protection only applies to judicial processes – and not administrative or quasi-judicial processes. Therefore, governments are vulnerable to PIA requests that circumvent the normal discovery process in Workers’ Compensation, termination disputes, or other employee-related procedures. Legislation should modify the current PIA to ensure the discovery exception is applied uniformly to both judicial and similar proceedings.

*Public Safety Communications - Connectivity and Interoperability* - State and local public safety agencies employ communications systems to effectively coordinate their efforts, both on an ongoing basis and during critical incidents. In many cases, these communications systems are dated, and not cross-compatible among agencies and jurisdictions. The state must partner with local jurisdictions implementing a system replacement or upgrade-- combining efforts to upgrade the state coverage in the same region, and saving costs to both parties. Eventually, through coordinated replacements, the state/local partnerships will yield a “backbone” sufficient to play host to a fully interoperable system of public safety communications, benefiting all agencies and the public they serve. The State should establish public safety interoperability as a priority for its homeland security distributions from the federal government.

## **2005**

*County Budget Security* - The State government faces a substantial fiscal crisis, with current forecasts envisioning an imbalance approaching a billion dollars. As the state recently initiated a monumental income tax cut, counties raised taxes to support essential public services like education and public safety. Reducing “local aid” to solve the State’s budget woes amounts to an unfair shift of burden-- balancing the state budget on the backs of local tax increases, past and future. The State should maintain its commitments to public education, and to its modest share of costs for programs like police protection, local health departments, and targeted grant programs. Where state support has been abridged, a plan to reinstate appropriate support should be established.

*School Construction & Renovation Funding* - With funding for the State’s School Construction Program at its lowest in 10 years and growth pressures to make major renovations or build new schools to address capacity needs, county governments are being forced to make up the difference in the lack of available State funding. The funding for the State’s Public School Construction Program is roughly \$100 million for the next five fiscal years, while the total State and local cost to bring all schools up to adequacy is at \$4 billion. Legislation is needed to increase the level of State school construction funding.

*Transfers of Controlling Interests* - When individuals sell residential or commercial property, transfer and recordation taxes are paid on the value of that sale. However, an increasingly common tax avoidance technique for commercial property involves the use of “single purpose entities” (most often a limited liability company) whose ownership or membership interest may be sold, without any new filing of land records and therefore no taxes collected. This inequity in tax collection forces residential and taxpaying commercial properties to subsidize public services on behalf of large commercial entities using controlling interest transfers. Transfer and recordation taxes should apply to real estate entity transfers just as a simple transfer would be taxable.

*Public Safety Communications - Connectivity and Interoperability*- State and local public safety agencies employ communications systems to effectively coordinate their efforts, both on an ongoing basis and during critical incidents. In many cases, these communications systems are in need of upgrades or replacement. Many

police radio systems are not currently cross-compatible across agencies and jurisdictions. The state must partner with local jurisdictions implementing a system replacement or upgrade- combining efforts to upgrade the state coverage in the same region, and saving costs to both parties. Eventually, through coordinated replacements, the state/local partnerships will yield a “backbone” sufficient to play host to a fully interoperable system of public safety communications, benefiting all agencies and the public they serve. The State should provide capital appropriation for public safety communications to ensure the state is a viable partner for counties upgrading communication systems.

## **2006**

*County Budget Security* - The State government continues to face fiscal challenges, with an ongoing structural deficit and spending limitations restricting its commitments. As the state recently initiated a monumental income tax cut, counties raised taxes to support essential public services like education and public safety. Reducing “local aid” to solve the State’s budget woes amounts to an unfair shift of burden-- balancing the state budget on the backs of local tax increases, past and future. The State should maintain its commitments to public education, and to its modest share of costs for programs like police protection, local health departments, and targeted grant programs. Where state support has been abridged, a plan to reinstate appropriate support should be established.

*School Construction & Renovation Funding* – Last Session the State funded the first \$250 million installment in its 8-year commitment to invest \$2 billion in school construction and renovation. This commitment was articulated in the enacted School Facilities Act of 2004. The State commitment was directed to only fund minimum needs. Also, this commitment did not envision rapidly escalating construction costs which have significantly reduced the buying power of each \$250 million annual installment. To maintain the credibility of the commitment for the next seven years, MACo urges that \$250 million be again funded with bond proceeds. Further, recognizing the impact of unanticipated construction inflation and the need to reimburse counties for forward funding school construction and renovation, MACo urges that an additional \$150 million from reported fund balances be appropriated as pay-as-you-go capital for FY 07only, for a total FY 07 appropriation of \$400 million.

*Municipal Annexations* - Annexation is increasingly becoming a mechanism to circumvent county land use policies and laws. The problem has become more pronounced recently as developers more frequently partner with municipalities to annex large tracts for intense development. This practice arises from the existing annexation law denying county perspectives meaningful weight in annexation decisions. To create a fair balance the existing annexation law must be refined to provide reasonable deference to adopted county land use policies and affected citizen concerns. Annexations should be subject to all statutory Smart Growth standards now applicable to counties and development on annexed property should be consistent with county adequate public facility laws and zoning. And, existing referendum rights should be extended to citizens living outside the annexing municipality, but proximate to the boundary of the property to be annexed, with a county having the ability to initiative a referendum not just in the property to be annexed, but also in the municipality.

*Public Funds Investment Authority* – State and local governments are guided by common policies governing investment of public funds. Currently, unlike many states, only very limited investment of Maryland public funds may be placed in commercial paper, even that of the highest grade, and none in any composite instruments that include these investments. MACo supports legislation to provide limited authority for investment-grade commercial paper as a minority component of local investment portfolios, providing avenues to better diversification and stronger returns, while protecting the overall integrity of these holdings.

**2007**

*County Budget Security* - The State government still faces a substantial structural fiscal imbalance, with forecasts envisioning an approaching imbalance of over one billion dollars. Reducing “local aid” to solve the State’s budget woes amounts to an unfair shift of burden-- balancing the state budget on the backs of local tax increases, past and future. The State should maintain its commitments to public education, and to its modest share of costs for programs like police protection, local health departments, and targeted grant programs. Where state support has been abridged, a plan to reinstate appropriate support should be established.

*School Construction & Renovation Funding* – Last Session the State funded \$323 million for public school construction and renovation. The installment is part of an 8-year commitment, articulated in the enacted School Facilities Act of 2004, to invest at least \$2 billion in school construction and renovation. While the State has met or exceeded that baseline commitment for the last two fiscal years, the commitment only funds minimum needs and does not account for continuing growth and rapidly increasing construction costs. To meet minimum needs and accommodate unanticipated cost inflation, MACo urges the State to appropriate \$400 million for public school construction and renovation in the FY 2008 budget.

*Transfers of Controlling Interests* - When individuals sell residential or commercial property, transfer and recordation taxes are paid on the value of that sale. However, an increasingly common tax avoidance technique for commercial property involves the use of “single purpose entities” (most often a limited liability company) whose ownership or membership interest may be sold, without any new filing of land records and therefore no taxes collected. This inequity in tax collection forces residential and taxpaying commercial properties to subsidize public services on behalf of large commercial entities using controlling interest transfers. Transfer and recordation taxes should apply to real estate entity transfers just as a simple transfer would be taxable.

*State COLA Funding for Local Health Formula* – County Health Departments receive direct funding from both the State (via a mandated funding formula) and county governments. The State funding formula varies with population and the cost of living, but fails to reflect State-enacted increases in employee salary levels. Since much of the expenses for the Departments are driven by employees (who in nearly all counties are in the State employee personnel system), State-funded salary adjustments flow to the local offices, but are not reflected in the funding formula, meaning counties bear funding responsibility for this state decision. A statutory adjustment to the local health funding formula could remedy this indirect unfunded mandate.

Appendix amended October 2007