



### TOP ISSUES

**24** County Jurisdictions direct ALL MACo positions through weekly meetings

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

OPIOID CRISIS

ENERGY FACILITY ZONING

www.mdcounties.org

### MACo 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SNAPSHOT

**598**

Bills Analyzed

**512**

Policy Blog Articles Written

**9,602**

subscribers

**650x**

Face-to-Face w/ Legislators

**276**

pieces of testimony

### RESULTS

Protected counties from cost shifts and expensive legislation

Secured new money for transportation

Won a stronger county voice in energy facility siting

Gained better tools to revitalize communities

**PROTECTED LOCAL BUDGETS AND REVENUES**

- State funding for local roads increased by \$12m
- The state budget passed this year: no new cutbacks, cost shifts, or unfair new burdens
- Major proposed cost shift of assessment office was rejected after aggressive county urging
- Several proposals to erode county tax bases (income taxes, property taxes) were defeated

**SECURED SMART TOOLS TO COMBAT OPIOID CRISIS**

- Multiple bills passed, with MACo support, to help combat drug crisis across the state
- More flexibility to the STOP grant program – rewarding county-based innovation
- Engaged with legislative and administration to build most flexible paths forward

**DEFENDED COUNTY LIABILITY AND EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS**

- Defeated costly and unfair proposal to charge governments attorneys’ fees when sued (*difficult Senate floor fight – grassroots efforts paid off as Senators heard from back home*)
- Fought against costly bills proposing to open the doors to additional costly county lawsuits
- Clarified laws on unionization – avoiding overbroad prohibition on local actions

**DEFENDED LOCAL DECISION-MAKING**

- Defeated costly collective bargaining mandates on all local governments and community colleges
- Resisted broad “pre-emption” of labor laws
- Intrusive bills on land use planning, local licensing, security systems all shelved