



MID-SESSION LEGISLATIVE DINNER

February 23, 2017

CITY OF GREENBELT 2017 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Top Priorities:

■ SUPPORT FBI HEADQUARTERS IN GREENBELT

A site decision is expected in March. GSA recently held community meetings re: updated transportation and parking impacts at the three sites. The City is concerned about GSA's emphasis on requiring more parking spaces and not accounting for transit use. Any update?

■ GREENBELT ROAD STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

Any update on this project?

■ UPDATE ON GREENBELT LAKE DAM PROJECT

City staff met with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) staff on January 9, 2017. MDE staff are familiar with the project and supportive of an extension. A redesign of the remaining phases is needed and construction is not expected to occur until FY 2019 and FY 2020. An estimated \$1.4 million will be needed. Significant State assistance will be needed.

Other Priorities:

■ YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU (CARES) FUNDING

Thanks for introducing HB 1187 and SB 784 which would move State YSB funding to the Department of Juvenile Justice! Please let us know how we can assist.

■ CHILDREN LIVING IN GREENBELT STATION SHOULD ATTEND GREENBELT SCHOOLS

Any progress here?

Other Issues for Discussion:

SB 995/HB 1266 – This legislation would allow liquor licenses at movie theaters in Prince George’s County. AMC Theaters is lobbying for this bill’s passage and it would allow for a liquor license at the theaters at Beltway Plaza.

SB 835/HB 1362 – Maryland Law Enforcement and Governmental Trust Act

List of Bills from Senator Pinsky’s Newsletter.

Matters that you would like to raise with us?

revenue generated would go to our schools. What voters weren't told and what a recent [Baltimore Sun](#) article explained is that casino money was simply used to replace funds that had been going to schools. Overall school funding didn't increase. I voted against slot machines in 2008 and again in 2012 when table games were added.

[Back to top](#)

My Legislation

Below you'll find my main legislative initiatives for the 2017 session. You can always find the most up to date list [here](#).

SB423 Election Day Voter Registration

This bill allows qualified individuals to register and vote at a polling place on *election day*. Currently, Maryland permits same day registration during the *early* voting period before election day. Same day registration increases voter turnout, remedies inaccurate voter rolls, eliminates arbitrary deadlines that cut off registration, and assists lower-income citizens, young people, and minorities.

SB422 Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017

Farms often administer antibiotics to farm animals, even when animals are not sick. This overuse/abuse of antibiotics has increased the growth of antibiotic resistant bacteria, posing an increasingly dangerous public health threat to people. This bill prohibits the use of 'non-therapeutic' antibiotics in large farms.

SB358 Presidential Candidate Tax Transparency Act of 2017

For 40 years all major party candidates have released their taxes. This bill requires any Presidential candidate who wants to appear on the Maryland ballot to provide copies of their federal income tax returns for the previous five years. If this bill passes, candidates who don't release their taxes won't be on the Maryland ballot.

SB357 Business Relief and Tax Fairness Act of 2017

By taking advantage of a series of loopholes, a significant number of Maryland's largest corporations do not pay any corporate income tax, resulting in a \$75 – \$150 million loss to the state. This bill will force big, multistate and multinational corporations to pay their share by prohibiting them from shifting income to subsidiaries based in low-tax states (combined reporting). The bill also assists small business owners by eliminating a \$300 annual filing fee for businesses with 10 or fewer employees.

SB607 Protecting the Obama Overtime Rule

Currently, an employee designated as a 'manager' making as little as \$27,000 could be forced to work 60 hours per week with no additional compensation. A lower-paid employee should not have to work unlimited hours without getting overtime pay. Last year, President Obama updated the overtime rules, making salaried workers earning up to \$47,000 eligible for overtime pay. That rule was

blocked by a federal court and President Trump will likely withdraw the rule. This bill would codify the Obama Administration's overtime regulations into Maryland state law.

SJ4 Democracy Resolution

The Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling has undermined democracy by releasing a flood of unregulated 'dark money' into our elections. The Democracy Resolution would fight corporate influence in elections by calling for a constitutional convention to overturn the ruling and reduce corporate and special interests influence in elections.

SB605 Carried Interest Taxation

Hedge fund managers often pay lower taxes than their secretaries, because their income is in the form of "carried interest," which is taxed at a much lower rate than ordinary income. This bill levies a surcharge to ensure that some of our wealthiest businessmen are not able to evade paying their share of taxes.

SB146 Congressional Redistricting

Under this legislation, Maryland's congressional districts would be drawn by a non-partisan independent commission, provided another state of approximately the same size controlled by Republicans agrees to do the same.

[Back to top](#)

Free Tax Assistance

Prince George's Community College is offering free tax preparation again this year. Your household income must be under \$55,000 to qualify. Appointments are available on Saturdays and Tuesday evenings. Click [here](#) for more information or call 301-546-5254.

[Back to Top](#)

Scholarship Information

Are you or one of your children expecting to attend a Maryland college or university next year? Are you interested in financial assistance to help with tuition?

If you live in the 22nd district -- the communities of Berwyn Heights, Edmonston, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Lanham, New Carrollton, Riverdale Park, Seabrook, or University Park -- you can apply to my scholarship committee for a Senatorial Scholarship.

These scholarships usually range from \$500 to 2,000 for each of four years. The application is online at senatorpinsky.org. Applications are due by April 1, 2017.

My scholarship committee, made up entirely of citizen volunteers from the 22nd legislative district, will be selecting the scholarship winners.

**2017 Legislative Update
February 23, 2017**

Bill #	Description	Sup/Opp	Status
PG 422	Authority for Prince George's to Prohibit Disposable Bags	SUP	
HB 1187 SB 784	Youth Service Bureau – Budget Appropriation	SUP	SB hearing 3/6 at 1:00. HB hearing 3/7 at 1:00.
HB 36 SB 302	Electric Vehicle – Reserved Parking Spaces	SUP	HB hearing held 1/26. SB hearing held 2/7. Senate Committee voted unfavorable.
SB 142 HB 192	Task Force to Study Bicycle Safety	SUP	SB hearing held 2/7. HB hearing held 2/9.
HB 172 SB 728	Home Act of 2017	SUP	HB hearing held 2/7. SB hearing 2/28 at 1:00.
SB 397 HB 1433	Local Income Tax Overpayments – Forgiveness	SUP	SB hearing held 2/15. Senate Committee voted favorable. Passed Senate 46-0. HB hearing 3/8 at 1:00.
SB 422 HB 602	Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017	SUP	SB hearing held 2/14. HB hearing held 2/15.