

The City of Takoma Park

Legislative Sub-Committee Policies

The City of Takoma Park closely monitors public policy activities that take place at the State level that impact the City and its residents. Maintaining municipal authority over our operations is a perennial priority, along with discouraging measures that create unfunded mandates or significant, negative fiscal impacts on the City.

In addition, Takoma Park annually develops a list of policy priorities prior to each Maryland General Assembly Session. Along with considering taking positions on proposals directly reflecting those priorities, the City considers other proposals that are either indirectly related to its priorities, or upon request from legislators, organizations and residents.

Takoma Park's City Council Legislative Sub-Committee considers the specific proposal made during the annual Maryland General Assembly Session. In general, the Committee considers them with the following criteria:

- How does the proposed issue forward our policy priorities and/or directly affect City residents and operations?
- What expertise does the City have concerning the issue?
- What is the potential of success?
- How important is Takoma Park's visibility on the issue?
- What is the willingness of the City to take the specific actions needed in support of a position?

Priorities Identified for 2021

1. Mitigating the impacts of the pandemic on residents, businesses and the City of Takoma Park
 - a. Housing, including Safe and Stable Homes Act
 - b. Aid to businesses, residents, and municipal governments
 - c. Food security
2. Mitigating the impacts of climate change
 - a. Community Choice Energy Pilot Program
 - b. Assistance to those impacted by longer storms, flooding
 - c. Targeted energy efficiency programs, including multi-family buildings
3. Reimagining public safety

- a. Action on Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights, Maryland Public Information Act, other steps
 - b. Need to address community mental health needs – more important during pandemic
- 4. Get Purple Line construction back on track and continue mitigation efforts
 - a. Release \$2 million for area small businesses earmarked by the General Assembly
 - b. Purple Line Tree Replacement legislation
- 5. Support for expanded funding flexibility for municipalities rather than just depend on property taxes; enforceable tax duplication provisions
- 6. Vaccine distribution to critical populations
 - a. Facilitate regional approaches to vaccine distribution; distribution by residency, rather than employment centers or need may hurt D20 residents
- 7. Vision Zero
 - a. Allowing lower speed limits Reduction of Speed Limits