BALTIMORE COUNTY MARYLAND



BORROWING REFERENDUM BROCHURE

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Prepared by:

Baltimore County Office of Budget and Finance

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Information Concerning the 2024 Baltimore County Borrowing Referendum

INTRODUCTION

This information about the borrowing ordinance referendum which will appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot was prepared by the Baltimore County Office of Budget and Finance to assist voters on information pertaining to borrowing questions that will appear on the ballot.

The Baltimore County Charter requires that borrowing ordinances be approved by the voters. Borrowing referendum questions are placed on the ballot at each general election.

The County borrows funds for capital improvements in the form of municipal bonds. This method of financing is commonly used throughout the United States to pay for the construction of schools, roads, bridges, government buildings, recreational facilities and other publicly owned capital facilities.

This coming November 5, the following capital project classifications will comprise the borrowing referendum and appear on the ballot:

Question Classification Amount Refuse Disposal \$5,000,000 D \$18,500,000 Ε Community College F **Public Works** \$55.440.000 G Parks, Preservation and Greenways \$8,000,000 Н Schools \$331,140,000 ı Agricultural and Rural Land Preservations \$6,000,000 J \$4,000,000 Community Improvement Κ Waterway Improvement Program \$20,000,000 L **Operational Buildings** \$130,500,000 \$578,580,000 Total

2024 Borrowing Referendum

Financing for the County's capital projects comes primarily from bonds. Other sources of funding are State funds, federal funds, funds from other counties, County general funds (derived from taxes and other sources in the County's operating budget) as well as other sources.

Detailed descriptions and funding plans for the projects anticipated to utilize these bonds are available in the FY 2025 Adopted Capital Budget Supporting Detail. This document is available for inspection at all branches of the Baltimore County Public Library and at the Baltimore County Office of Budget and Finance, 400 Washington Avenue, Mezzanine, Towson, Maryland 21204.

The County Council passed referendum borrowing ordinances May 23, 2024 and this brochure reflects the projects anticipated under this ordinance.

Bonds are redeemed and interest is paid from annual appropriations in the Baltimore County General Fund Operating Budget. In the current fiscal year (FY 2025), the General Fund will receive 47% of its revenue from

property taxes and 53% from income taxes and various other sources. A history of the ratio of General Fund revenues to debt service obligations is presented below:

o debt service obligations is presented below.				
bt Service to Reve	nues ('000)			
General				
Fund	Debt	<u>Ratio</u>		
<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Service</u>			
\$1,289,731	\$67,471	5.2%		
\$1,389,453	\$75,876	5.5%		
\$1,504,492	\$77,759	5.2%		
\$1,595,721	\$81,422	5.1%		
\$1,640,051	\$85,020	5.2%		
\$1,635,375	\$86,634	5.3%		
\$1,489,427	\$94,382	6.3%		
\$1,547,926	\$105,594	6.8%		
\$1,630,201	\$111,873	6.9%		
\$1,701,812	\$116,896	6.9%		
\$1,750,110	\$124,712	7.1%		
\$1,820,656	\$141,190	7.8%		
\$1,887,247	\$149,385	7.9%		
\$1,972,182	\$168,227	8.5%		
\$1,952,808	\$170,113	8.7%		
\$2,067,970	\$181,754	8.8%		
\$2,219,460	\$188,336	8.5%		
\$2,372,969	\$199,204	8.4%		
\$2,475,511	\$205,159	8.3%		
\$2,615,887	\$246,825	9.4%		
\$2,602,278	\$225,223	8.7%		
	Service to Reverse General Fund Revenues \$1,289,731 \$1,389,453 \$1,504,492 \$1,595,721 \$1,640,051 \$1,635,375 \$1,489,427 \$1,547,926 \$1,630,201 \$1,701,812 \$1,750,110 \$1,820,656 \$1,887,247 \$1,972,182 \$1,952,808 \$2,067,970 \$2,219,460 \$2,372,969 \$2,475,511 \$2,615,887	Service to Revenues ('000) General Fund Debt Revenues Service \$1,289,731 \$67,471 \$1,389,453 \$75,876 \$1,504,492 \$77,759 \$1,595,721 \$81,422 \$1,640,051 \$85,020 \$1,635,375 \$86,634 \$1,489,427 \$94,382 \$1,547,926 \$105,594 \$1,630,201 \$111,873 \$1,701,812 \$116,896 \$1,750,110 \$124,712 \$1,820,656 \$141,190 \$1,887,247 \$149,385 \$1,972,182 \$168,227 \$1,952,808 \$170,113 \$2,067,970 \$181,754 \$2,219,460 \$188,336 \$2,372,969 \$199,204 \$2,475,511 \$205,159 \$2,615,887 \$246,825		

The rationale for issuing long term debt for construction of capital improvements is that capital improvements, such as a new road, enhances economic efficiency and benefits citizens over a long period of time. Therefore, the cost should be borne by taxpayers over a period of time roughly equal to the life of the improvement being constructed. Generally, Baltimore County issues bonds that mature serially over a twenty year period. In accordance with the Baltimore County Charter (Section 719), the first serial maturity must occur no later than the second anniversary of the issuance, with portions maturing every year thereafter.

The last series of Baltimore County bonds were issued on July 24, 2024. These bonds, as well as all outstanding Baltimore County bonds, are rated "AAA" by Moody's Investor Service, Inc., "AAA" by Standard and Poor's Corporation and "AAA" by Fitch Investors Service, Inc. These ratings are the highest available. These firms issue these ratings only after a detailed analysis of all issues that affect or could potentially affect the County's long-term financial well-being. Aside from the more obvious factors of revenue structure, the experience and credentials of the financial management team, maintenance of adequate fund balance and size of existing debt burden, the rating agencies also look at the County's economic and employment base, its demographic characteristics, and how the State's financial situation may affect the County. Because Baltimore County has the highest credit rating possible, it is able to borrow at the lowest possible interest rate thereby significantly reducing the cost of capital financing. Baltimore County's bonds are purchased by institutional investors as well as individuals looking for safe, high quality municipal bonds. The County's bonds are traded regularly in the municipal securities market and are available from banks and brokers.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$5,000,000 for the construction, expansion, acquisition, improvement, alteration, capital repair or modernization of refuse processing, transfer and disposal facilities including landfills. Funds could also be used to close and cap County landfills. The County has one primary operating landfill, known as the Eastern Sanitary Landfill, located in the 11400 block of Pulaski Highway in northeast Baltimore County approximately one mile from the Harford County line. The County also maintains several closed landfills. The County has minimized the use of its landfill by recycling, converting waste into energy and exporting its municipal solid waste to out-of-state facilities. The County also operates three transfer stations where residential and commercial refuse is transferred from small "packer trucks" into large trailers for transport to other facilities. This portion of the Capital Budget is administered by the Department of Public Works and Transportation. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget which includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The projects below were established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, this project may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time these projects were established. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for refuse disposal and procession facilities and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Refuse Disposal Projects
Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026
Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

Proj. #	Project Title	Bonds Programmed	Phase
208P005	Hernwood Landfill	\$825,000	Construction
208P006	Parkton Sanitary Landfill	\$775,000	Construction
208P010	Eastern Sanitary Landfill	\$3,400,000	Engineering/Construction
	TOTAL	\$5,000,000	

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$18,500,000 for construction of new buildings, capital renovations and maintenance of existing buildings and grounds at the various campuses of the Community College of Baltimore County. State aid and County general funds will supplement bonds. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget which includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The list of projects below was established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, this list may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time the list of projects was assembled. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for upgrading and expanding the physical plant of Baltimore County community college and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Community College Projects

Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026

Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

Proj. #	Project Title	Bonds Programmed	Phase
209P002	Stormwater Management	\$1,048,000	Engineering/Construction
209P098	ADA Alterations	\$25,000	Construction
209P100	Capital Maintenance & Renovations	\$3,000,000	Construction
209P102	Asbestos Abatement	\$25,000	Construction
209P103	Catonsville – Renovations/Additions	\$8,895,000	Engineering/Construction
209P104	Essex – Renovations/Additions	\$200,000	Engineering
209P105	Dundalk – Renovations/Additions	\$200,000	Engineering
209P106	Power Plant Modernization - All	\$5,107,000	Engineering/Construction
	TOTAL BONDS	\$18,500,000	

PUBLIC WORKS

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$55,440,000 for storm drain projects, street and highway and bridge projects. The Department of Public Works and Transportation administers this portion of the Capital Budget. This authorization would finance routine capital maintenance on, among other things, more than 2,600 miles of County roadway and nearly 1,400 miles of storm drains. These bonds also fund work in progress on phased, large-scale projects for which some stages have already been completed. Other projects will receive new funding which would permit engineering to be undertaken. The County also maintains more than 670 bridges. The Department of Public Works and Transportation inspects and schedules work on these bridges under guidelines of the Federal Highway Administration's National Bridge Inventory and Inspection Program. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget which includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The list of projects below was established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, this list may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time the list of projects was assembled. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for storm drains, roads and bridges and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Public Works Projects

Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026 Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

Proj. #	Project Title	Bonds Programmed	Phase
204P002	Storm Drain Repairs & Enhance	\$4,000,000	Eng'g/Site Acq./Construction
204P006	Storm Drain Inlet Reconstr. Program	\$1,000,000	Engineering/Construction
204P007	Resilience and Sustainability	\$1,400,000	Engineering/Construction
204P329	Acquisition of Flooded Homes	\$450,000	Land Acquisition
205P002	Street Rehabilitation	\$2,684,000	Eng'g/Site Acq./Construction
205P018	Traffic Calming	\$800,000	Construction
205P111	Streets & Highways - Subdivisions	\$500,000	Eng'g/Site Acq./Construction
205P133	Roadway Resurfacing	\$23,016,000	Construction
205P179	Alignment Studies/Site Acquisition	\$150,000	Engineering/Site Acquisition
205P250	Alley Reconstruction	\$1,750,000	Construction
205P286	Misc. Intersection Improvement	\$2,075,000	Eng'g/Site Acq./Construction
205P301	Curbs, Gutters and Sidewalks	\$8,500,000	Eng'g/Site Acq./Construction
205P350	Sidewalk Ramps Program	\$200,000	Construction
205P458	Traffic Signals	\$1,500,000	Construction
205P500	Bikeways and Pedestrian Access	\$1,400,000	Construction
205P501	Street Lights	\$400,000	Construction
207P002	Minor Bridge Repair	\$4,275,000	Eng'g/Site Acq./Construction
207P220	Bridge Inspection Program	\$280,000	Engineering
207P278	Bridge No. 140 - Piney Grove Road	\$600,000	Construction
207P281	Bridge No. 113 Lansdowne Boulevard	\$460,000	Construction
	TOTAL BONDS	\$55,440,000	

PARKS, PRESERVATION AND GREENWAYS

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$8,000,000 for the acquisition, development, enhancement and renovation of waterfront parks, community and area parks, school recreation centers and stream valley parks as described in the Baltimore County Master Plan. Borrowed funds would also be used to perform capital maintenance on existing facilities and to buy land for development into parks or for preservation in a natural state. The Department of Recreation and Parks administers this portion of the Capital Budget utilizing capital funding within approximately 15,616 acres of land at parks, public school recreation center, open spaces, greenways, and leased recreation sites. This land features a wide range of facilities including athletic fields, ball diamonds, indoor facilities (e.g. recreation centers), interpretive centers, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, sports courts, dog parks, skate parks, community gardens, and trail and path systems. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget, which includes these bonds, is approved by the County Council.

The list of projects below was established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, this list may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time the list of projects was assembled. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for parkland and greenway acquisition and development and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Parks, Preservation and Greenway Projects

Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026

Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

		Bonds	
Proj. #	Project Title	Programmed	Phase
212P301	Recreation Facility Renovations	\$3,200,000	Engineering/Construction
212P302	Athletic Field Constr/Renov.	\$1,800,000	Engineering/Construction
212P307	Community/Neighborhood Park Dev.	\$1,500,000	Engineering/Construction
212P309	Greenways/Stream Valleys/Trails	\$800,000	Engineering/Construction
212P601	Park & Recreation Facility Acquisition	\$200,000	Site Acquisition
212P755	Park & Rec. Center Accessibility	\$500,000	Construction
	TOTAL BONDS	\$8,000,000	

SCHOOLS

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$331,140,000 for construction of new schools, additions and/or renovations and capital maintenance at existing schools and sites. The emphasis over the last several years has been on capital maintenance, elimination of overcrowding and addressing the Built to Learn initatives. This emphasis continues in the 2024 borrowing referendum which includes funding for work at Towson, Dulaney and Patapsco High Schools and funding towards a North West area CTE school. As is the case in many school districts across the country, most of the County's schools were built during the late 1950s and 1960s. This causes capital issues to become urgent over a short period of time. Consequently, capital outlay to address these issues must also be concentrated over a relatively short period of time. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget that includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The list of projects below was established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, this list may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time the list of projects was approved. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for schools and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







School Projects
Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026
Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

		Bonds	
Proj. #	Project Title	Programmed	Phase
213P004	Fuel Tank Replacement	\$250,000	Construction
213P011	ADA Alterations	\$750,000	Construction
213P116	Kitchen Equipment Upgrades	\$2,000,000	Construction
213P117	Transportation Improvements	\$2,000,000	Engineering/Construction
213P200	High School New Construction, Additions	\$263,350,000	Engineering/Construction/Site
	and Renovations		Acquisition
213P665	Major Maintenance	\$37,790,000	Engineering/Construction
213P671	Roof Replacement	\$20,000,000	Construction
213P672	Site Improvements	\$5,000,000	Engineering/Construction
	TOTAL BONDS	\$331,140,000	

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL LAND PRESERVATION

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$6,000,000 to be used to purchase development easements under the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program and other County programs. Bonds will be supplemented with the Maryland Agricultural Transfer Tax and the Baltimore County General Fund. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget which includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The list of projects below was established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, this project may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time this project was approved. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for acquisition of development easements to preserve rural and agricultural land and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Agricultural and Rural Land Preservation Projects

Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026

Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

		Bonds	
Proj. #	Project Title	Programmed	Phase
217P001	Agricultural Preservation	\$5,440,000	Site Acquisition
217P002	Rural Legacy	\$560,000	Site Acquisition
	TOTAL BONDS	\$6,000,000	

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

This question requests authority to borrow up to \$4,000,000 for construction of projects to enhance and develop activity related to the viability of older commercial districts and town centers. Bonds would finance the construction and development activities related to pedestrian systems, bus stop shelters, parking lots, landscaping, street sign improvements and other community improvements. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget which includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The project below was established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, these projects may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time these projects were established. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for community and economic improvement projects and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Community Improvement Projects

Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026

Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

Proj. #	Project Title	Bonds	Phase
		Programmed	
218P100	Countywide Improvements	\$4,000,000	Construction/Site Acquisition/Other
	TOTAL BONDS	\$4,000,000	

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$20,000,000 for shoreline and streambank stabilization, shore erosion control, wetlands restoration, dredging of tidal waterways, and other activities designed to address stormwater and pollutant load requirements. This program is primarily an effort to restore and enhance the waterways for County residents and to reduce sedimentation and other pollution of the Chesapeake Bay. Within the County's borders are contained approximately 1,000 miles of streams, creeks and rivers and over 200 miles of Chesapeake Bay shoreline. Bonds are also used for urban tree planting and to locate and remedy groundwater pollution. This portion of the Capital Budget is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget which includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The list of projects below was established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, this list may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time the list of projects was assembled. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for waterway improvements and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Waterway Improvement Projects

Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026

Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

Proj. #	Project Title	Bonds Programmed	Phase
221P100	Watershed Restoration	\$375,000	Site Acq./Construction
221P106	Lower Gunpowder Watershed Restoration	\$200,000	Construction
221P110	Patapsco Watershed Restoration	\$150,000	Construction
221P111	Gwynn Falls Watershed Restoration	\$215,000	Engineering/Construction
221P112	Jones Falls Watershed Restoration	\$350,000	Engineering/Construction
2210200	Environmental Management	\$610,000	Engineering/Construction
221P400	Stormwater – Restoration and Retrofit	\$15,500,000	Engineering/Construction
221P401	Stormwater – Planning & Monitoring	\$1,500,000	Construction
221P402	Stormwater - Sustainability	\$1,000,000	Engineering/Construction
221P900	Community Conservation Waterway Improv.	\$100,000	Construction
	TOTALS	\$20,000,000	

OPERATIONAL BUILDINGS

This question requests voter approval to borrow up to \$130,500,000 for construction, renovation and capital maintenance of general government buildings, public safety buildings such as police stations, fire stations, and the detention center, libraries, senior centers, recreation buildings, other similar buildings, and parking facilities. Borrowed funds would also be used for direct purchase of land for such buildings, purchase of land already improved with buildings, movable furniture and equipment associated with and essential to the operation of new and renovated buildings and space within existing buildings, landscaping, fencing, parking lots and other similar capital site maintenance and site improvements associated with County buildings and property. Authority to issue bonds which would be authorized under this referendum would become effective only after the County Executive proposed and the County Council approved such bonds in the Capital Budget. The actual issuance of the bonds can take place any time after the budget which includes these bonds is approved by the County Council.

The projects below were established in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program. In the event unforeseen circumstances are encountered, these projects may be changed by the County Executive or County Council. These circumstances may include changes in the economic environment, emergencies, community input or new information or data not available at the time these projects were established. In no event may the total amount of borrowing authority be increased beyond the amount approved at this referendum. Bonds authorized under this referendum can only be used for general government multi-use buildings, libraries, police and fire stations and certain other building related projects and cannot be transferred to other capital classifications.







Operational Building Projects
Bonds Programmed in Fiscal Year 2026
Under the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and Program

Proj. #	Project Title	Bonds Programmed	Phase
210P036	New Buildings, Repair, Renovations, Minor Additions	\$16,750,000	Engineering/Construction
210P055	Access For People with Disabilities	\$100,000	Construction
210P065	Health/Environment Hazard Remediation	\$200,000	Construction
210P601	Library Capital Maintenance and	\$1,950,000	Construction
	Renovations		
210P701	Senior Center Capital Improvements	\$1,000,000	Construction
210P708	Fire Facility Capital Improvements	\$43,500,000	Construction
210P709	Fire Facility Capital Improvements	\$16,500,000	Construction
220P046	Fire Facility Capital Improvements	\$22,000,000	Construction
220P054	Fire Facility Capital Improvements	\$1,500,000	Construction
230P013	Fire Facility Capital Improvements	\$1,500,000	Construction
230P021	Police Facility Capital Improvements	\$25,500,000	Construction
	TOTAL BONDS	\$130,500,000	