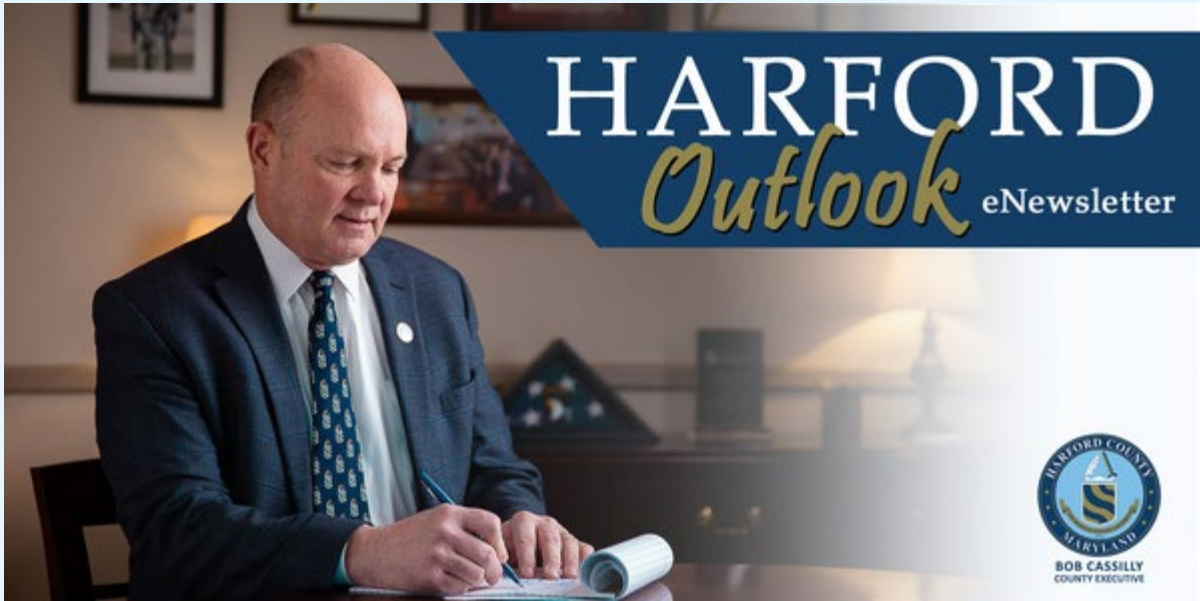




County Executive Bob Cassilly eNewsletter

January 2025

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to enjoy time with family and friends over the holidays. As we begin the new year, please keep in mind that the [county website](#) can help you stay informed about news, services, and programs from my administration.

Let's make 2025 the best it can be in Harford County!

Bob Cassilly

Harford County Executive

CountyExecutive@harfordcountymd.gov

410-638-3350

Featured Stories

- [Free recycling for live Christmas trees in Bel Air, Joppa, Street](#)
- [State of the County Address Jan. 14](#)
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Free recycling for live Christmas trees in Bel Air, Joppa, Street

Recycle your live Christmas tree for free at any of these Harford County locations: 3135 Scarboro Road in Street, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday; Tollgate drop off site at 703 N. Tollgate Road in Bel Air on Saturdays only from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and our newest location, 808 Philadelphia Road in Joppa, on Saturdays in January only from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please remove all lights, decorations, and tinsel before dropping off. Residents only please, no commercial businesses allowed. Christmas lights and other electronics, clothing, textiles, and more can also be recycled for free at the Harford Waste Disposal Center. To learn more, [visit our recycling website](#).



State of the County Address Jan. 14

Please mark your calendar for my State of the County Address at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. I look forward to reporting on our county's progress over the past year and outlining plans for the year ahead. You can watch this year's speech [live or archived on the county website](#), or watch the [HarfordTV](#) cablecast on Wednesday, January 15 starting at 8:00 p.m. and then again on Thursday, January 16 starting at 2:00 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

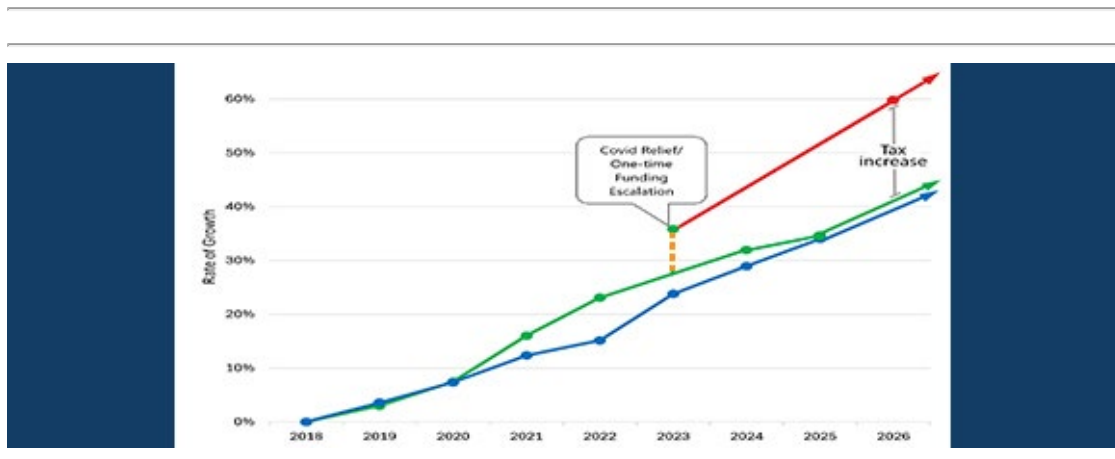
BILL NO. 24-037

Legislative Day No. 24-029

Date November 12, 2024

Saying no to liquor stores, cannabis dispensaries in residential areas

County Council Bill 24-037 is an effort to allow liquor stores in B-1 districts (which serve residential areas) as a special exception with minimal criteria for approval focused on signage. If this legislation passes, any of 232 parcels zoned B-1 throughout the county could become a liquor store. To make matters worse, the [State of Maryland has been very clear](#) that recreational cannabis sales cannot be treated more restrictively than liquor sales. This opens the door for cannabis sales to be allowed anywhere liquor stores are permitted. Community members and I have strongly opposed this legislation, which is pending in the County Council but has not yet been voted on. More information is on the [County Council's webpages](#).

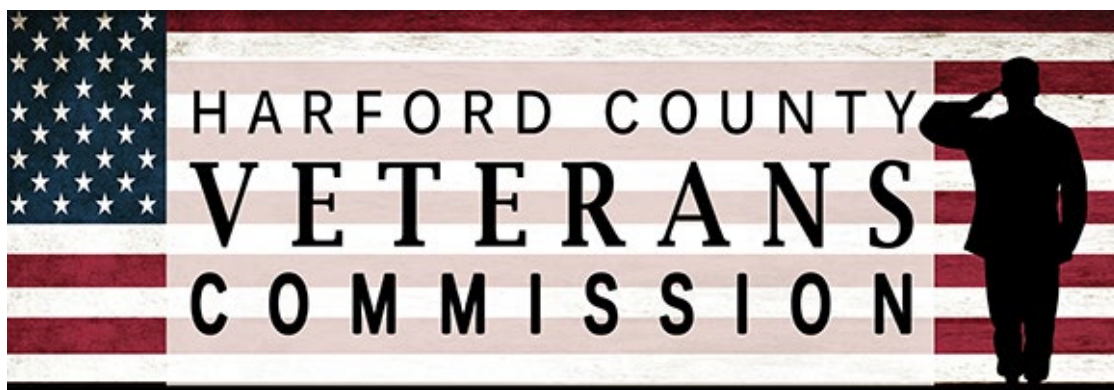


How to avoid a tax increase

In your household, you can't spend faster than your income grows. The same is true for government. The blue line in the chart above is the growth rate in county revenue since 2018. The green line is the growth in funding for Harford County Public Schools. Notice the one-time spike in FY 23 that was made possible by one-time federal COVID money.

The federal money is gone, but the school superintendent expects to increase spending as shown on the red line, based on the one-time spike that was never intended to be permanent. One way to do that is to raise your property taxes by 15%, which I will not do. Or we would have to eliminate services that our community members rely on, like libraries, parks and senior centers.

The school budget can grow, as long as it keeps pace with the growth in county revenue, as shown on the green line. [Ask the school board](#) for a reasonable budget request that county taxpayers can afford.



Veterans Corner: Help is here

Have you or a family member served in the military, including the National Guard or Reserves? If so, you may be eligible for valuable benefits or resources. Many who served, even in peacetime, may not consider themselves veterans, but your service matters. Harford County, in partnership with state and federal agencies, has launched the “Ask the Question” campaign to connect veterans and their families with customized support and resources. Whether you’re facing a life challenge or simply need guidance, help is available. Don’t wait - reach out today. [Click here to learn more.](#)



FREE Household hazardous waste collection Feb. 4

Harford County residents can drop off household hazardous waste from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4 at the Harford Mulch & Compost Facility located at 3139 Scarboro Road in Street. Household hazardous waste is any leftover material that is corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive. Examples include oil-based paints, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, drain cleaners, and pool chemicals. Visit the county website for a complete [list of acceptable items](#). Please note, this event is for residents only, no commercial businesses are allowed.



What are your priorities for the next county budget?

Let me know your priorities by participating in our town hall meeting on the FY26 budget either via email or in person. New this year, I'll be answering questions sent to me in advance of the in-person event, which will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 6 at Edgewood Rec Center. To send a question or make a comment, email us at igovharford@harfordcountymd.gov. At the event, I'll answer some questions and hear directly from you. For more information, visit our [budget town hall webpage](#).



“Inside Harford County” - Midterm progress report

This month on “Inside Harford County,” we’ll look back on the first two years of my term as county executive and highlight our goals for the future. Join me and my director of administration, Rob McCord, as we talk with our host, Mark Vernarelli, about the county we are honored to serve. “Inside Harford County” is [HarfordTV's](#) half-hour community affairs program airing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays on Armstrong channel 7 & HD 101, Comcast channel 31 & HD 1084, and Verizon channel 31.



Fun things to do in January

The holidays may be over but there are still plenty of fun things to do in Harford County this month. [Visit our website and calendar of events](#) posted on the county website and enjoy!

Want more?

Get more updates, photos & event information from Harford County Government:

Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or check out our Instagram [Harford_County_Government_](#)



Got Feedback?
citizensaffairs@harfordcountymd.gov