



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

HB 919 – Property Tax - County Authority to Set Special Rates

DATE: February 27, 2024
COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

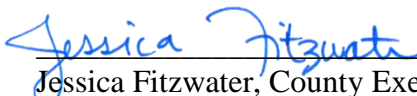
As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give HB 919 – Property Tax - County Authority to Set Special Rates a favorable report.

This bill will authorize the governing body of a county to set special property tax rates for certain subclasses of property for the purpose of funding transportation improvements in that immediate area or meeting school funding requirements.

Local governments have limited tools to raise revenue and finance the needed infrastructure for our communities. While property taxes are the main source of revenue for local governments, we face heightened pressure from our constituents to keep rates low as assessment values increase and inflation impacts their household budgets. Yet, growing transportation infrastructure demands and evolving education needs require consistent investment.

As a county leader who is deeply committed to the promises of Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and the needs of our transportation infrastructure, I believe it is crucial that we utilize creative and progressive solutions to raise revenues without inequitably impacting our constituents. HB919 will give local governments added flexibility in property tax structures to do exactly that.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 919. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD