



**JAN H. GARDNER**  
**Frederick County**  
**Executive**

# **HB 1544**

**Public Ethics & Campaign Activity**  
**- County Council Members &**  
**County Executives – Limitations on**  
**Applicant Contributions**

## **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

Date: February 27, 2020

To: Ways and Means

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner **supports strong and clear guidance** to county councils and county executives regarding public ethics in relation to campaign activities, and **urges that any statewide provisions of law exclude Frederick County or be broadened to preserve Frederick County’s current ethics laws.**

County Executive Gardner urges consideration for the following:

- Frederick County has adopted and has in place strong ethics laws that address issues cited in the proposed legislation, specifically inclusive of prohibiting campaign contributions during the pendency of applications for county land use planning and zoning matters, and disclosure of ex parte communications;
- Frederick County’s established ethics laws, recently updated in 2018, are more rigorous in several aspects relative to the proposed regulations and address specific issues to the County’s land use and planning and zoning processes; and
- Frederick County’s planning processes are unique and different from those of Prince George’s County. Therefore, transitioning to new ethics provisions would result in substantial legal implications for the County.