



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

P.O. Box 26214 | Baltimore, MD 21210

443-768-3281 | [rsnyder@mddcpres.com](mailto:rsnyder@mddcpres.com)

[www.mddcpres.com](http://www.mddcpres.com)

To: Ways & Means Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 20, 2026

**Re: MDDC UNFAVORABLE HB 843**

The Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association (MDDC) represents a diverse membership of news media organizations. Our membership includes large metro dailies such as *The Washington Post* and *The Baltimore Sun*, hometown newspapers such as Washington County's *The Herald-Mail*, specialty publications such as *The Daily Record* and *Baltimore Jewish Times*, and leading online news organizations such as *The Banner*, *Maryland Matters*, and *Baltimore Brew*. Our membership spans both for-profit and nonprofit models and reflects the full ecosystem of local journalism that Marylanders depend on every day.

The Press Association opposes HB 843, which would reduce the number of insertions of printed notice of the Washington County tax sale from four to two and add the tax sale to the County website. Although this bill is specific to Washington County, we feel passage would create a dangerous precedent and our membership is united against this legislation. There has been a move these past few years to move notice to government websites. We believe reducing notice from newspapers of general circulation is bad public policy.

Washington County residents rely on their news media sources, including the Herald-Mail. The Herald-Mail also publishes these notices online so that it reaches the widest possible audience. The county anticipates cost savings to the detriment of harnessing the audience of the local news. Publicizing the tax sale widely is critical as the stakes are so high, and diminishment of newspaper notice will hurt residents without providing a significant gain.

The whole point of notice is to get the information out to the public. Newspapers and their affiliated websites are experts in reaching audiences. Newspapers in print and online have higher audience numbers and engagement than government websites, and are serving notice to the public effectively. MDDC member publications post notices online on their own websites, as well as on MDDC's aggregated site as a value-add to publication in their printed products. This reaches a much broader section of the public than a government website could reach alone. Governments are rightfully paying our members for the valuable services they provide to inform and engage the public.

We ask for an unfavorable report for HB 843.



**We believe a strong news media is central to a strong and open society.**