
Structure of Maryland Local Government

**Presentation to the
Local and Regional Transportation Funding Task Force**

**Department of Legislative Services
Office of Policy Analysis
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Structure of Local Governments in Maryland

- Maryland's structure is relatively simple
- Maryland has 347 units of local government
 - Counties (23)
 - Baltimore City
 - Municipalities (156)
 - Special districts (167)
- Maryland does not have townships or independent school districts
- Local funding for public schools, libraries, and community colleges is determined by the county government
- Baltimore City is considered a county under State law

Structure of Local Governments in Surrounding States

Comparison of Number of Local Government Units

	Delaware	Maryland	Pennsylvania	Virginia	West Virginia
Counties	3	24	66	95	55
Municipalities	57	156	1,015	229	232
Townships	0	0	1,546	0	0
School Districts*	19	0	514	0	55
Special Districts	259	167	1,764	173	316
Total	338	347	4,905	497	658
Rank	46th	45th	2nd	44th	39th

*School districts in Maryland and Virginia are dependent on another unit of local government for funding and are not classified as a separate unit of local government.

Local Government Services More Consolidated in Maryland

Comparison of Number of Local Government Units in Selected Jurisdictions in Maryland and Pennsylvania

	Maryland		Pennsylvania	
County	Baltimore	Frederick	York	Adams
Population	809,941	236,745	436,770	101,434
<i>Sub-county Units</i>				
Municipalities	0	12	37	13
Townships	0	0	35	21
School Districts	0	0	15	6
Special Districts	1	3	42	21
Total	2	16	130	62

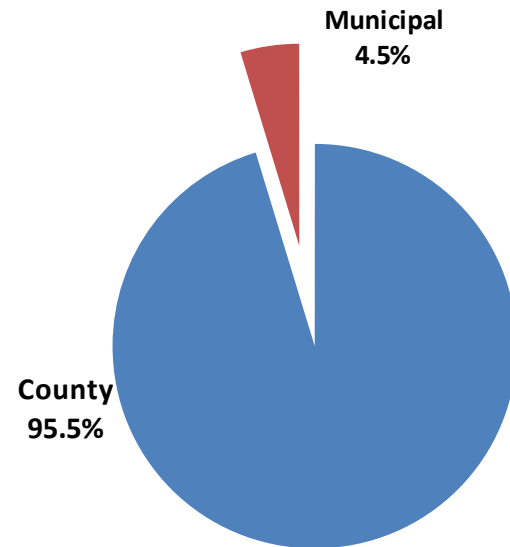
Township and Municipal Units in York County, Pennsylvania



Counties in Maryland Responsible for Most Basic Services

- Counties are the primary unit of local government in Maryland
- Counties directly provide most basic local services such as police, fire, local corrections, sanitation, local highways, health, and parks and recreation
- Counties also provide local funding for public schools, libraries, local community colleges, and the circuit courts

Share of Local Government Expenditures

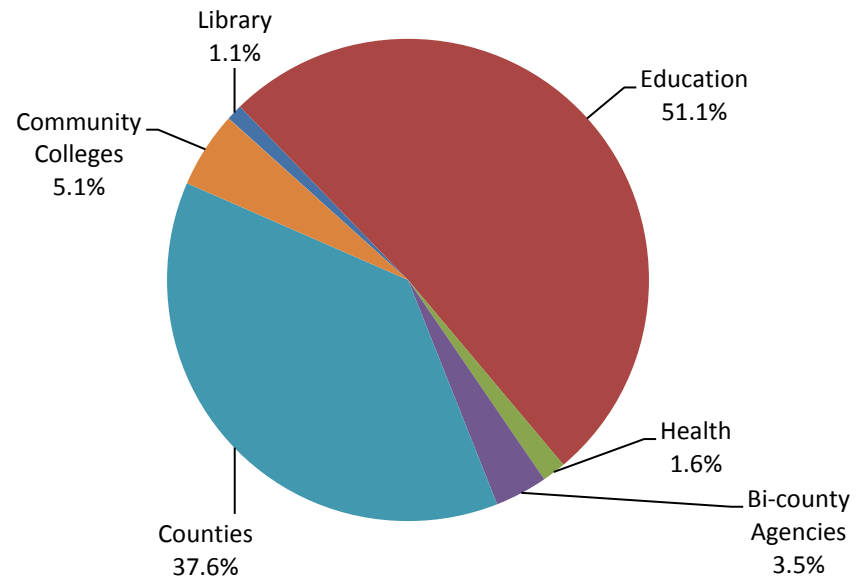


County Level Services Provided by Various Governmental Units

Types of Governmental Units at the County Level

- County Governments
- Boards of Education
- Library Boards
- Community Colleges
- Health Departments
- Regional/Bi-county Agencies

Share of County Expenditures



Municipalities in Maryland Provide Limited Array of Public Services

- Public works and public safety are the two largest functions of municipal governments, comprising over 66% of municipal expenditures
- Unlike counties, municipalities do not fund local school systems and community colleges, which account for over 50% of local spending
- In fiscal 2012, expenditures at the municipal government level totaled \$1.3 billion, or 4.5% of total local spending
- In five counties, municipal governments account for over 15% of local spending

Municipalities in Maryland Relatively Small

- 15% of State population resides in municipalities

- Only 9 municipalities have more than 25,000 residents

- 58% of municipalities have fewer than 2,500 residents

- Eastern Shore and Western Maryland have a higher percentage of residents living in a municipality

Population Range	Number	Share of Total
25,000 – 70,000	9	5.8%
10,000 – 24,999	12	7.7%
5,000 – 9,999	17	10.9%
2,500 – 4,999	27	17.3%
Less than 2,500	91	58.3%
Total	156	100.0%

Expenditures Limited in Most Municipalities

Expenditure Range	Number of Municipalities	Percent of Total
\$50 million +	6	3.8%
\$25 to \$50 million	7	4.5%
\$10 to \$25 million	10	6.4%
\$5 to \$10 million	20	12.8%
\$1 to \$5 million	53	34.0%
Less than \$1 million	60	38.5%
Total	156	100.0%

Expenditures in the State's 10 Largest Municipalities

Rank	Municipality	Population	Expenditures	Per Capita Expenditures
1	Frederick	66,169	\$104.2 million	\$1,575
2	Rockville	62,334	112.0 million	1,797
3	Gaithersburg	61,045	46.0 million	754
4	Bowie	55,232	46.0 million	834
5	Hagerstown	39,890	92.3 million	2,314
6	Annapolis	38,880	79.2 million	2,038
7	College Park	30,587	14.1 million	461
8	Salisbury	30,484	46.2 million	1,515
9	Laurel	25,346	27.3 million	1,079
10	Greenbelt	23,281	26.5 million	1,140

Local Government Expenditures

Fiscal 2012

- Local expenditures totaled \$28.1 billion in FY 2012
- County level expenditures totaled \$26.8 billion, or 95.5% of the total
- Municipal level expenditures totaled \$1.3 billion, or 4.5% of the total
- Municipal share of local expenditures relatively high in several counties

Municipal Share of Total Local Expenditures		
Share of Expenditures	Number of Counties	Percent of Total
25% +	2	8.3%
15 to 24.9%	3	12.5%
5 to 14.9%	8	33.3%
1 to 4.9%	8	33.3%
None	3	12.5%

County Level Expenditures

Fiscal 2012

(\$ in Millions)

Governmental Unit	Amount	Percent of Total
Public Schools	\$13,039.7	51.1%
Libraries	283.3	1.1%
Community Colleges	1,288.0	5.1%
Health Departments	414.8	1.6%
County Governments	9,607.3	37.6%
Bi-county Agencies	890.4	3.5%
Subtotal	\$25,523.4	100.0%
Debt Service	1,299.4	
Total	\$26,822.8	

County Government and Bi-county Expenditures

Fiscal 2012

(\$ in Millions)

	Amount	Percent of Total
Public Works	\$3,124.9	18.1%
Public Safety	2,898.1	16.8%
General Government	1,484.1	8.6%
Community/Econ. Dev.	751.0	4.4%
Parks and Recreation	600.9	3.5%
Health/Social Services	560.6	3.3%
Other	1,078.0	6.3%
Subtotal	\$10,497.7	60.9%
Transfers to Boards	6,735.7	39.1%
Total	\$17,233.4	100.0%

Municipal Government Expenditures

Fiscal 2012

(\$ in Millions)

	Amount	Percent of Total
Public Works	\$542.5	42.6%
Public Safety	303.6	23.8%
General Government	156.6	12.3%
Parks and Recreation	99.3	7.8%
Community/Economic Development	44.2	3.5%
Miscellaneous	45.0	3.5%
Debt Service	82.8	6.5%
Total	\$1,274.1	100.0%

Responsibility for Delivering Major Local Government Services

Rank	Government Service	Percent of Local Expenditures	Percent County	Percent Municipal
1	Public Schools	46.4%	100.0%	0.0%
2	Water/Sewer	7.7%	86.5%	13.5%
3	Police	5.8%	86.3%	13.7%
4	Transportation	5.0%	88.1%	11.9%
5	Community Colleges	4.6%	100.0%	0.0%
6	Health/Social Services	3.5%	100.0%	0.0%
7	Fire Protection	3.2%	94.7%	5.3%
8	Community/Economic Dev.	2.8%	94.4%	5.6%
9	Parks/Recreation	2.5%	85.8%	14.2%
10	Corrections	1.3%	100.0%	0.0%
11	Libraries	1.0%	100.0%	0.0%