



Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances – Maryland Counties

January 2025

An adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) is a growth management tool that attempts to link the timing of new development to the availability of public facilities capacity needed to serve the development. The list below identifies, for the 14 counties that have enacted an APFO, (1) the ordinance citation(s); (2) the types of public facilities the ordinance covers; (3) links to exemptions from the ordinance's requirements; and (4) links to more information (if available).

Anne Arundel

Ordinance: Anne Arundel County Code, [§ 17-5-101 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Fire suppression – [§ 17-5-301](#)
- Roads – [§ 17-5-401 et seq.](#)
- Schools – [§ 17-5-501 et seq.](#)
- Sewerage – [§ 17-5-601](#)
- Storm drain – [§ 17-5-701 et seq.](#)
- Water supply – [§ 17-5-801](#)

Exemptions: [§ 17-5-201](#), [§ 17-5-207](#)

More information: [County adequate public facilities webpage](#)

Baltimore

Ordinance: Baltimore County Code, [§ 32-6-101 et seq.](#)

Regulation: Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, [§ 4A02](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Schools – [§ 32-6-103](#)
- Transportation – [§ 32-6-104](#)
- Water – [§ 32-6-105](#)
- Sewer – [§ 32-6-106](#)
- Stormwater – [§ 32-6-107](#)
- Open space – [§ 32-6-108](#)

Exemptions: [§ 32-6-103\(f\)](#)

More information: [Adequate public school facilities](#)

Calvert

Ordinance: Calvert County Code, [§ 3-1 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Fire and emergency medical services – [§ 3-4 et seq.](#)
- Roads – [§ 3-6 et seq.](#)
- Schools – [§ 3-8 et seq.](#)
- Solid waste – [§ 3-10 et seq.](#)
- Storm drainage – [§ 3-12 et seq.](#)
- Water and Sewer – [§ 3-14 et seq.](#)

Exemptions: [§ 3-1D](#)

More information: [Adequate Public Facilities Report for Schools](#)

Caroline

Ordinance: Caroline County Code, [§ 162-38 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Roads – [§ 162-39](#)
- Drainage outlets – [§ 162-40](#)
- Schools – [§ 162-41](#)
- Fire protection – [§ 162-42](#)
- Solid waste collection – [§ 162-43](#)

Carroll

Ordinance: Carroll County Code, [§ 156.01 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Schools – [§ 156.05\(D\)\(1\)\(a\), \(2\)\(a\), and \(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Roads – [§ 156.05\(D\)\(1\)\(b\), \(2\)\(b\), and \(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Fire and emergency medical services – [§ 156.05\(D\)\(1\)\(c\), \(2\)\(c\), and \(3\)\(c\)](#)

- Police – [§ 156.05\(D\)\(1\)\(d\), \(2\)\(d\), and \(3\)\(d\)](#)
- Water and sewer – [§ 156.05\(D\)\(1\)\(e\), \(2\)\(e\), and \(3\)\(e\)](#)

Exemptions: [§ 156.03\(B\)](#)

More information: [County adequate public facilities webpage](#)

Charles

Ordinance: Charles County Code, [§ 297-255 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Roads – [§ 297-257](#)
- Schools – [§ 297-258](#)
- Water supply – [§ 297-260](#)
- Fire suppression for rural areas – [§ 297-261](#)

Exemptions: [§ 297-256B](#), [§ 297-256C](#), [§ 297-257B](#), [§ 297-258A](#)

More information: [County adequate public facilities manual](#)

Frederick

Ordinance: Frederick County Code, [§ 1-20-1 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Roads – [§ 1-20-30 et seq.](#)
- Water supply – [§ 1-20-40 et seq.](#)
- Sewerage – [§ 1-20-50 et seq.](#)
- Schools – [§ 1-20-60 et seq.](#)

Exemptions: [§ 1-20-7](#)

More information: [County adequate public facilities webpage](#)

Harford

Ordinance: Harford County Code, [§ 267-126](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Schools – [§ 267-126B\(2\)\(a\)](#)

- Sewerage – [§ 267-126B\(2\)\(b\)](#) and [\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Water – [§ 267-126B\(2\)\(c\)](#) and [\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Roads – [§ 267-126B\(2\)\(d\)](#) and [\(3\)\(c\)](#)

Exemptions: [§ 267-126B\(2\)\(a\)\(4\)](#)

More information: [County annual growth report](#)

Howard

Ordinance: Howard County Code, [§ 16.1100 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Roads – [§ 16.1101](#)
- Schools – [§ 16.1103](#)
- Water, sewer, stormwater, and solid waste – [§ 16.1111](#)

*Also see: Housing unit allocation concept – [§ 16.1102](#)

Exemptions: [§ 16.1107](#)

More information: [County adequate public facilities webpage](#)

Montgomery

Ordinance: Montgomery County Code, [§§ 8-30 - 8-32](#), [§ 14-7](#), [§ 33A-15](#), [§ 50.4.3.J](#), [§ 50.10.3](#); [County 2024-2028 Growth and Infrastructure Policy](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Schools – [Growth and Infrastructure Policy, S1 through S5](#)
- Motor vehicle – [Growth and Infrastructure Policy, TL1](#)
- Non-motor vehicle – [Growth and Infrastructure Policy, TL2](#)
- Water and sewerage – [Growth and Infrastructure Policy, p. 20](#)
- Police, fire, and health – [Growth and Infrastructure Policy, p. 20](#)

Exemptions: Montgomery County Code, [§ 50.4.3.J.3](#); [Growth and Infrastructure Policy, S3.2.1 and TL3](#)

More information: [County growth and infrastructure policy webpage](#)

Prince George's

Ordinance: Prince George's County Subdivision Regulations, [§ 24-4501 et seq.](#)

*The regulations took effect April 1, 2022, and are subject to a transitional period described in § 24-1901 et seq., most recently modified (as of January 2025) by [CB-074-2024](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Transportation – [§ 24-4505](#)
- Pedestrian and bikeway – [§ 24-4506](#)
- Parks and recreation – [§ 24-4507](#)
- Police – [§ 24-4508](#)
- Fire and rescue – [§ 24-4509](#)
- Schools – [§ 24-4510](#)

Exemptions: [§ 24-4510\(a\)\(3\)](#)

More information: [Planning department subdivision webpage](#)

Queen Anne's

Ordinance: Queen Anne's County Code, [§ 28-1 et seq.](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Water – [§ 28-7A](#)
- Sewer – [§ 28-7B](#)
- Schools – [§ 28-7C](#)
- Transportation – [§ 28-7D](#)

Exemptions: [§ 28-4](#)

More information: [County adequate public facilities ordinance webpage](#)

St. Mary's

Ordinance: St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, [§ 70.1 et seq. \(p. 70-1\)](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Roads – [§ 70.7](#)

- Sewerage – [§ 70.8](#)
- Water – [§ 70.9](#)
- Storm drainage – [§ 70.10](#)
- Schools – [§ 70.11](#)
- Fire prevention and suppression – [§ 70.12](#)

Exemptions: [§ 70.3](#), [§ 70.11.1](#)

Washington

Ordinance: [Washington County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance](#)

Types of Public Facilities Covered:

- Roads – [§ 4.1 et seq.](#)
- Schools – [§ 5.1 et seq.](#)
- Sewage – [§ 6.1 et seq.](#)
- Water – [§ 7.1 et seq.](#)
- Fire protection – [§ 8.1 et seq.](#)

Exemptions: [§ 4.1](#), [§ 5.2](#)

More information: [Subdivision and Site Plan Review](#)