

## Comments on Charles County 2026 Proposed Legislation

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### PROPOSAL #

2, 3, 5, 11 – fully support.

9 – do not support; adding costs to already ever-increasing grocery prices will have an unnecessary burden on residents. Many who are seniors, veterans, and those who have had SNAP benefits reduced.

10 – do not support; donations from the Trust are to an organization not an individual person.

11. - fully support; full transparency needs to be incorporated into all aspects of Government.

14 – do not support; we do not need to add to Government, we already have a citizen liaison in the Commissioner's office.

22. I can support this IF the word "fee" is replaced with the word "tax". As I spoke during the Town Hall meeting on September 16, 2025, tax is defined as "A tax is a mandatory payment or charge collected by local, state, and national governments from individuals or businesses to cover the costs of general government services, goods, and activities." This request is for a tax; a fee is the cost of receipt of goods or services at the time the cost is levied. Since you are requesting to levy this cost prior to residents receiving any goods or services, this is correctly a tax not a fee. Regardless, once the Sports and Wellness Complex is open, the levy should be discontinued, and fees should be charged to the users of the facility to offset maintenance costs. There should be no costs to County residents that are not using the facility.

I might also add that you are doing a disservice to our 100% disabled veteran population by calling this a fee. 100% disabled veterans (as approved by the Veterans Administration) who have taken advantage of the State of Maryland benefit of property tax exemption would be required to pay the levied amount if it is called a fee instead of a tax.

Also, how are apartment units going to be levied this tax; those residents do not get a tax bill.

If an apartment complex has 400 units, will the owner of the complex get a tax bill with a line item for PRT tax for \$24,000.00? If they do not, then the tax has not been levied on every resident (except those that are already exempt).