



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County

Good Evening Council Members,

I'm Ryan Powers from Glenwood, testifying on behalf of the Howard County Citizens Association in support of CB10-2026.

Last year, the Council unanimously approved CB20-2025. CB10-2026 again asks for just the option to use surplus PayGo funds for school deferred maintenance. Current school deferred maintenance as reported to the County Council is 193 million dollars, in addition to millions in deferred projects. HCPSS released a list covering roofs, HVAC, health, safety, and security. Students need well-maintained buildings in order to study, learn, and excel. Teachers and staff do their best in quality environments.

The Baltimore Sun has reported that County Executive Ball does not intend to use this year's PayGo of 37.99 million for school deferred maintenance. Why did this Council vote unanimously to allow just the option of these much needed funds to be directed to schools if in the end nothing is actually in the budget and being done to help HCPSS? The Rainy Day fund should have 7% in it and the 3% Reserve Fund is intact, so this argument doesn't hold water.

This Council has heard again and again about leaky roofs, mold, burst pipes, faulty bathrooms, and missing ceiling tiles at multiple schools in HCPSS. The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) has presented data to the HB1450 Taskforce that shows infrastructure investments have been too small for HCPSS' need.

HCCA not only asks that you pass CB10-2026 unanimously again this year, but that you advocate, loudly, for using at least an additional 20 Million in PayGo for FY2027 for school deferred maintenance— because what the county usually provides isn't cutting it anymore.

Thank you,

Ryan Powers, HCCA board member.