



MCCC Advocacy



The Maryland General Assembly adjourned the 2021 Legislative Session on April 12, 2021. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) Advocacy Team achieved numerous victories for the Metro Maryland business community:

- Secured pandemic relief for employers
- Strengthened business tax incentives
- Defeated proposed increases in business costs and administrative burdens
- Achieved successes for critical transportation, education, and workforce priorities

Below, you will find highlights of MCCC's policy priorities, including legislation providing statewide COVID-19 relief, enhancements to the business climate in Metro Maryland, talent attraction and retention, and transportation and infrastructure.

Statewide COVID-19 Relief Highlights

- [\\$6.3 billion](#) in federal funding allocated to Maryland for state and local fiscal recovery, broadband expansion, vaccine deployment, housing assistance, transit improvements, apprenticeship and job training, and education funding.
- [\\$1.1 billion](#) in state assistance for small business tax credits, tax relief for unemployment benefits, grants for small businesses, and direct payments to Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) recipients.
- \$1.1 billion for the State's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to stabilize unemployment taxes in 2022 and 2023.
- Commitments to protect and support [essential workers](#) without burdening struggling businesses during catastrophic health emergencies.

Business Climate, Taxes, and Incentives

- **New!** [Job Creation Tax Credit adds incentive](#) for hiring veterans.
- **MCCC Member Priority:** Montgomery County is [required](#) to refund the annual fees and late fees for each alcoholic beverages license issued by the County for the 2020-2021 licensing period.
- **MCCC Policy Priorities:**
 - The State Department of Assessments and Taxation is now required to conduct a [study of business filing fees](#) and make recommendations to the General Assembly next session.
 - The statewide [Green Business Certification program](#) did not pass this Legislative Session. This bill would recognize businesses that reduce their environment footprint.
- [Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit expanded](#) to additional technology business sectors.
- [Digital advertising gross revenues tax](#) prohibited from passing on the cost of the tax to consumers.

- Local jurisdictions authorized to [allow restaurants and breweries to sell alcohol](#) off-premises for two additional years.
- MCCC helped defeat proposed tax increases on [corporations](#), [carried interest](#), and [millionaires](#).

Talent and Workforce

- **MCCC Member Priority:** [Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans](#) established to serve the behavioral health needs of service members, veterans, and family members.
- **MCCC Policy Priorities:**
 - \$60 million in federal grants provided to local jurisdictions for childcare facilities.
 - [\\$135,000](#) in Fiscal Year 2022 funding for the [Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation's Veteran Institute for Procurement \(VIP\)](#).

Transportation and Infrastructure

- **NEW!** The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is now required to develop a [Purple Line marketing plan](#).
- **MCCC Policy Priority:** MTA is also required to reach agreements to extend [MARC train service to Virginia and Delaware](#).
- \$500,000 included in the FY2022 budget and [legislation passed](#) allowing \$1 million each in FY2023 and FY2024 for a grant to assist small businesses impacted by Purple Line construction.
- Defeated [Public-Private Partnership \(P3\) legislation](#) that sought to delay I-270 and I-495 expansion.