



**DELEGATE ERIC EBERSOLE**  
**DISTRICT 12**

**THE CONNECTION:**  
**LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER -**  
**SUMMER 2016**

**PERIODIC NEWSLETTER TO KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP  
TO DATE WITH POLITICAL HAPPENINGS IN  
ANNAPOLIS AND IN HOWARD AND BALTIMORE COUNTIES**



—

**TESTING  
COMMISSION  
REPORT**

—

**NEW BUS ROUTES IN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY**

—

**NOISE REDUCTION:  
BWI &  
MERRIWEATHER**

—

**CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS IN  
THE DISTRICT**

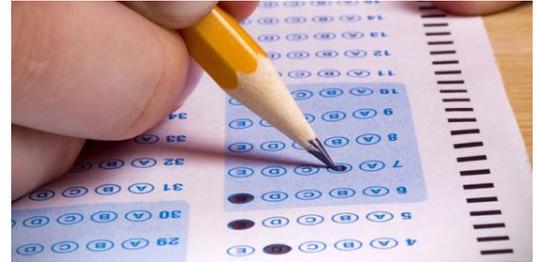
**DELEGATE  
ERIC EBERSOLE**  
6 Bladen Street – Rm. 305  
Annapolis MD 21401  
[eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us](mailto:eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us)  
410 841 3328  
[www.eric.ebersole.org](http://www.eric.ebersole.org)



## **The Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools:**

This commission, which was created by legislation I sponsored and on which I served, has submitted its final report as of early July. There is a link to the full report below. There is a lot there, but if you jump to page 44, you will find a more bare bones list of the recommendations.

Among the things I am pleased we were able to agree on was the recommendation of the elimination of the middle school Government Test, and the restructuring of the Government High School Assessment to a more learning interactive setting and a classroom structure. The PARCC test is



federally mandated so we couldn't sweep it out the door, but we made recommendations to reduce its impact on instruction including shorter total time, shorter units of testing that would fit into single periods, and lifting the requirement that only a certified teacher may administer and proctor the test. I was hoping for even more, like the outright reduction of duplicative benchmark testing, but for now each school system will be asked to set up a District Committee on Assessment which will take that and other relevant issues up with local needs and initiatives in mind. The next step is for MSDE and the local school systems to weigh in on whether or not they will follow the recommendations and, if not, their reasoning. Then it is up to us in the legislature to act accordingly as we see fit. We are hopefully on our way to getting this herd of tests back into a reasonable corral.

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/commissiononassessments/docs/AssessmentsCommissionFinalReport072016.pdf>

## **NEW BUS ROUTES COMING:**



Your D12 legislative team asked the MTA to come to the community to talk about some significant changes coming to Baltimore's bus system. They presented and took input on July 6th at Arbutus Library. Missed it? They will be back at CCBC Catonsville on August 25. At the meeting several points were addressed by the attendees. Among them were the impact to Ingleside Ave., the reduction of lines in the Halethorpe area, and the lack of service to the Arbutus Library and Senior Center. The

MTA has been making adjustments to the plan which will go into full effect next June. Suggestions and observations from public input have been a catalyst for many of these changes. Take a look at the link below so you see how you may benefit or what concerns you have.

<http://www.baltimorelink.com/engagement/document-library/district-maps>

## **NOISE REDUCTION – BWI AND MERRIWEATHER:**

A priority with me is the quality of life of my constituents. Recently, I have received a number of communications concerning noise pollution that residents are having in their homes. Two contributors to this are BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and The Merriweather Post Pavilion. While these two institutions provide very different services to our area, ones that we value, it is important that they be good players in consideration of those who reside nearby.

**Merriweather** – Since the Sweet Life Festival in 2015, there has been a consistent concern in Town Center, Wilde Lake, Harpers Choice, and Beaverbrook with the level of sound and disruption in these communities. The members of your District 12 legislative team have been taking a number of steps to understand the history and science of Merriweather and its sound systems. First, we have an open dialog with Merriweather. They have taken some steps to ameliorate sound proliferation in the area and there are more to come as the renovations to the facility continue. Among these are redirecting the speakers and taking more direct control of performers' volumes. But there may be more investigation and work to be done. First, we are taking a hard look at the law passed a few years ago to regulate sound and evaluating it. We are getting independent sound experts to educate us and will be holding a town meeting soon to drill down on the true nature of the problem and what we can do about it, all the while keeping the asset of Merriweather viable and attractive.



**BWI Thurgood Marshall** - In addition to some runway repairs, NextGen flight patterns at the airport have added significantly to the noise folks in Elkridge, Hanover, Long Reach, and Catonsville are experiencing. I recently attended a meeting with the FAA at their DC office with a contingent of local, state, and federal representatives. We had a constructive meeting discussing the increased noise due to air traffic over the affected areas.



I was there with Howard County Council Chair Calvin Ball, Howard County Council Vice Chair Jon Weinstein, [pictured with me below] and representatives for US Senator Ben Cardin, House of Representatives members Sarbanes, Cummings, and Ruppertsberger, County Executive Kittleman, and Delegate Clarence Lam.

A few key outcomes:

- The FAA committed to reviewing the near-term improvements recommended by the community and the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) and report back to us about their disposition and progress, including interim altitude changes.



- FAA will work with MAA to initiate the formal process for a procedural review with community input.
- FAA will respond to the MAA's April 25 letter, which included recommendations (near- and long-term) to mitigate noise.
- FAA committed to improve their communications with the community through the local representatives, community organizations, and the County Government.

We will conduct a meeting by mid-September with MAA, FAA, and our local representatives to coordinate efforts and actions.

## **Capital Improvements :**

I, along with the other members of the District 12 team, submitted legislation for a number of improvement projects in the 2015 budget. Among the non-profits we hoped to help were The Howard County Conservancy, The Arbutus Fire Department, The Howard County Food Bank, Huntington and

South Branch Parks, Good Shepherd Services, and Vantage House. The legislature was able to get money in the budget for these projects and I am pleased that ALL of ours were approved. You may have noticed that previously passed budget projects are coming to fruition at CCBC Catonsville, where the Hilton Mansion is being renovated, and at HCC where the new Science, Engineering, and Technology Building is well on the way to completion. We will continue to advocate for improvements to our district.

### **LET ME HEAR FROM YOU:**

As always, I love hearing from my constituents- whether you have opinions on any legislation, have an idea for a bill that should be introduced, or need help with any government agency, please feel free to contact my office any time.

Best,



Eric Ebersole

[eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us](mailto:eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us)

State Delegate, District 12  
6 Bladen St.



House Office Building, Room 350  
Annapolis, MD 21401