
From: "Sharon Easton" <sharone@mdmunicipal.org>
To: <collinstime@comcast.net>
Subject: Important MML Revenue Initiative
Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2007 9:22:19 AM

Message from Sharon Easton on behalf of Scott Hancock

Honorable Members of the Maryland Municipal League:

On Friday, October 18th, the membership of the League voted to adopt a legislative initiative to seek more diverse sources of revenue for Maryland cities and towns in an effort to reduce the stifling dependency on the property tax to fund general municipal operations in Maryland. Subsequently, the MML leadership has crafted a proposal whereby Governor O'Malley's Special Session budget proposal could be used as a vehicle for sharing a portion of NEW anticipated recordation tax revenues derived from the closure of a tax loophole. Currently, property transfers, even within municipal borders, are taxed by the county and ALL proceeds go directly to the counties. MML's legislative proposal before the Special Session would see municipals sharing revenue from recordation taxes with county government when those taxes are collected on property transfers within municipalities.

Although our proposal does not reduce current county revenues, major opposition from the counties is mounting. We are going to need your help to ensure that the members of the legislative committees considering our proposal understand the inequity of the current arrangement.

You will soon be asked to make a SPECIAL/CONCERTED EFFORT to contact your legislators as a sign of support for this initiative. I hope you will respond and respond QUICKLY when you receive the call for action.

For your information, I am attaching a press release dated today, which explains MML's position and proposal. If you need more information, please feel free to contact me or any member of the MML team. I encourage you to disseminate copies of the press release to your constituents and news outlets.

The more widespread the information, the better.

This is probably the most far reaching revenue initiative MML has mounted in recent history but the League leadership feels the time is right to correct this serious revenue injustice.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this matter and for your strong action on behalf of all MML member cities and towns. As always, together, we can make a difference.

Scott A. Hancock
Executive Director
Maryland Municipal League
1212 West Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 268-5514
scotth@mdmunicipal.org

(Attachments successfully scanned for viruses.)

Attachment 1: (application/msword)