

The Parson Report

Representing your voice in Baltimore's 45th District



CONTACT

Committee to Elect

Kevin W. Parson

P.O. Box 3324

Baltimore, MD 21213

Email:

info@kevinparson.com

Phone: 410-929-0767

Web: www.kevinparson.com

Facebook: Committee to Elect Kevin Parson

Committee to Elect

Kevin W. Parson,

Authority: Tunji Sawyer,

Treasurer

Produced by the Committee to Elect Kevin W. Parson

By Kevin W. Parson

Democratic State Central Committeeman, 45th District

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010: RECAP

In this past General Assembly session for 2010, it has been reported as one of Maryland's toughest legislative sessions. The nation, the state, and the city of Baltimore are confronted with a rocky economy and many levels of government are struggling with their budgets. Nonetheless, hundreds of bills were considered in the General Assembly and some made it out of both houses as the state tightens its belt buckle.

Maryland continues to make a name for itself in the area of education; Baltimore city has made tremendous gains in education. Education Week Newspaper reports Maryland as the best in the nation -when it comes to education, ranking it #1 in the nation. Even though the dropout rate for Baltimore is still one of the highest in the

state of Maryland, efforts to further reduce student drop out was addressed in this session.

The Maryland General Assembly tried to be aggressive with education reform by requiring teachers to work longer toward tenure. It now takes three years instead of two years for tenure. However, the Race To The Top initiative by President Barack Obama is calling for additional educational reforms. Baltimore city, nonetheless, leads the state in some of these reforms, such as creating charter schools and providing smaller learning communities. But, more is needed.

The attempts to get a partial elected school board was a controversial issue and it failed in the Assembly.



Finally, I want to thank everyone for supporting me over the years. As you know, this is an election year. Once again, I am asking for your support as I seek a seat in the **House of Delegates**. Please support my candidacy by voting, volunteering, or making a contribution to my campaign.

Please visit kevinparson.com. This will be "change that you can believe in!"

Inside this issue:

General Assembly Recap 1

Bills 1-2

BILLS

Budget

Maryland's \$13.2 billion operating budget relies on a mix of cuts, one time spending transfers from reserve accounts and federal stimulus money to close a 2 billion gap. The budget had large cuts in funding to local governments will

have a balance of \$195 million, in addition to \$633 million in the state's rainy day fund.

Baby Bottles

a ban on the use of chemical bisphenol-A in baby bottles and infant cups passed. The prohibition would take effect in

2012, making Maryland the fourth state to ban the chemical linked to developmental problems in young children, reproductive problems in women and other diseases





Do you want to
volunteer with the
Committee to
Elect Kevin Parson?

We're looking for:

- Field Volunteers
 - Volunteer Coordinators
 - Research Coordinators
- Communications Coordinators
- Fundraising Coordinators

Email us

Volunteer@

KevinParson.com or
call today!

BILLS CONTINUED

Child Support

There are new guidelines that will increase the amount of child support that most non-custodial parents must pay, the rates will apply to new cases or when a parent request that a judge make a change due to salary adjustments to the state constitution.

Constitutional Convention

Voters will decide this fall whether to convene a group to suggest amendments.

Domestic Violence

A person can break a rental lease for safety reasons or where their life is in danger or threatened.

Temporary protective orders that do not become final can be wiped from the state's public court database with a judge's approval, but the information remains available to law enforcement.

Driving / Cell Phones

Prohibition on using a cell phone while driving behind the wheel, but police cannot stop them unless they spot another infraction. The ban takes place October 1, 2010 - if the ban is signed by Governor O'Malley. A ban on reading text messages while driving was approved.

Mandatory minimum was approved for automobile insurance coverage, which means as many as 200,000 will experience higher premiums next year. In another change, drivers who wish to contest a traffic violation must request a court date.

Foreclosures

Homeowners facing foreclosures will be entitled to mediation with their mortgage company. Lenders must provide an application for loan modification as well as information on available programs and counseling, 45 days before foreclosure action is filed. The law also calls for a \$300.00 fee on those filing a foreclosure action to help pay for mediation.

Gangs

To improve communication between law enforcement and school officials. The Safe Schools Act allows law enforcement to report to school personnel the arrests of students for certain offenses to increase awareness about gang activity.

Higher Education

After a tuition freeze for four years, the Legislature allowed for a 3% tuition increase.

Jobs/ Employment

Employees can seek a \$5,000.00 tax credit for each unemployed Marylander they hire.

Sex Offenders

Violent and repeat sex offenders receive fewer good behavior credits in prison and are subject to a lifetime of supervision upon release. The minimum sentencing for some child molesters has increased to 15 years.

Medical Fraud

Whistle blowers with knowledge of false Medicaid claims are encouraged to file suit and share in damages with the state.

Representation Without

Population

Requires the Governor to count, for redistricting purposes, prisoners at their previous and former address and not at the prison, where they reside.

Public education

Students who drop out of school no longer have to wait three months to take GED Exam; full funding of Thornton - education funding increased by 100 million statewide to account for children from low income families. Baltimore City Schools will receive \$30 million in increase state aid under the Thornton formula due to increase in Free and Reduced Meals; Capital Improvement Program for school construction/ renovation includes \$250 million; Aging School Program for small repairs and renovations in old buildings will be funded at \$6.1 million. The amount was reduced from previous years funding.

