



# Growth Action Network

of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

P.O. Box 748 • Arnold, MD 21012

## GAN's Plans for the Coming Year



At the Growth Action Network, we begin this new year recommitted to our vision of *“environmentally sustainable, well planned and managed Anne Arundel communities and government-owned properties where citizens are engaged, neighborhoods thriving, development is limited, and redevelopment is a land use priority.”*

Our 2026 legislative and government priorities include the following:

- **Issue: Greatly increasing citizen input into land use legislation and text amendments to the code**, especially Articles 17 and 18. We've been calling for creating a Planning Commission or recommissioning the Planning Advisory Board to include citizen review and expert testimony on the fiscal, environmental, and quality of life impacts of legislation before consideration by the County Council.

**Action:** GAN will continue to advocate for a charter amendment to repair the oversight in the current charter which grants the PAB authority only on “rules and regulations” regarding land use and which would create a full, independent, citizen review of land use legislation, resulting in a non-binding but public recommendation to the County Council.

- **Issue: Staggering the terms of members of the Planning Advisory Board and the possible Planning Commission** would reduce the possibility of major, radical shifts in direction upon change of administration.

**Action:** GAN will continue to advocate for a charter amendment to stagger the terms of PAB and possible Planning Commission members.

- **Issue: Recent changes to the code have expedited development far beyond the capacity of the transportation infrastructure** to support it.

**Action:** GAN looks forward to a spirited review of the forthcoming Impact Fees legislation. We fear that traffic and transit fees, which haven't been increased in over a decade, will be shorted in favor of the addition of impact fees for parks and libraries.

- **Issue: There is an unlimited supply of people who want to live in AACo and an increasing shortage of people who can afford to work here due to the high cost of housing.**

**Action:** GAN will continue to urge non-market, more affordable housing targeted at 80-100% AMI, especially in redevelopment areas near employment and transit centers.

- **Issue:** Over the past years, the county has rapidly advanced plans for more development, especially housing, while compromising the quality of life in those developments. Recent legislation has added density and reduced open and recreational areas we believe these changes have a substantial negative impact very residents it is intended to serve

**Action:** GAN will continue to advocate to restore recreation and open areas, especially where family housing is most needed.

- **Issue** This is the first year that candidates running for office can qualify for public campaign financing a matching program that requires only individuals, not corporations, developers, or unions, to contribute and imposes a maximum of \$250 per person. Getting big money out of politics in Anne Arundel County would greatly improve overall responsiveness to citizens' interests and concerns.

**Action:** GAN will continue to advocate to get big money out of our politics, to limit campaign contributions from developers who have business before the county, and for candidates to forego campaign large contributions from all organizations.

- **Issue:** The legislative process in the County, particularly County Council meetings, excludes many of the very people most affected by its work. Most other jurisdictions in the state hold hybrid meetings, as do most commissions and committees in the County.

**Action:** GAN will continue to speak up at Council meetings and in our communications to call out the Council's continued inaction in opening its proceedings to people who do not have the means to travel to the Arundel Center to make a 2-minute statement their own behalf.

With support from GAN members and friends, we will continue to protect and improve the quality of life in Anne Arundel County. If these issues are important to you, please consider [becoming a member of GAN](#).

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