Maryland and GASB Statement No. 77

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Who in state government is most likely to influence GASB 77 disclosure?
Legislative Auditor Tom Barnickel, III (2012, appointed by State Assembly)
Maryland’s Legislative Auditor is principally charged with auditing state agencies and entities receiving state funds. The Local Government Article, Section 16-307 of the Maryland Code, gives the Legislative Auditor the additional responsibility of annually reviewing the audit opinions of local governments and taxing authorities.

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot has no direct authority over local governments but has been an outspoken advocate for government transparency and submitted a comment strongly supportive of GASB 77 (see below.)

Who commented on the Exposure Draft from Maryland?
- Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot issued a broadly supportive comment, calling on GASB to extend disclosure to include future year liabilities.
- The Democracy Collaborative submitted a broadly supportive comment
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation joined eight other foundations in a supportive comment that especially praised school districts disclosing revenues they lose to tax abatements.
- State Delegate Sheila Hixson, Baltimore City Council members Bill Henry and Sharon Middleton, Rockville City Council member Tom Moore, Montgomery County Commissioner Hans Riemer, and New Carrolton City Council member Jim Wildoner joined 56 other local public officials in submitting a comment broadly supportive of GASB 77.
How many counties, municipalities and school districts in the state are required to conform with GAAP and therefore GASB Statements?

According to a GASB’s [State and Local Government Use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for General Purpose External Financial Reporting](https://g normally March 2008) all of Maryland’s 23 counties 157 municipalities and 23 school districts are required by state law to use GAAP accounting. Public universities are not required to follow GAAP, but all do anyway.

Which state office collects CAFRS from counties/cities/school districts?

The Office of Legislative Audit (OLA) gathers audit statements from all counties, cities and taxing districts. The report highlights problems including non-compliance with GAAP and situations indicating fiscal stress. No local government CAFRs are posted centrally online.

OLA audits each school district every six years, and posts reports of its review.

Does the state government or do academic/NGO institutions provide technical assistance on GAAP, GASB or completing CAFRs?

We could find no evidence of such technical assistance being offered by the state government or other entities to local governments in Maryland.

Does state government monitor fiscal stress within county/municipality/school district?

The Maryland Assembly’s [Office of Legislative Audits](https://legis.state.md.us/Charts/2021-2022/) monitors fiscal stress among local governments.

Which state office is responsible for completing state’s CAFR?

Maryland’s State Comptroller completes the state’s CAFR.

When was most recent CAFR filed?

Maryland’s fiscal year ends on June 30th. Its most recent CAFR was published on December 15, 2015.

Based on what we know about past filing behavior, when will GASB 77 data start appearing in Maryland?
• **State government**: early-December 2017

• **Largest cities**:
  - **Baltimore**: Baltimore filed its 2015 CAFR a year late and its 2016 CAFR six months late. Based on 2016, the city’s CAFR is expected summer, 2018.
  - **Columbia**: subsumed by [Howard County CAFR](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/gasb), available late-November 2017
  - **Germantown**: subsumed by [Montgomery County CAFR](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/gasb), available mid-December 2017

• **Largest counties**:
  - **Montgomery County**: early-December 2017
  - **Prince George’s County**: late-February 2018
  - **Baltimore County**: late December 2017

• **Largest School Districts**
  - **Montgomery County**: late-September 2017
  - **Prince George’s County**: late September 2017

For more information on GASB 77, visit: [http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/gasb](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/gasb)

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