

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution R-55-10 Regarding State-Shared Revenues

DATE: August 19, 2010

The attached Resolution has been prepared at the request of the Maryland Municipal League. It is part of a lobbying campaign designed to restore State-Shared Revenues which have been severely curtailed.

Your approval of Resolution R-55-10 is requested. Following your action on the Resolution, copies will be sent to the Governor, the Senator and Delegates for the 23<sup>rd</sup> District, and MML.

DJD/asf

Attachment

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**  
**PETITIONING THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE MARYLAND GENERAL**  
**ASSEMBLY TO REINSTATE STATE-SHARED REVENUES DIVERTED**  
**FROM MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND STATE OPERATIONS AND**  
**TO PROVIDE MORE DIVERSE REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY TO**  
**MUNICIPALITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the State has slashed vital State-shared revenues historically provided to municipal governments by more than 90% for many municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, future budgets approved by the Administration and the Maryland General Assembly are expected to continue these significant and untenable cuts to cities and towns; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal governments more than any other government form in Maryland rely on the property tax as their primary general fund revenue source; and

**WHEREAS**, increases in property tax rates, cutbacks in local service provisions, and the elimination of local road projects are some of the impacts of this drastic funding reduction left to municipalities to offset this devastating loss of general fund revenues and incorporated municipalities' extremely narrow taxing authority prevents them from raising alternative funds to lost highway user revenues that have been diverted to balance the State's general fund; and

**WHEREAS**, this issue is of significant importance to the City of Bowie and it is critical that the Administration and Maryland General Assembly take actions needed to rectify this serious problem; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bowie supports the efforts of the Maryland Municipal League to reinstate lost State funding for municipal governments and to create alternative municipal funding mechanisms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland hereby urges the Administration, for this coming and future fiscal years, to submit a budget document to the General Assembly reinstating to municipal governments full funding for highway user revenues and State aid for police protection; and the Council strongly encourages the Maryland General Assembly to enact and the Governor to sign into law enabling legislation to significantly broaden the authority of incorporated municipalities to raise own-source revenues to reduce the reliance of cities and towns on the property tax to fund municipal government services.

**INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a Regular Meeting on September 7, 2010.

ATTEST:

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Pamela A. Fleming, City Clerk

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G. Frederick Robinson, Mayor