

Resolution
Board of Directors
Maryland Association of Community Colleges

WHEREAS, Community Colleges are essential to the present and long term economic well being of the State of Maryland;

WHEREAS, Community Colleges enroll over half of all Maryland high school graduates who remain in Maryland to attend college, with a total enrollment of 125,000 credit students, and serve an additional 350,000 residents in non-credit training programs annually in support of business and industry needs;

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has a structural budget deficit, such that projected expenses exceed projected tax revenues for several years to come;

WHEREAS, Community Colleges rely on State and local government for financial support, without which the cost of tuition for students could rise to a level that makes college unaffordable for the average person;

WHEREAS, Community Colleges have a documented severe need for capital investment in order to meet the enrollment demand and provide state-of-the-art facilities and the highest quality education to our students;

WHEREAS, there is a referendum on the ballot in November, which would amend the State Constitution to permit Video Lottery Terminals at certain locations in the State;

WHEREAS, if approved, this proposal would include enhancements dedicated to the construction of capital facilities for higher education;

WHEREAS, Community Colleges are committed to keeping tuition and fees as low as possible in order to maintain access to higher education;

WHEREAS, without the revenue from Video Lottery Terminals, the State and local governments may have to make budget reductions, which may cause increases in tuition and/or reductions in services by Community Colleges;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, having carefully considered arguments on both sides of the issue and, in full expectation of maintenance of the current level of funding for education from the State general fund, supports Question 2 – Constitutional Amendment Authorizing Video Lottery Terminals primarily to Fund Education.

Annapolis, Maryland October 22, 2008.