

Note from the County Executive:

I wanted to call your attention to two questions on the August ballot. Since both measures would have a direct bearing on future county business, I wanted to share my concerns.

The intended effect of both measures would require any federal outlay to run through the state legislature and not go directly to local governments – the first question is even more expansive. This is precisely the process for ARPA and COVID related funding from the last couple of years. As you know, we received about \$36 million in ARPA money for general county business and community support. This does not account for other COVID packages, or the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill that has been instrumental in advancing airport projects.

If the amendments were to pass, it would block any such federal law and require state legislative approval. That is not good because there has been an unproductive track record and relationship with the state on these matters. At the top of this list was and continues to be Medicaid expansion. Our county has forfeited millions of dollars in health care funding that would either augment or supplement our budget. We are one of a handful of states that continues to refuse the money. Other examples have no doubt been brought up by the county lobbyist and included in numerous WCA reports.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration on this matter. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions.