

25 persons owning property which will be subject to tax, assessment, or charge to pay the cost of any project considered at the hearing, file with the Commission a written petition protesting any project and setting forth reasons for the protest, the Commission shall decide upon the reasonableness of the objections stated in the petition. The petition shall contain, legibly printed or typewritten, the name and address of each petitioner, as well as the written signature of each petitioner. Each petitioner shall include on the petition an indication of whether the petitioner owns property within the sanitary subdistrict which is the subject of the protest. Any petition that does not contain the information required by this subsection is invalid. Only the signatures of persons owning property which will be subject to tax, assessment, or charge to pay the cost of any project considered at a hearing, are valid under the provisions of this subsection. The Commission shall dispose of the petition by written order concurred in by a majority of the members of the Commission. The order shall be published in the same manner as notices are required by this section to be published. Copies shall be mailed to all of the petitioners.

(d) Appeal. If any of the petitioners are not satisfied with the Commission's decision, they may take and enter, within 10 days after the last publication of the order, an appeal to the County. The [county] COUNTY shall review the Commission's decision and decide whether the contemplated project is necessary and proper and whether the District can stand its cost. If the County rejects the protest, the petitioners shall have exhausted their administrative remedies. Within 30 days after the [county's] COUNTY'S decision, the petitioners may file suit in the Circuit Court for Washington County against the County, the District, or the Commission, or all of them, for any other remedies available to the petitioners at law or in equity. The petitioners have standing to file such a suit notwithstanding the absence of any allegation of special damage.

(e) Circuit Court. The Court may hear the suit de novo, or, in its discretion, without additional testimony and upon the written record made before the Commission and the County, which shall be certified to the Court upon its order. The filing of any petition, appeal, or suit authorized by this section shall stay any further action by the District on the project until there is a final determination of any such proceeding. (1957 Code, sec. 535, 1951, ch. 694, sec. 881; 1961, ch. 743, sec. 533; 1970 ed. sec. 28-6; 1984, ch. 289; 1987, ch. 679)

Subtitle 5. Fiscal, [Tax] TAX, and Procurement Issues

6-501. General obligation bonds; issue, form, guarantee.

(a) Authorization; issue.

(1) For the purpose of paying the cost of a project or projects in 1 or more subdistricts, the District may borrow money. It may evidence that borrowing by the issuance of its bonds, which shall be unconditionally guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by the County, in the manner set forth in this section. The District may not issue these bonds if, by their issuance, the total unpaid bonded indebtedness of the District, less the amount of any sinking funds or reserves for payment of bonds previously issued, exceeds 25 percent of the total assessed valuation of all of the property in the District that is subject to county taxation during the [county's] COUNTY'S most recent fiscal year.