Summary: Carroll County, Maryland; General Obligation Nov 08

Description: Abstract
Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised its rating on Carroll County, Md.'s general obligation (GO) bonds one notch to 'AA+' from 'AA' based on the county's maintenance of good financial reserves and property tax base growth that has led to strong per capita market values. The outlook is stable. Standard & Poor's also assigned its 'AA+' rating, and stable outlook, to the county's series 2008 consolidated public improvement and GO refunding bonds. In our opinion, other rating characteristics include the county's: Locally limited economic base that participates as an outer suburb in the diverse Baltimore metropolitan statistical area (MSA); Above-average wealth and income indicators, coupled with historically low unemployment; Strong financial position despite fluctuations in overall reserves over the past...

Companies mentioned in this report are:
- Carroll Cnty

Action: New Rating
Action: Outlook: Stable
Action: Upgraded

Standard and Poors RatingsXpress Credit Research provides in-depth coverage of international corporates, financial institutions, insurance companies, utilities, sovereigns and structured finance programs. RatingsXpress Credit Research lets users determine the credit rating of holdings and identify key factors underlying an issuer's creditworthiness, distinguishes the different risk exposures for new and existing deals, and provides an understanding of how their analysts interpret key regulatory, political and environmental events and their economic impact.

This product consists of a Summary Analysis: Bi-annual (at least). An abbreviated analysis containing Standard & Poor's issuer credit ratings as of the time the article was published. The analysis includes a rating rationale - the basis on which the rating was assigned - and an outlook section if the issuer is not on CreditWatch. Financial statistics are not included.

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