

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley and the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission Host First Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium

Governor O'Malley announces Maryland will host the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit

COLUMBIA, MD. (December 3, 2008) – More than 250 individuals today attended the **First Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium**, jointly hosted by Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission). This event was the first of what will become an annual event. During the opening remarks, Governor O'Malley announced that Maryland has been selected to host the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit, which will come to Baltimore September 21 through 23. The World Stem Cell Summit brings together nearly 1,500 stem cell stakeholders from across the nation and the globe to discuss critical issues in stem cell research and discuss the future of regenerative medicine.

The symposium, held in the Kossiakoff Center at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, featured presentations from Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund awardees and poster presentations from over 60 Maryland-supported stem cell scientists.

“The First Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium and the announcement of Maryland as host of the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit mark two very important milestones in Maryland’s emergence as a national leader in life sciences,” said Governor O'Malley. “Today’s events will allow Maryland to continue to lead in life saving technologies and in this growing industry. I commend the Commission and TEDCO for organizing this opportunity for Maryland’s stem cell research program to shine and look forward to working with the sponsors of the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit.”

“Today’s First Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium is a remarkable event for our state and our scientific community,” said Karen Rothenberg, chair of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission. “The Commission is proud to present Maryland’s stem cell research in a public forum and we are extremely pleased with the level of enthusiasm as demonstrated by these researchers. Knowing the great strides they have made over the course of only two years of funding, we look forward to continued advancements generated from our state’s investment in the future.”

“Maryland is the obvious choice for the 2009 Summit. Under Governor Martin O'Malley's visionary leadership, the State has appropriated \$56 million towards stem cell research projects and pledged ongoing support,” said Bernard Siegel, executive director of the Genetics Policy Institute. “It is a nexus of top-ranked research institutions, biotechnology companies and venture capital. Johns Hopkins University and the University System of Maryland are major stem cell academic centers and we are honored to partner with them in this global event.”

The symposium also featured remarks from Maryland House of Delegates Speaker Michael Busch and keynote addresses from Johns Hopkins University bioethics expert Jeremy Sugarman, M.D., and scientific speaker Rudolf Jaenisch, M.D. of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Sugarman’s remarks focused on key ethical challenges facing stem cell

research such as the use of embryonic stem cells, the use of chimeras, and collaboration across state and international borders. He also provided analysis of the current professional guidelines that have been issued by the National Academies of Science as well as the International Society for Stem Cell Research. Dr. Jaenisch spoke about stem cells, pluripotency and nuclear reprogramming; the mechanism of resetting the epigenetic modifications that are characteristics of the adult donor nucleus to ones that are appropriate for an embryonic cell. The Commission ceremoniously recognized both Dr. Sugarman and Dr. Jaenisch for their major scientific contributions to stem cell research. Specifically, Dr. Sugarman was honored for his contributions to stem cell bioethics research, while Dr. Jaenisch was recognized for general advancements in stem cell research.

“Baltimore is honored to host this prestigious group of medical researchers and scientists for the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit,” says Tom Noonan, president and CEO of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association. “Having Hopkins and the University System of Maryland in our own backyard, Baltimore has built-in resources and a knowledge base that are attractive for medical meetings and that’s why more of these groups are coming here.”

Governor O’Malley has committed to at least \$200 million in stem cell research investments over a ten year period, and included stem cell research as a priority in the Bio2020 Initiative announced last summer. Maryland is home to one of the three largest stem cell funds in the entire United States, and unlike many others, the money goes directly to research labs, helping these institutions propel the potential for life saving solutions. FY09 funding for the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund is \$18 million.

Specific presenters and topics discussed at the First Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium can be found at <http://www.msrf.org/content/events/annual.cfm>.

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- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Launches Greenprint, Proposes Historic Land Conservation Acreage

Governor announces Rural Legacy Grants and proposes over 9,200 acres of conserved landscape

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 3, 2008) — Governor Martin O'Malley today launched **GreenPrint**, Maryland's new, interactive mapping tool designed to help the State, local governments, conservation organizations, and individual citizens guide land conservation and growth. First conceived under the Governor's **BayStat Initiative**, GreenPrint is an innovative, first of its kind planning tool, and centerpiece of **Maryland: Smart, Green & Growing**, a multi-agency, statewide initiative to create a more sustainable future for Marylanders by linking community revitalization, transportation improvements, economic development, smart growth and natural resources restoration.

"We live in times of great possibility and progress," said Governor O'Malley. "Using the latest technology and harnessing the achievable hope of our great State's potential for a more sustainable, healthy environment and economy, we've designed GreenPrint to help escalate smart growth and maximize our resources."

"GreenPrint will revolutionize the way we make our land use decisions by allowing us to work together as One Maryland, using our resources more efficiently and assessing our landscape on parcel, block, neighborhood, watershed and ecosystem levels," continued the Governor. "Accessible by every citizen, GreenPrint will help Marylanders take control of planning their communities' and our State's future."

GreenPrint combines cutting edge technology with proven effective management principles Governor O'Malley implemented via **StateStat** and **BayStat** to achieve progress by setting goals and measuring success in addressing Maryland's challenges – in this case, the challenges presented by the tremendous population growth projected for our State in the years ahead. Towson University's Center for Geographic Information Sciences played a pivotal role in developing GreenPrint with the State.

"GreenPrint is a strong, science-based tool for identifying the most important places to conserve in Maryland. This tool ensures that state resources are wisely spent on our most important natural areas," said Nat Williams, Director of The Nature Conservancy of Maryland/DC.

More than 150 conservation leaders and elected officials, including House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, joined Governor O'Malley for today's historic announcements that included a proposal to acquire 9,242 acres of some of the most ecologically and historically significant forest, farm and shorelines in the State through **Program Open Space**, as well as the 2009 **Rural Legacy** grants. Together, more than eighty percent of these lands lie within a high priority conservation or targeted ecological focus areas and exemplify the benefit of GreenPrint. If approved by the Board of Public Works, these proposed acquisitions, will more than double the O'Malley-Brown Administration's land conservation progress.

"Nothing less than a concerted conservation effort is needed to preserve valued state lands and ensure a healthier, more

sustainable environment that benefits our communities,” stated Congressman Steny Hoyer. “Maryland has long been a leader in these efforts and today’s announcements mark important steps toward ensuring that future generations may experience and cherish the wonderful landscapes with which we have been blessed. I particularly want to commend Governor O’Malley, Secretary Griffin, and the Conservation Fund, for their efforts to conserve nearly 3,500 acres of environmentally sensitive and historic lands along the Potomac River in Charles and St. Mary’s Counties and look forward to partnering on these and other efforts in the future.”

Under Governor Martin O’Malley’s leadership, the State Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources hope to preserve the largest privately-owned forest parcel in the state. Located in the Nassawango Creek and Pocomoke River watersheds, the 4,769-acre Foster property borders the state’s certified sustainably-managed Pocomoke and Chesapeake State Forests, and received one of the highest ecological rankings to date under the Governor’s new Program Open Space targeting system.

“The Foster property is just such a priority, and its protection by the State, together with The Nature Conservancy’s holdings at our Nassawango Creek Preserve, will create an expansive natural gem that future generations of Marylanders will be able to enjoy for years to come,” added Williams.

The second acquisition, brokered by The Conservation Fund, would permanently protect 4,473+ acres known as the Maryland Province properties in St. Mary’s, Charles, and Cecil Counties. With 19+ miles of Potomac River waterfront and a majority of the land in continuous ownership since the early 1600s, the opportunity to safeguard wildlife habitat, forestland and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay on these ecologically and culturally significant properties may never arise again. Captain John Smith, as well as Native American communities and early Catholic leaders, traveled or lived on these lands and waters. Conservation of the Province properties would increase public access to the Chesapeake Bay as well as offer unique historical and environmental education opportunities as three of the parcels will serve as integral parts of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

“The Conservation Fund is pleased to assist the State with the purchase of more than 4,000 acres of irreplaceable land -- land rich in history that becomes a legacy for Maryland’s citizens,” said Bill Crouch, Maryland representative of The Conservation Fund. “This project illustrates the value of GreenPrint and the wisdom of protecting historically and ecologically significant land for Marylanders to experience and enjoy. We commend the Governor’s commitment to protecting our heritage, even in times when budgets are tight. He knows that opportunities like this one come along only once in forever.”

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin, who chairs the Rural Legacy Advisory Board, announced that 20 counties will receive a combined total of \$13,460,700 in Rural Legacy grants to help preserve agricultural, forestry, natural and cultural resources. (See chart linked below). Under Gov. O’Malley’s **BayStat Initiative**, land conservation investments are targeted to protect the most ecologically valuable properties that most directly impact Chesapeake Bay and local waterway health.

“These Rural Legacy grants help local governments and land trusts preserve Maryland’s scenic working landscapes, support sustainable, natural-resourced based local businesses, protect greenways, and maintain the fabric of rural life,” said Secretary Griffin.

Enacted by the General Assembly in 1997, **Maryland’s Rural Legacy Program** has provided more than \$174.6 million to protect 60,882 acres of valuable farmland, forests, and natural areas. The 11-member Rural Legacy Advisory Committee and the Rural Legacy Board, which is comprised of Maryland’s Agriculture, Natural Resources and Planning Secretaries, reviews competitive grant applications annually.

Since taking office in January 2007, the O’Malley-Brown Administration has made steady progress to restore the health of the Bay including the creation of BayStat, an innovative tracking and targeting tool, creation of the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund, passage landmark Clean Cars legislation, stringent power plant emission controls regulations, passage of new stormwater legislation, full funding of Program Open Space, update of the State’s Critical Areas Laws, creation of the Maryland Climate Change Commission; restoration of the Office of Smart Growth; and a leadership role in the creation of the first auction of greenhouse gas emission credits in America.

To access GreenPrint, visit www.greenprint.maryland.gov. Visit <http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/greenprint/> for a fact sheet on the proposed Program Open Space acquisitions; resolution photos, maps, and aerial b-roll footage of the Province properties; and a county by county list of the FY 2009 Rural Legacy grants. Right click on the links and select "save as".

[[Read Governor's Remarks](#)]

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- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on NGA Meeting with President-Elect Barack Obama

PHILADELPHIA, PA (December 2, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement today following the Governors-only meeting with President-Elect Barack Obama and Vice President-Elect Joe Biden at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Governor O'Malley joined with governors from across the nation and called for a better partnership between states and the Federal government to address the economy, healthcare, public safety and education.

“Working together with the Obama-Biden Administration and our federal partners, it is my hope that we can ease the impact that the national economy is having on state services, such as Medicaid and special education, improve public safety in our communities, and rebuild our infrastructure.

“I applaud President-Elect Obama and Vice President-Elect Biden for gathering the nation’s Governors so soon in the transition process, illustrating their support for an ongoing dialogue with the states during this time of national uncertainty. Our nation and our states face significant challenges with regard to an ailing national economy and foreclosure crisis, but just as our challenges are great, so too are the opportunities that can come from a renewed, more effective partnership between the states and our Federal government.

“Many states have seen their budgets crippled by the downturn in the national economy, forcing them to cut critical programs and services at a time when our middle class and working families need them the most.

“It is also my hope that a second stimulus package designed to invest in our nation's infrastructure and a sustainable green economy can help us create jobs in America and will ensure a legacy of strong roads, bridges, tunnels and mass transit that we leave to our children.

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- [Video Clips](#)
- [Audio Segments](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Announces New Executive Director of Governors' Office for Children

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 4, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed Rosemary King Johnston, longtime teacher and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) professional, as the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children. Johnston comes to the Governor's Office for Children after serving as Program Manager and Regional Administrator at MSDE and over twenty years serving as a classroom teacher.

"I'm pleased that such an experienced education professional will be leading the Governor's Office for Children," said Governor O'Malley. "Rosemary brings a unique set of skills and talents to this position. Her experience lends itself perfectly to the responsibilities of this office, and I look forward to the initiatives ahead under her direction."

Johnston has served as Program Manager of the Divisional and State Interagency Support Branch at MSDE since 2000, and before that, as Regional Administrator for the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services. Prior to her employment with MSDE, she served as a Special Education teacher for nearly thirty years.

"I am honored to join the Governor's Office for Children and be a part of the numerous interagency initiatives for children and families," said Rosemary King Johnston. "Since 1968, my personal and professional efforts have been focused on children and their families. I look forward to serving in an administration that fosters collaborative efforts to improve outcomes, opportunities, and the well-being of Maryland's children and their families."

As Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children, Johnston will be responsible for carrying out the office's mission, which is to improve the well-being of Maryland's children. The Governor's Office for Children coordinates child and family-oriented care within the State's Child-Serving Agencies by emphasizing prevention, early intervention and community-based services for all children and families. The office leads the development of a three-year plan establishing goals and strategies for delivery of integrated services to children and families, and works to promote the well-being of children by collaborating with Local Management Boards, expanding the State Children Youth and Families Information System, and developing and implementing Integrated Systems of Care.

Gregory D. Shupe, Chief of Programs and Policy in the Governor's Office for Children, has been serving as Interim Executive Director since July 29, 2008. With the appointment of Ms. Johnston he will continue in his role as Chief of Programs & Policy.

More information on the Governor's Office of Children can be found at <http://www.ocyf.state.md.us/>.

[Additional Press Releases](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Appoints Donald Fry as Chair of Facility Location Commission

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 4, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Donald C. Fry as the Chair of the Video Lottery Facility Location Commission, a seven member Commission charged with the selection of the facilities and awarding of operators' licenses through competitive bidding for the five video lottery locations throughout the State. Mr. Fry is the President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, central Maryland region's most prominent organization of business and civic leaders.

"I am proud to announce Mr. Fry as the Chair of the Facility Location Commission," said Governor O'Malley. "Mr. Fry's civic and business leadership throughout the State of Maryland will serve as a great asset to the Commission."

"I am honored to have been asked by Governor O'Malley to serve as Chair on this very important commission," Mr. Fry said. "It is critical that this process be conducted fairly and with the upmost integrity for the benefit of the citizens of the State of Maryland."

Mr. Fry currently serves as president and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee and has been chief executive officer since November 1, 2002. Under Mr. Fry's leadership, the GBC has emerged as a lead organization in supporting development of two bioscience parks, and has led the way in investing in the region's emerging bioscience industry. Mr. Fry was also instrumental in ensuring that regional transportation plans are funded, particularly the planning of the expansion Red Line and the Green Line.

Prior to his appointment as president and CEO, Mr. Fry served as the GBC's executive vice president and general counsel with full responsibility for managing the day-to-day operations. He also oversaw the GBC's economic development and community revitalization efforts on Baltimore's west and east sides and the organization's public safety initiatives including strategies to reduce crime and increase drug treatment availability.

From 1980 to 1999 Fry was engaged in a private law practice in Harford County. During this time he also served in the Maryland General Assembly. He served as a member of the Senate of Maryland, representing Harford and Cecil County, from 1997 to 1998 as a member of the Budget and Taxation Committee and its subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation, Economic Development and Natural Resources. His tenure in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1991 to 1997 included service on the House Ways and Means Committee, Appropriations Committee, chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Transportation and the Environment, and membership on the Capital Budget Subcommittee. He is one of only a handful of legislators, past and present, to have served on each of the major budget committees of the Maryland General Assembly.

From 1988 to 1991, Fry chaired the Transit Advisory Panel, a 28-member group of elected officials, community leaders and transit riders that developed long and short-term recommendations for the future of transit in Maryland for the Maryland Department of Transportation. In 2002 and 2003, he served as Chair of the Vision 2030 Oversight Committee, a body of individuals representing citizens, businesses and special interest groups, creating vision statements and strategies for the central Maryland region.

He currently serves on the boards of Harford Mutual Insurance Companies, St. Joseph's Medical Center, Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association (BACVA), University of Maryland Shock Trauma Board of Trustees, Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, CollegeBound and the Capitol College Board of Business Advisors.

Mr. Fry is a 1979 graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law. He earned a B.S. in political science from Frostburg State College. He lives in Harford County with his wife Bonnie and son Matthew.

The Location Commission will have seven members, three to be appointed by the Governor, two by the President of the Senate and two by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The five operator licenses will be awarded by the Commission through sealed competitive bidding. The Location Commission will also be responsible for the selection of the facilities and will work closely with the members of the Maryland Lottery Commission, who will be responsible for the licensing of the facilities, manufacturers and vendors doing business with the facilities.

The Location Commission will evaluate the following factors:

- The highest potential benefit and highest prospective total revenues;
- The extent to which the proposed location encourages Maryland gaming participants to remain in the state;
- The extent to which the proposed location demonstrates that the facility will be a substantial regional and national tourist destination;
- The proposed facility capital construction plans and competitiveness of the proposed facility;
- The amount of gross revenue to be allocated to the operator over the term of the license;
- The percentage ownership by minorities;
- The extent to which the proposed location will preserve existing Maryland jobs and the number of new jobs to be created;
- The contents of the bidder's plan to achieve minority business participation goals;
- Any additional economic development planned in the area of the proposed facility;
- The existing transportation infrastructure surrounding the proposed facility;
- The negative impact, if any, of a proposed facility location on the surrounding residential community; and
- The need for additional public infrastructure expenditures at the proposed facility.

Governor O'Malley is expected to make the other two appointments for the Facility Location Commission and the appointments to the Lottery Commission in the upcoming days.

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- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley and Port of Baltimore Sign 10-Year Contract with International Paper Company

Contract with UPM Will Keep Current Business and Jobs at the Port

BALTIMORE, MD (December 4, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today, joined by Maryland Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari, Maryland Port Administration (MPA) Executive Director James J. White, and top officials with Finland-based paper manufacturer UPM to sign a new, 10-year contract that guarantees the shipment of UPM paper products through the Port of Baltimore for the next decade.

“Long-term contracts with global companies like UPM are the key in helping to support the thousands of good-paying, family-supporting jobs at the Port of Baltimore,” said Governor O'Malley. “Having an internationally-renowned paper manufacturer of UPM's stature to continue to call the Port of Baltimore for 10 more years means 10 more years of guaranteed jobs for the Port's dedicated workforce.”

The 10-year contract began October 1, 2008. It marks the first time ever that the Port of Baltimore has signed a forest products customer to a 10-year contract. As part of the agreement, UPM is required to ship a minimum of 3.2 million tons of cargo through the Port of Baltimore over the lifetime of the deal. The new UPM contract will result in 120 direct jobs; \$26 million in wages and salaries; and \$2.7 million in State and local taxes.

"We are pleased to continue bringing UPM products through the number one U.S. port for imported forest products,---the Port of Baltimore," said Angelo LaMantia, UPM's Director of North America Supply Chain. "Baltimore's inland location, outstanding distribution network, and good labor force make it a winning location for UPM cargo!"

UPM is a global forest products group with core businesses in printing papers, specialty papers, label materials and wood products. In its main product areas, UPM is a leading manufacturer in all key markets. Newsprint, magazine paper, telephone books, and high-gloss publications are just some examples of goods produced using UPM products. UPM has production facilities in 15 countries and employs about 26,000 people worldwide. The group's key mills are located in Finland, Germany, France, England, Austria, the United States, and China.

“It is tremendous news to have a company as well-respected globally as UPM agree to continue shipping their products through the Port of Baltimore,” said MPA Executive Director James J. White. “I want to thank the management of UPM, including Mr. Sarvikas, Mr. Holsa, and Mr. LaMantia for believing in the Port of Baltimore. We look forward to another decade of successful business together!”

Through the first nine months (January-September) of 2008, imported forest products through the Port of Baltimore's public marine terminals increased five percent over the same time period in 2007. Total general cargo (forest products, containers, cars, roll on/roll off equipment, and steel) through the public terminals was up six percent from its record-breaking previous year.

The announcement of the UPM contract continues a strong year for the Port of Baltimore. Other highlights include:

- Carnival Cruise Lines and Celebrity Cruises joining Royal Caribbean International and Norwegian Cruise Line in providing cruises in 2009 from Baltimore. Carnival will begin the Port of Baltimore's first-ever year-round cruising program in April. The Port of Baltimore will have 79 cruises in 2009, a substantial increase from 27 in 2008.
- A new roll on/roll off (farm and construction equipment) export service to West Africa and Europe.
- A new 10-year contract with container shipping giant Evergreen Marine.
- A groundbreaking for the Masonville Cove environmental education center. The center is part of an environmental restoration project that is transforming one of Baltimore Harbor's most contaminated sites into an area that will benefit wildlife, local residents and the port industry.

The Port of Baltimore provides employment for about 16,500 workers. Out of about 360 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked number one for handling imported forest products, roll on/roll off cargo, trucks, exported autos, and imported gypsum, sugar and iron ore. The Port of Baltimore is ranked 13th nationally for total foreign cargo tonnage and 12th for total dollar value of cargo. In 2006, the Port was responsible for \$3.6 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generated \$388 million in state and local taxes.

As a result of its outstanding work to increase U.S. exports, the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), which oversees the public terminals at the Port of Baltimore, was honored in 2007 with the Presidential "E" award. The award was created in 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations that contribute significantly to increase U.S. exports. The MPA was awarded this special distinction for its increased export business over the last several years. The MPA, which also won the "E" award in 1964, is only the 23rd port organization out of 360 total ports in the U.S. to win the highly acclaimed recognition. It is only the fourth port to win the award twice.

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- [Audio Segments](#)



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- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley, County Executive Ulman Work Together to Maintain Commuter Bus Service from Howard County

Decision to Scale Back Rather Than Eliminate Service Will Benefit Commuters

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 5, 2008) - Governor Martin O'Malley and Howard County Executive Ken Ulman today announced an agreement to preserve partial MTA commuter bus service operating between Howard County and downtown Baltimore.

"Working together with County Executive Ulman and the citizens of Howard County, we have been able to reach an agreement that not only ensures a regular transit option between Howard County and Baltimore city, but also addresses budget concerns," said Governor O'Malley. "Based on the extreme hardship such a step would have on citizens, as well as the lack of viable transportation alternatives, MTA will maintain a reduced commuter bus schedule on these routes."

Complete elimination of three commuter bus lines from the county had been proposed by MTA as part of an overall budget reduction plan due to declining revenues resulting from the recent national economic downturn. A key reason for the restoration of partial service is that the MTA proposal would have left Howard County commuters without a regular service transit option to Baltimore.

As of January 12, 2009, the MTA 310/311 lines operating between Columbia and Baltimore will offer 6 northbound and 6 southbound trips each day. That is down from the 8 northbound and 9 southbound trips offered today. The MTA 320 line operating between Laurel and Baltimore will offer 3 northbound and 3 southbound trips each day. That is down from five northbound and 6 southbound trips offered today. This reduction in service will result in an annual savings of \$634,000. Under the terms of the agreement, Howard County agrees to contribute \$200,000, representing approximately 25 percent of the partial restoration cost, and will re-evaluate this arrangement after a year.

To help reduce overcrowding on these lines and continue to offer some additional transit options, Governor O'Malley has directed the MTA to extend its 150 Express bus service between Baltimore and Ellicott City to Columbia Town Center, using existing resources. The 150 line provides six northbound and six southbound trips each weekday.

"I am pleased that we are able to partner with the state to restore a significant portion of these bus lines for Howard County residents," said County Executive Ulman. "We are well aware of the tough fiscal decisions being made at both the state and local level and we appreciate the Governor's staff working with us to restore some of these routes. Today Governor O'Malley has practiced what he preaches, 'Compromise is not a dirty word.'"

The reduced level of service, while not as convenient for customers as the current schedule will preserve the important transit connection between rapidly growing Howard County and downtown Baltimore, including the John's Hopkins Medical complex that has the highest concentration of employment in Baltimore City. This restructured commuter bus

service is projected to carry roughly 1,900 riders each week.

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- [Video Clips](#)
- [Audio Segments](#)



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- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Establishes Maryland Council for New Americans

Executive Order Establishes Council to Promote Full Immigrant Integration into Economic and Civic Life of Maryland;

Montgomery County Executive to Chair Statewide Council

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 5, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today signed an Executive Order that establishes the Maryland Council for New Americans. Executive Order 01.01.2008.18 rescinds Executive Order 01.01.1996.18, signed in 1996 by then Governor Parris Glendening, and creates a new Council for New Americans to promote full immigrant integration into the economic and civic life of Maryland. Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Secretary Tom Perez were named as Co-Chairs to the statewide Council.

“Maryland faces chronic labor shortages in a number of critical industries and immigrants living and working in Maryland are a vital component of Maryland’s economic engine, Maryland’s tax base, and Maryland’s social and cultural fabric,” said Governor O'Malley. “Immigrants’ access to mainstream financial services helps ensure the economic health of our state and promotes the full-fledged participation of immigrants in community life. Creating a proactive policy for New Americans in Maryland within a fair and legal framework will ensure that workers get the protection they deserve, while increasing Maryland’s economic competitiveness.”

“The Federal Government has failed to enact meaningful, comprehensive immigration reform and has placed significant pressure upon state and local governments,” added Governor O'Malley. “This Executive Order is a proactive step in ensuring that New Americans in Maryland have a meaningful opportunity to succeed.”

“Maryland is a richly diverse state and Maryland’s immigrants have contributed mightily to our success and will continue to do so,” said Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett. “This effort will lend a helping hand to integrate immigrants into the fabric of the Maryland of the 21st century.”

“Maryland has one of the nation’s most highly educated immigrant populations, but too often barriers keep them from contributing everything they can to our social and economic fabric. All too often foreign trained doctors and engineers are underemployed, not realizing the best use of their talents,” Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Secretary Tom Perez said. “Maryland’s immigrant community has a wealth of skills and knowledge that, when tapped, can help us diminish workforce shortages in health care fields and other areas. With this executive order, Governor O'Malley is recognizing the importance of helping immigrants realize their full potential in our country, and the critical contributions they can make to our state.”

The Council for new Americans will consist of a partnership between public, private and civic sectors in Maryland and is charged with:

- Reviewing and recommending new policies and practices to expedite immigrant integration into the economic and civic life of the State;

- Providing a Maryland Council for New Americans Report and Recommendations no later than nine months after the date of this Order; and
- Performing any other duties that may be requested by the Governor.

The Council will also establish four working groups to make recommendations to the Council to address specific challenges facing immigrants. The working groups include:

- **The Workforce Working Group**, which will focus on helping to address the State's workforce shortage by examining credential transfer, training, and the attraction of key workers to create the region's most competitive workforce; examining the role of "One Stop" employment centers in streamlining the economic integration of new Americans; and identifying best practices that expedite English as a Second Language, both for children in the public school system and for working adults.
- **The Citizenship Working Group**, which will plan a broad, coordinated citizenship promotion and assistance program to naturalize Maryland's legal permanent residents at a faster pace.
- **The Governmental Access Working Group**, which will focus on how to improve accessibility of State and local government services to new Americans. This will include an assessment of resources necessary for compliance with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements; an assessment of the availability of vital documents in other languages; and identifying best practices at the county, community and municipal levels. This group is also charged with developing specific government-wide StateStat measures to track capacity to serve these communities; and
- **The Financial Services Working Group**, which will examine strategies for increasing immigrants' access to mainstream financial services, stable homeownership, and family financial planning.

The Executive Order also renamed the Maryland Office for New Americans to the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees, and will remain an office under the Department of Human Resources. The purpose of the office is to administer Maryland's federally-funded Refugee Resettlement Program.

Eighteen percent of Federal, State and local taxes paid by Marylanders come from immigrant households. Forty-three percent of immigrants working in Maryland have a college degree or higher, and one in five doctors and one in four scientists in Maryland are immigrants.

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- [Audio Segments](#)



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- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Declares Ellicott City Maryland's 'Capital for a Day'

ELLICOTT CITY, MD (December 5, 2008) – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley, Lieutenant Governor Brown, and Maryland's Executive Cabinet spent the day in Ellicott City, declaring it Maryland's "Capital for a Day." The monthly program brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities.

The Governor began the day with an official Cabinet meeting at the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department, where local leaders, including Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, Howard County Delegation Chair Guy Guzzone, and County Councilwoman Courtney Watson, who represents the Ellicott City area, discussed with the group the challenges and opportunities facing Ellicott City and surrounding areas.

Throughout the day, Governor O'Malley met with local elected, community, business, and faith leaders during this eighth in a series of "Capital for a Day" declarations across the State this year. The Governor's activities, as well as those of his Executive Cabinet, focused on the ongoing local, county, and state partnerships necessary to achieve real and steady progress for the people of Howard County.

"I am proud to officially proclaim Ellicott City Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,'" said Governor O'Malley, making his announcement outside the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire House on Montgomery Road, joined by members of the Howard County Delegation of the Maryland General Assembly and other elected and community leaders. "Since the cornerstone of our progress is an ability to work beyond the confines of the State House with local partners throughout our One Maryland, we're proud to bring the State Capital to the people of Maryland where they live and work. Strengthening our local partnerships where they already exist, and establishing those partnerships where they have lapsed, is absolutely critical to the progress of areas like Ellicott City."

"I'm proud of the strong partnership that Governor O'Malley and I have with County Executive Ulman and the people of Howard County and I'm excited to be in Ellicott City for 'Capital for a Day,'" Lt. Governor Brown said. "Howard County continues to show leadership in Maryland and the nation by standing up for affordable and accessible health coverage and quality schools for everyone. We look forward to working with Ken Ulman to build on the progress in Howard County and throughout Maryland."

Even in difficult economic times, development and progress continues in many parts of Howard County, built on the foundation of a strong partnership with the State. Howard County has received over \$41 million in school construction funding over the past two years, in addition to investments in Howard Community College, the Perkins Hospital Center, and the Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City. In addition to progress in education and infrastructure, the O'Malley-Brown Administration's land conservation efforts have resulted in the acquisition of 12.9 acres located adjacent to the historic Ellicott City Colored School on Frederick Road using funds from the State's Program Open Space.

"It's always great to have the Governor in Howard County, and he couldn't have chosen a better location for 'Capital for a Day' than Ellicott City," said Howard County Executive Ken Ulman. "I am especially pleased that the O'Malley-Brown

Administration has made their entire Cabinet available to their County counterparts today. This type of partnership is vital to bringing progress to all the citizens we serve.”

As part of the “Capital for a Day” declaration, Governor O’Malley toured by hybrid bus the proposed redevelopment of Columbia, a project that local officials say will build on the history of Columbia with a 21st century vision of recreation, arts and culture, and smart growth. County Executive Ulman lead the tour of the planned development sites, which concluded at Merriweather Post Pavilion.

The Governor later shared lunch with community leaders, local non-profit officials, and members of the faith community to discuss the need for community service programs during these difficult economic times, particularly as we approach the holidays. Presentations included information on local programs for seniors, working families, children, and communities. Governor O’Malley encouraged attendees to utilize the State’s new service-oriented webpage – www.problemsolver.maryland.gov – which provides access to state and federal resources during these challenging economic times.

Marylanders can go to www.problemsolver.maryland.gov to find information on a range of services from heating and energy assistance, to employment assistance – including job training and unemployment services – to services for seniors and those living with disabilities. The webpage also provides a link to an assistance eligibility calculator, which helps Marylanders determine what services they may qualify for, such as food stamps, the Temporary Cash Assistance program, Medical Assistance, the Maryland Energy Assistance Program, and the Electric Universal Service Program, among others.

In an ongoing effort to engage local jurisdictions and their State counterparts to improve public safety everywhere in Maryland, Governor O’Malley toured the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center, where Howard County Police cadets demonstrated the emergency vehicle simulator, used by public safety officials to simulate a number of driving scenarios for training purposes. Later, Governor O’Malley met with state and local public safety officials to discuss the area’s progress in reducing crime. Howard County has experienced a 50 percent reduction in murders, a 21 percent reduction in rapes and a 3 percent reduction in motor vehicle thefts during the first half of 2008.

Governor O’Malley concluded the day with a kick-off to the holiday season on Main Street, Ellicott City. Outside the B&O Railroad Museum, Governor O’Malley led the crowd in counting down to the lighting of a Christmas tree, locally grown and donated by the Tridelphia Lake View Tree Farm in western Howard County. At the celebration, the Governor encouraged Marylanders to buy local this holiday season, including trees, food, and holiday gifts for friends and family.

The tree lighting served as the official kickoff for “Midnight Madness,” an annual event when Main Street shops will remain open until midnight to encourage people to shop. This tradition has been a mainstay in Ellicott City for over 30 years.

“Capital for a Day,” a program launched by Governor O’Malley in 2007, brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of monthly events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities. Previous 2008 Capitals include Hagerstown, Chestertown, Leonardtown, the Port Towns of Prince George’s County, Cumberland, Pocomoke City, and Gaithersburg.

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on President-Elect Obama's Radio Address on the Economy and Need to Invest in America's Infrastructure and Schools

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 6, 2008) -- Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement in response to President-Elect Obama's radio address on the economy and the need to invest in America's infrastructure and schools.

"This week, we were reminded yet again of the challenges our national economy is facing and that we are not immune from those challenges here in Maryland.

Over the last two years we have worked hard in Maryland to reduce spending, but also protect our priorities – like public education, school construction, making college more affordable and transportation – but our states need a strong federal partner to help get our national economy moving again and to rebuild America's infrastructure.

In Maryland, like states throughout our country, we have identified millions of dollars in 'shovel-ready' infrastructure projects that can be started almost immediately once federal funding is approved. We understand and welcome President-Elect Obama's call for states to 'use or lose' these federal funds quickly or risk losing them. As President-Elect Obama understands, not only would an infusion of funds help keep people employed and create new jobs, it would allow us to deliver infrastructure improvements that will last beyond the immediate economic crisis and benefit generations to come."

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- [Video Clips](#)
- [Audio Segments](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Appoints Linda Read and Ella Pierce to Facility Location Commission

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 8, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointments of Linda Read of Cecil County, and Ella Pierce of Baltimore City to the Video Lottery Facility Location Commission. The Facility Location is a seven member Commission charged with the selection of the facilities and awarding of operators' licenses through competitive bidding for the five video lottery locations throughout the State. Last week, Governor O'Malley announced Donald C. Fry as the Chair of the Commission. The Senate President and House Speaker will also make two appointments each to the Commission.

"I am proud to appoint Ms. Read and Ms. Pierce to the Facility Location Commission," said Governor O'Malley. "Ms. Read's management and financial background and Ms. Pierce's procurement background will be instrumental in the selection of the lottery licensing locations. I am confident that both Ms. Read and Ms. Pierce will serve on the Commission with the utmost integrity with the interest of the citizens of Maryland in mind."

Ms. Read is Corporate Secretary and Treasurer for Paul Risk Associates, Inc., a commercial builder providing quality construction services for commercial, industrial and institutional clients in south central, southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Maryland. Ms. Read joined Paul Risk and Associates in 1985 and has worked her way up from payroll clerk to her current position as Corporate Secretary/Treasurer. Her other positions included accounting manager and financial administrator. In her current role, Ms. Read is responsible for the company's financial budgeting and reporting, human resources and information technology. Ms. Read also serves as liaison to bankers, lawyers, accountants, pension plan managers, insurance agents, customers and employees. She received an Executive Education Certificate in "Seniors Housing, Finance and Care" from Erickson School of Aging, Management and Policy. She is an active member of the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce and the Construction Financial Management Association. She is also active in a number of community service projects for the town of Port Deposit and Cecil County.

"It is an honor to be asked by Governor O'Malley to be a member of the Facility Location Commission, and I will certainly represent the citizens of Maryland and Cecil County with integrity, with fairness, and in a non-biased manner," said Ms. Read.

Ms. Pierce is retired and serves on the State Board of Public Accountancy. Prior to retirement, Ms. Pierce served as a Consultant to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program where she reviewed Requests for Proposals and prepared reports based on her evaluations to the Board of Public Works. Ms. Pierce also served as a procurement consultant to the District of Columbia Office of Contracting and Procurement, where she performed employee assessment evaluations. From 1987 to 1997, she served as a City Purchasing Agent for the City of Baltimore. In that role, she supervised over 180 employees throughout the City and was responsible for the procurement of \$120 million in commodities and services. She planned, coordinated and evaluated the purchase of commodities and services used on a daily basis. She also reviewed contracts, bonds, and a variety of purchasing documents and advised the Baltimore City Board of Estimates on procurement matters.

Ms. Pierce graduated from Frederick Douglas High School in Baltimore City and completed two years of college at

Howard University in Washington, DC. She is a Certified Public Purchasing Officer, a Certified Materials Manager and completed a number of Purchasing and Materials courses. She is a member of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, the Maryland Purchasing Association, the National Association of Purchasing Management, and the National Association of Purchasing Management for Maryland.

“I am very excited that the Governor has appointed me to the Commission and I look forward to some very interesting meetings and the completion of the Commission’s work,” said Ms. Pierce.

The Location Commission will evaluate the following factors:

- The highest potential benefit and highest prospective total revenues;
- The extent to which the proposed location encourages Maryland gaming participants to remain in the state;
- The extent to which the proposed location demonstrates that the facility will be a substantial regional and national tourist destination;
- The proposed facility capital construction plans and competitiveness of the proposed facility;
- The amount of gross revenue to be allocated to the operator over the term of the license;
- The percentage ownership by minorities;
- The extent to which the proposed location will preserve existing Maryland jobs and the number of new jobs to be created;
- The contents of the bidder’s plan to achieve minority business participation goals;
- Any additional economic development planned in the area of the proposed facility;
- The existing transportation infrastructure surrounding the proposed facility;
- The negative impact, if any, of a proposed facility location on the surrounding residential community; and
- The need for additional public infrastructure expenditures at the proposed facility.

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- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Appoints Four to Maryland Lottery Commission

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 8, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced four new appointments to the Maryland Lottery Commission. The Governor appointed Kimberly Robertson of Prince George's County, Howard Denis of Montgomery County, Ray Presley of Allegany County, and Vernon Boozer of Baltimore County to serve on the expanded lottery commission. Under Senate Bill 3 of the 2007 Special Session, and passed in November 2008, the Maryland Lottery Commission was expanded from five to nine members in part to oversee the operation of video lottery terminals in the State of Maryland.

"I am proud to appoint Ms. Robertson, former Senator Denis, Major Presley, and former Senator Boozer to the Maryland Lottery Commission," said Governor O'Malley. "Each appointee brings a wealth of expertise in various fields and represents the geographic, ethnic and gender diversity of our State. I am confident that together with the other members of the Lottery Commission, they will oversee the operations of video lottery terminals in the State of Maryland with the utmost integrity and with the best interest of the citizens of Maryland in mind."

This week, Governor O'Malley also appointed three members to the Facility Location Commission, including Chairman Donald C. Fry.

Kimberly Robertson is a Certified Public Accountant and a Partner at Raffa, an accounting and consulting firm. Ms. Robertson joined the firm in 1996 and assists in the administration of the firm's audit department, the training of the firm's personnel and the coordination of the firm's peer and quality control reviews, as well as oversees and directs many of the firm's audit, tax, technology and consulting engagements. Prior to joining Raffa, Ms. Robertson was a senior manager at a Washington, DC metropolitan area CPA firm that served primarily nonprofit organizations. In addition to audit, tax, and consulting engagements, Kim has made presentations to Finance and Executive Committees, Boards of Directors, and several nonprofit organizations. She has performed organizational assessments, facilitated strategic planning sessions, and has assisted clients in cost vs. benefit analyses. Kim has also overseen the installation and implementation of accounting software packages and databases, web sites and hardware and networking systems. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland and is currently the Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair of the Higher Achievement Program and the Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair and member of the Audit Committee for Fort Washington Medical Center. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Greater Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants (GWSCPA), ASAE, and the National Association of Black Accountants. She is a member of ASAE's Finance and Administration Section and GWSCPA's Not-for-Profit Committee. She is a resident of Prince George's County.

"I am excited about the opportunity and glad to be a part of the Commission," said Ms. Robertson. "I hope that my experience as a CPA and experience with financial management oversight and board governance will be beneficial to the Commission."

Mr. Denis was a State Senator representing Montgomery County from 1977 to 1995. He served as a member of the Montgomery County Council from 2000 to 2006, and is currently Senior Professional Staff on the Government Oversight

and Reform Committee. He served as congressional staff on the House Government Reform Committee and Counsel and staff director to U.S. Representative Tom Davis of Virginia. He served as Adjunct Associate Professor at University College from 1991 to 1994. Mr. Denis served as United States Election Observer for Nepal in 1991 and Ukraine in 1998. He is a graduate of Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, attended Georgetown College, and received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown Law School. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1966. He is married with one daughter.

"I am deeply honored to be appointed and look forward to assuming the responsibility for this Statewide appointment," said Mr. Denis. "I look forward to serving the people of the State of Maryland and am grateful to the Governor for this expression of confidence to serve in this role."

Ray Presley retired from the Maryland State Police in 1995 after 30 years of service and attaining the rank of Major. Mr. Presley has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland and is a graduate of the Northwestern Traffic Institute and the Senior Management Institute for Police. During his career in law enforcement, he served as a Barracks Commander, Commander of the Staff Inspection Unit, Narcotics Division Commander, Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division, and a Region Commander. He has authored various publications in the areas of management, leadership, supervision, and vehicle theft prevention strategies.

Major Presley served as Vice Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Vehicle Theft and Related Crimes from 1992 to 1994 and was the principal author of the Commission's report that recommended legislative action to curb the escalating vehicle theft rate in Maryland. He is currently the Executive Director of the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, which includes representatives of law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, automobile insurers, state government, and the general public. He was appointed to that position in 1994 by Governor William Donald Schaefer. He was reappointed by Governor Parris N. Glendening and continues to serve the Council under Governor Martin O'Malley.

"I am honored that the Governor has confidence in me to represent him on this very important matter – a matter that is especially important to Allegany County," said Mr. Presley. "I am very glad that I can use my past law enforcement experience to benefit the citizens of Allegany and the citizens of Maryland on this Commission."

Mr. Boozer is a former State Senator representing District 9 of Baltimore County. He served as a State Senator from 1981 to 1999 and has served on several committees including the Finance Committee, the Executive Nominations Committee, the Judicial Proceedings Committee, the Joint Budget and Audit Committee, and the Spending Affordability Committee, among others. From 1990 to 1996, he served as Minority Whip and was a member of the Legislative Policy Committee, the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review, and the Budget and Taxation Committee. From 1996 to 1999, he served as Minority Leader and was a member of the Special Study Commission on the Maryland Public Ethics Law from 1998 to 1999. He was a member of the House of Delegates from 1971 to 1979 representing District 4 in Baltimore County. He currently serves on the Executive Board for the Center for American Politics and Citizenship for the University of Maryland College Park and has been on the Board since 2003. Mr. Boozer received his Bachelor of Arts from Duke University in 1958 and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1964. He is married with four children and is a resident of Baltimore County.

"I look forward to working on the Commission at this very important and exciting time, and especially in light of the recent legislation enacted and signed by the Governor adding the responsibilities of dealing with slots in the State," said Mr. Boozer. "I hope that my experience as a member of the legislature for twenty seven years and my experience on the Budget and Tax Committee will serve the Commission well."

The Maryland State Lottery Commission serves as an advisory board to the State Lottery Agency. The Commission's nine members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with Senate advice and consent. The Governor also appoints a liaison member from the Maryland Racing Commission. In November 2008, the Commission assumed responsibility for regulating the operation of video lottery terminals in Maryland.

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Senators Mikulski, Cardin Encourage Low-Income Households to Apply for Energy Assistance

Program expected to serve over 102,000 households

BALTIMORE, MD (December 8, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined today by Senators Mikulski and Cardin, announced that Maryland's energy assistance program is expected to provide help to approximately 102,400 households this year thanks to a large boost in federal funding. The Governor encouraged low-income families to apply early for the available assistance. The state has received \$110 million of federal funding for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program, a significant increase from the \$35 million in federal funding for the last fiscal year.

"These are historically difficult times, and Maryland is not immune from the national economic downturn," said Governor O'Malley. "Maryland's working families are the cornerstone of our economy, but are also the most significantly impacted during an economic downturn. Maryland's energy assistance programs are designed to ensure that eligible families are not left in the cold simply due to an inability to afford their energy bills."

The Maryland Department of Human Resources administers the state energy assistance programs to help low-income Maryland citizens pay their heating bills, minimize heating crises and make energy costs more affordable. Today's announcement at the Waxter Senior Center in Baltimore was designed to highlight the need for historically underserved populations to apply for these funds, including Maryland's senior citizens.

"Families in Maryland and across the country need our help. They are feeling stretched and strained by high energy costs and a sluggish economy and they need a government that is on their side," said Senator Barbara A. Mikulski. "I am proud to have fought to make funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) a priority in the federal checkbook. I know how important these funds are – and I know that no family should have to choose between heating their home and feeding their family this winter. Now, because of these funds, more than 100,000 Maryland households will be eligible to receive help for their home energy costs."

"Many Maryland families will need help this winter to pay their energy bills and the federal government is providing Maryland with \$110 million in energy assistance funding," said Senator Benjamin L. Cardin. "Approximately 100,000 Maryland families qualify for this assistance and it's important that they understand that this money is there to help them through the cold winter months."

The state's energy assistance program has increasingly served more households in Maryland. A total of 89,108 households received assistance during fiscal year 2006, while 93,175 households were served in fiscal year 2008. The department will serve a projected 102,472 households during this fiscal year.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made steady progress in protecting the priorities of Maryland's working families. During the last 22 months, the Administration has passed sweeping legislation to protect homeowners from

foreclosure; established America's first Living Wage law, providing a decent wage for a full day's work; expanded access to healthcare for 100,000 more Marylanders and made healthcare more affordable for small businesses; reformed ground rent system, eliminating the creation of new ground rents; closed the Medicare donut-hole to provide seniors with prescription drug coverage; provided funding to improve transition services for our veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and increased veterans' scholarship fund.

A Maryland household of four earning up to \$37,100, or a single person earning up to \$18,200, is eligible to apply for the program. Households currently with energy service and those without service are each eligible to apply for the program. Applications are accepted from July through May. A turn-off notice is not necessary to apply for assistance.

Applications for energy assistance are available by visiting <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/meap>. Completed applications must be returned in person or by mail to the local county offices listed at <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/meap/local.htm>.

For an application to be complete, applicants must provide a photo identification, proof of residence, copies of social security cards for each member in the household, proof of total gross income for the last 30 days, the name of the home energy supplier and the account number, a copy of a utility bill and a copy of a rental lease if the property is rental.

For information on the Local Home Energy Programs Office, call 1-800-352-1446.

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- [Speeches](#)
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- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor Martin O'Malley Announces State Employee Furlough Plan

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 16, 2008) – Today, Governor O'Malley signed an Executive Order establishing a 2 to 5 day furlough and salary reduction plan for all State employees due to this deepening national recession. The plan will save the state over \$34 million in FY 2009 and is progressively structured based on each employee's salary. This afternoon the Board of Revenue Estimates is expected to announce hundreds of millions of dollars in further state revenue reductions for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

“In the midst of this deepening national recession, there are some difficult decisions before us that we wish we did not have to make. After collaborating with labor leaders over the last few weeks, this morning I have signed an Executive Order establishing a 2 to 5 day furlough and salary reduction plan for all State employees due to this deepening national recession that has us all tightening our belts at work and at home.” Governor O'Malley wrote to State employees in an email today. “Indeed, the best days in life aren't always the easiest days. I continue to believe that we will come out of this national recession stronger than ever thanks to the choices we've made together to protect our priorities and quality of life.”

Over the past 22 months, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has reduced spending by \$2.2 billion, eliminated over 1,500 state positions, and kept budget growth at less than four percent annually. The Executive Order signed today creates a plan that will save over \$34 million.

All employees subject to this Executive Order shall be required to forego the equivalent of at least two days of pay, and employees making more than \$40,000 will also be required to take 16 or 24 furlough hours on or after January 14, 2009 and before June 30, 2009. Employees earning salaries of less than \$40,000 will not be required to take furlough hours, although they will be included in the two days of pay equivalent salary reduction, which are pre-designated for December 26, 2008 and January 2, 2009.

To mitigate the impact of the required two days salary equivalent reduction on permanent employees, these salary reductions will be spread over the remainder of FY 2009. Employees earning greater than \$40,000 per year, depending on pay, are required to take additional 16 to 24 furlough hours between January 14, 2009 and June 30, 2009. These additional furlough hours will be in the form of leave without pay, and will be reflected in the actual pay period in which the employees do not work.

Employees in 24/7 health and public safety positions are exempt from these pay reductions. State employees are encouraged to visit www.dbm.maryland.gov, where the full Executive Order is posted along with Frequently Asked Questions.

[Additional Press Releases](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley, Team Maryland Announce Emergency Food and Shelter Funding

BALTIMORE, MD (December 19, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Congressional Delegation announced today that \$2,397,663 has been awarded to Maryland by the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program. The funds will be used to help individuals and families in Maryland with non-disaster, temporary emergency needs.

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program is a Federal program administered by The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services for the nation's hungry, homeless, and people in economic crisis.

"Particularly in these uncertain economic times, we have an obligation to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are provided for," said Governor O'Malley. "Maryland's federal delegation is to be commended for yet again ensuring that federal aid finds its way to those Marylanders who are struggling during this national economic recession."

"Americans are feeling stretched and strained and they need a government that is on their side. I know how important these funds are. These funds mean food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and more help for Marylanders in need," said Senator Mikulski. "I will keep fighting in the Senate for funding for programs that will support more Marylanders in need during these difficult economic times."

"In these difficult economic times, I am pleased that the EFS program will provide needed funding to assist Marylanders who are most in need," said Senator Cardin, a member of the Senate Budget Committee. "This \$2.3 million allocation will make it possible for Maryland to expand critical food, shelter and supportive services for those who are homeless and in need of assistance."

"These resources will hopefully go a long way towards helping those Marylanders who are most in need during these difficult economic times," stated U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leader, Congressman Steny Hoyer. "Beyond this emergency assistance, revitalizing our economy remains a top priority. It is critical that we have an economic recovery package to create jobs and put our nation back on a path of economic stability and growth."

The EFS National Board, chaired by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and composed of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America, provides supplemental funding to shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks. One-month awards for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance are also available.

Program funds are used to provide the following services, as determined by the Local Board in each funded jurisdiction:

- Food, in the form of served meals or groceries
- Lodging in a mass shelter or hotel
- One month's rent, mortgage, and/or utility bill payment
- Transportation costs associated with the provision of food or shelter

- Minimal repairs to mass feeding or sheltering facilities for building code violations or for handicapped accessibility
- Supplies and equipment necessary to feed or shelter people, up to a \$300 limit per item

In each funded jurisdiction, a Local Board advertises the availability of the funds, establishes local priorities, selects local non-profit and government agencies to receive supplemental funding, and monitors program compliance. The Local Board's composition mirrors the EFS Program National Board, with a local government official replacing FEMA and board members voting to select their chair.

The EFS Program has been in existence since 1983 and was authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. With the FY 2008 allocation, more than \$3.105 billion in federal aid will have been disbursed through the EFS Program since its inception to communities nationwide, and has accounted for millions of additional meals and nights of shelter to the hungry and homeless most in need across the nation.

For a listing of the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program Local Board contacts in particular jurisdictions or for more information, please call the EFS Program National Board staff at (703) 706-9660, or FEMA's Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 646-4500.

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- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor Martin O'Malley Wishes Troops and Families Happy Holidays

Conducts Video Conference Call with Maryland Guardsmen in Iraq

FORT MEADE, MD (December 22, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today held a video teleconference call at the headquarters of First Army Division East at Ft. Meade with soldiers from the Maryland National Guard's 224th Area Support Medical Company currently deployed to Camp Adder, Iraq. Governor O'Malley attended the Laurel base unit's deployment ceremony as they left to support Operation Iraq Freedom.

“We have no greater strength as a people than our men and women who give of themselves to defend their families, their neighbors, and their communities, and who endure time away from family and answer their call to protect our country,” said Governor O'Malley.

During the teleconference which was closed to the public and media, Governor O'Malley wished the troops Happy Holidays and promised to make phone calls to all of their families. When he asked what they miss most about home and what could the Governor do to help, the troops requested to have Maryland crabs.

The 224th's mission is to provide direct medical support to include retrieval and stabilization of wounded, immediate triage care and pass-on care to medical-surgical teams. The 224th is scheduled to return in mid-January. They are scheduled to speak to their families via videoconference later today.

The Maryland National Guard has nearly 350 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen currently serving on active duty in the Global War on Terror. Since 9/11, nearly 8,100 Soldiers and Airmen have been called to support various mobilizations including Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Jump Start and in the relief effort for multiple hurricanes.

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- [First Lady](#)
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- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Governor O'Malley Appoints Christopher B. Kehoe to Court of Special Appeals and John E. Nunn, III to the District Court for Kent County

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 23, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today the appointment of Christopher B. Kehoe to the Court of Special Appeals and John E. Nunn, III to the District Court for Kent County. Mr. Kehoe will fill a vacancy in the First Appellate Judicial Circuit, which represents Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. The vacancy was created by the elevation of the Honorable Sally D. Adkins to the Court of Appeals. Mr. Nunn will fill a District Court vacancy that was created by the retirement of the Honorable Floyd L. Parks.

"I am honored to appoint Christopher Kehoe and John Nunn to the Maryland judiciary," said Governor O'Malley. "Each of these attorneys has a deep commitment to public service, and each exemplifies the highest standards in the legal profession. Mr. Kehoe is widely respected for his intelligence, fairness, patience, and integrity – attributes that will serve him well as an appellate judge. Mr. Nunn will bring to the District Court his exemplary leadership skills, legal knowledge, compassion, and work ethic."

Mr. Kehoe has practiced law on Maryland's Eastern Shore since 1978. Since 1983, he has been a partner at the Easton law firm of Ewing, Dietz, Fountain & Kehoe, P.A., where he specializes in the areas of local government, land use, real estate, business, trusts and estates, and alternative dispute resolution. In addition, he has served as Town Attorney to the Town of Easton and the Town of Trappe.

Throughout his career, Mr. Kehoe has been active in serving the community and the legal profession. He has been a member of the State Board of Law Examiners, the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee, the Court of Appeals' Select Committee to Study the Ethics 2000 Amendments to ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Kehoe vice-chaired a Task Force on Regulatory Reform established by the Maryland General Assembly. Mr. Kehoe is a Life Member of the Maryland Bar Foundation, a member of the Maryland State Bar Association's Committee on Laws, and a past President of the Talbot County Bar Association. He has taught numerous continuing legal education courses on local government and land use issues.

Mr. Kehoe earned his law degree from the Duke University Law School. He clerked for the Honorable Marvin H. Smith of the Court of Appeals of Maryland.

Mr. Nunn has been an Assistant Public Defender for Kent and Queen Anne's Counties since 1992. He represents indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile matters before the District and Circuit Courts. Prior to joining the Office of the Public Defender, Mr. Nunn was in private practice with the Chestertown law firm of Mowell, Nunn & Wadkovsky. He focused in the areas of real estate, wills, divorce, personal injury, zoning, and criminal law. He also served as counsel to the Town of Betterton.

Mr. Nunn has served as President of the Kent County Bar Association and as Secretary of the Mid-Shore Pro Bono

Project. The Kent County Commissioners appointed Mr. Nunn to serve on the Kent County Behavioral Health Council. He also serves on the Board of the J. DeWeese Carter Center Advisory Board. From 1992 to 2005, Mr. Nunn co-chaired the Maryland Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission, which provided citizen input to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Army regarding the disposal of chemical weapons at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Mr. Nunn graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He clerked for the Honorable George B. Rasin, Jr., former Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Kehoe was appointed from among the nominees selected by the Appellate Courts Judicial Nominating Commission. Mr. Nunn was appointed from among the nominees selected by the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for District 2. More information on the nominating commissions established by Governor O'Malley can be found at <http://www.gov.state.md.us/executiveorders/01.01.2008.04eo.pdf>.

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- [News](#)
- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
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Governor O'Malley Congratulates Ravens on Making Playoffs

Orders Top Portion of William Donald Schaefer Building to be Lit Purple; Wishes Them Luck in First Playoff Game Against Miami

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 30, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today congratulated the Baltimore Ravens on making it into the playoffs, and ordered the top portion of the William Donald Schaefer Building in Baltimore to be lit purple as they begin their journey to the Superbowl. Governor O'Malley called Baltimore Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh today to congratulate him on the team's victory.

"I want to congratulate the entire Baltimore Ravens team, and want to wish them the best of luck as they begin their journey to the Superbowl this Sunday in Miami," Governor O'Malley said. "I am confident that first year Head Coach John Harbaugh and rookie quarterback Joe Flacco will lead the team to victory throughout the playoffs. Go Ravens!"

On Sunday, December 28, 2008, the Ravens beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 27 to 7, finishing their regular season with an 11 to 5 record. Sunday's win won the Ravens their 5th ever playoff berth. The team plays the Miami Dolphins this Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. EST.

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- [Speeches](#)
- [First Lady](#)
- [Lt. Governor](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Contact](#)

Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Situation in Gaza

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 30, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement regarding the situation in Gaza:

“Israel, like every nation, has the right to defend herself and her people from attack. Since Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has launched thousands of rocket and mortar attacks indiscriminately against civilian targets in Israel.”

“Just as Hamas chose to provoke a military response from Israel with endless rocket attacks, Hamas also has the choice to reject terror and violence with an immediate ceasefire, recognize Israel’s right to exist, and accept the existing agreements between Israel and the Palestinians as they work toward a just and lasting peace.”

“In this current conflict, the United States stands with its democratic ally Israel in her desire for a lasting peace in the Middle East with secure borders.”

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