

HARRY HUGHES

Governor of Maryland

Harry Roe Hughes, the fifty-seventh Governor of the State of Maryland, was elected to a second term by a wide margin November 2, 1982. He swept Baltimore City and all but 4 of Maryland's 23 counties, receiving more than 62 percent of the votes cast.

During his first term, Governor Hughes worked closely with the General Assembly to resolve many long-standing State problems. Major strides were made in tax reform, economic development, environmental protection, improving a long-neglected corrections system, increasing aid to elderly citizens, and reducing the tragic toll caused by drunk drivers on our streets and highways.

Recognized as an authority on transportation and education issues, Governor Hughes served for two years as chairman of the Transportation, Commerce and Technology Committee of the National Governors' Association and is currently a member of the Education Committee. He also served as chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board.

The Governor's leadership in speaking out against incidents of racially, religiously, or ethnically motivated acts of violence was praised by Congress, which cited his Task Force on Violence and Extremism as a model for the entire nation.

In a move designed to ease pressure on local property taxes, state aid to Baltimore City and the counties was increased substantially by the Hughes Administration. Reforms were also enacted in the property assessment procedure to make it more equitable and less oppressive to homeowners.

The Legislature also approved a number of tax reforms introduced or supported by the Hughes Administration, including the elimination of the sales tax on home fuels and utilities, expansion of the homeowners tax credit program to persons under age 60, and an increase in the standard income tax deduction. These direct and indirect tax reductions for individuals and local governments totaled more than \$1 billion over the Governor's first term.

Creating new jobs in Maryland remains one of the major goals of the Hughes Administration. A revitalized Department of Economic and Community Development has strengthened programs to attract new business and industry to the State and to assist those already established here. Governor Hughes took an active role in this effort,

personally leading trade missions to China, Europe, California, and New York City. As a result, the commitment of capital to the expansion and location of business and industry has increased substantially and thousands of new jobs have been attracted to Maryland, which is gaining a reputation as a center for high technology on the East Coast.

State aid to public elementary and secondary education was increased substantially by the Hughes Administration, with more aid targeted to less wealthy subdivisions. Community colleges, which had experienced an infusion of new students, received special attention and millions of dollars of additional aid through legislation introduced by Governor Hughes.

With the support of the General Assembly, human services programs received a larger and fairer share of State general funds, achieving progress in the delivery of services to the poor and the disadvantaged. Unemployment benefits were increased from \$104 to \$153 a week over the four years of the Governor's first term. And when a change in federal law threatened to end extended benefits for the jobless during the height of the national recession, Governor Hughes called the Legislature into special session to initiate a State solution.

Tougher drunk driving laws introduced by the Hughes Administration and approved by the General Assembly led to a decrease in deaths attributed to motorists who abuse alcohol. The Governor extended the term of his Task force on the Drinking Driver to continue to examine and recommend measures to further reduce this tragic toll.

When sudden conversion of apartments to condominiums began forcing many elderly, handicapped, or low-income citizens from the homes they had lived in for years, the Governor acted to meet this challenge. He proposed and the Legislature enacted a bill providing the first significant statewide protection for tenants subject to these conversions.

The Hughes Administration was also successful in advancing solutions to long-standing problems of the State. The Governor proposed and the Legislature approved a package of legislation and constitutional amendments to consolidate the circuit-level courts of Baltimore City, a goal pursued for more than three decades. The Hughes Administration undertook the most ambitious prison construction program in State history, addressing a chronic overcrowding problem in the State corrections system. A major effort was also made toward improving management and strengthening