
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY

Louis L. Goldstein, *Comptroller of the Treasury*

Goldstein Treasury Building
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The office of the Comptroller of the Treasury was established by the Constitution of 1851. The Constitution enumerates the Comptroller's duties, beginning with the broad mandate to exercise "general superintendence over the fiscal affairs of the State, preparing plans for the improvement and management of revenue to support the public credit." More specifically, the Comptroller is to "preserve all public accounts, and decide on the forms of keeping and stating accounts"; to "grant, under regulations prescribed by law, all warrants for money to be paid out of the Treasury"; and to "superintend and enforce the prompt collection of all taxes and revenues." Jointly with the State Treasurer the Comptroller supervises the Central Payroll Bureau. The Comptroller (or deputies) countersigns all checks drawn by the State Treasurer upon the deposits of the State. The Comptroller prescribes the formalities for the transfer of other evidence of the State debt and countersigns such papers.

The Comptroller administers and collects the following taxes: income tax, both personal and corporate; retail sales and use taxes; motor vehicle fuel tax; road tax on motor carriers; State tobacco tax; Maryland estate tax; and excise taxes on beer, wine, and liquor. Also administered by the Comptroller are the Abandoned Property and Dormant Bank Account Laws. Revenues collected by the Maryland Racing Commission, as well as motor vehicle revenues, are distributed to political subdivisions by the Comptroller's Office. Admissions and amusement tax revenues are collected by the Tax Compliance Division, at rates set by local officials, and distributed to political subdivisions.

The Comptroller prescribes the form of all licenses required by the State licensing laws, which are issued through the Clerks of the Courts of the various counties. Each month the Comptroller collects license revenues, State property transfer taxes, death taxes, and real and personal property taxes from the Clerks of the Courts, Registers of Wills, and County Treasurers of each county. Distribution of certain taxes and revenue is made to the cities, towns, and counties of the State and to other State agencies as prescribed by law (Code 1957, Art. 78B, sec. 19; Code Tax—General Article, secs. 2-201 through 2-203, 2-301, 2-302, 2-606 through 2-609, 2-614, 2-617, 2-901, 2-902, 2-1001 through 2-1004, 2-1506; Code Transportation Article, secs. 8-401 through 8-407).

By law, the Comptroller of the Treasury serves on the Board of Public Works; the Board of Revenue Estimates; the Maryland Industrial Develop-

ment Financing Authority; the Banking Board; the Capital Debt Affordability Committee; the Maryland Food Center Authority; the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. The Comptroller also serves on the Board of State Canvassers; the Hall of Records Commission; the State Use Industries Advisory Committee; the Maryland State Employees Surety Bond Committee; the State Employees' Health Insurance Advisory Council; and the Board of Trustees for Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems.

The Comptroller is elected by popular vote for a term of four years (Const., Art. VI, sec. 1). The number of terms a Comptroller may serve is not limited. Neither the Constitution nor the *Annotated Code of Maryland* states qualifications for this office. Yet, the Comptroller must give a bond and keep the office at the seat of government. The Comptroller begins his duties on the third Monday in January following election.

The Office of Comptroller of the Treasury is organized under two main functions: Administration, and Revenue Operations.

ADMINISTRATION

Robert L. Swann, *Deputy Comptroller*
(410) 974-3805

Formed in 1994, Administration is responsible for four units: the Board of Revenue Estimates; the Central Payroll Bureau; the Data Processing Division; and the General Accounting Division.

BOARD OF REVENUE ESTIMATES

Ex officio: Louis L. Goldstein, Comptroller of the Treasury; Richard N. Dixon, State Treasurer; Frederick W. Puddester, Secretary of Budget & Management.

Ann O'Brien Franklin, *Executive Secretary*

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Created in 1945, the Board of Revenue Estimates is concerned with revenues that will fund State government (Chapter 991, Acts of 1945). The Board studies the findings and recommendations of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates. The Board then sends to the Governor, for submission to the General Assembly, an itemized statement of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year. With the itemized statement, the Board submits its recommendations to the Governor.

The Board has three *ex officio* members. The Director of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates serves as Executive Secretary (Code State Finance and Procurement Article, secs. 6-101, 6-102, 6-106).