

Governor Martin O'Malley Swears in Members of the State Board of Education, University System of Maryland Board of Regents, College Savings Plans of Maryland Board and State Board of Elections

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 2, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today swore in four new members to the State Board of Education, three members to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, and also swore in two members to the College Savings Plans of Maryland Board, and a new State Board of Elections appointee.

“I am very proud to swear in this talented and dedicated group of people. They will each play an integral role in helping to shape the future of our State,” said Governor O'Malley. “The extensive knowledge and experience they each bring to their new positions, as well as their demonstrated commitment to public service in the State of Maryland is what gives me confidence that they will each be of appreciable value in their new roles.”

The members sworn in to the various Boards today include:

State Board of Education:

Sylvester J. Gates, Jr. is a noted American theoretical physicist. Dr. Gates has been featured on NOVA PBS programs on physics, most notably “The Elegant Universe” in 2003. He is currently the John S. Toll Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Gates received both his Bachelor of Science and PhD degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His doctoral thesis was the first thesis at MIT to deal with supersymmetry, and is known for his work on supersymmetry, supergravity, and superstring theory. He is a Prince George's County resident.

Madhu Sidhu currently serves as the Executive Director and Program Development Manager for Character Counts!, a non-profit in Kent County. She has been actively involved in the Maryland State PTA, both as a board member and as Chair of Curriculum and Instruction. She also served as the President of Kent County High School PTSA, during which membership increased by 135%. Ms. Sidhu has devoted her life to teaching and education, both in the classroom and as a parent. She received a BA from SNDT Women's University (India) and from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and has completed computer courses at Washington College. She is a Kent County resident.

Guffrie M. Smith, Jr. has been active in the Calvert County Public School System since 1964, and has continuously served the State of Maryland's education system and his community. He began his career in education as teacher, eventually becoming Principal of Appeal Elementary School in Calvert County. Since that time, he has served as Calvert County Public School's Director of Elementary Education, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Director of Community Education Resource Center at Mill Creek Middle School. He received a BS in Elementary Education from Bowie State College, as well as a Masters of Education in Elementary Administration /Supervision. He is a Calvert County resident.

David H. Murray, the student appointee is a high school senior and a student at the Science and Technology Program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He is a member of the Prince George's County Youth Commission, and previously served as the Student Member on the Bowie City Council Education Committee. He also served a term as President of the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

University System of Maryland Board of Regents:

Linda Gooden is the Executive Vice President of Lockheed Martin Information Systems and Global Services, a Board

Member of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association International, and a Board Member of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education. Gooden is a Montgomery County resident.

Dr. John L. Young is a physician at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Gaithersburg. He is also the founding and Managing Partner of Genetic Consultants of Maryland, and President-Elect of the Montgomery County Medical Society. Young is a Montgomery County resident.

Sarah Elfreth, being sworn in as the Student Regent, is a senior at Towson University and is majoring in Political Science with double minors in Economics and Women's Studies. She serves as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Towson University Student Government Association, and is a Student-at-Large for the Towson University Senate and a former Senator.

College Savings Plans of Maryland Board:

Helene Grady is the Deputy Director of Finance for the City of Baltimore. She is also a former Member of the Mount Washington Improvement Association, and former City Life Ambassador and Trolley Tour Volunteer for Live Baltimore. Ms. Grady is a Baltimore City resident.

Lewis A. Robinson is being reappointed to the Board. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Prince George's County Educators' Association and as Chair of the Prince George's County Labor Coalition. Mr. Robinson is a Calvert County resident.

State Board of Elections:

Rachel T. McGuckian is a principal with the law firm, Miles & Stockbridge, P.C. She also serves as a Board Member for the Montgomery County Bar Foundation and as a Faculty Member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Ms. McGuckian is a Montgomery County resident.

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 2, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following the ruling in Baltimore City Circuit Court dismissing a lawsuit filed by Constellation Energy Group, which challenged the authority of the Maryland Public Service Commission to investigate a deal to sell \$4.5 billion in nuclear assets to EDF:

“We are pleased with the Court’s ruling. We look forward to continuing with the Public Service Commission review and we remain focused on the goal we have held throughout these proceedings: a thorough review of this proposed transaction by professional regulators to ensure that the transaction is consistent with the public interest and adequately protects ratepayers.”

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Governor O'Malley Appoints Donald R. Osman to the Harford County Board of Education

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 2, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Donald R. Osman to the Harford County Board of Education.

"I am proud to appoint Donald R. Osman to the Harford County Board of Education," said Governor O'Malley. "I am confident that Mr. Osman possesses the skill and the leadership necessary to ensure every child in Harford County receives the quality public education they deserve."

Donald R. Osman is a Teacher Mentor at Elkton High School, Perryville High School, Perryville Middle School and Rising Sun Middle School. Prior to that, Mr. Osman was an English teacher at Havre de Grace High School where he taught for 32 years. He was also an English teacher at Havre de Grace Middle School from 1967 to 1973, and prior to that was a teacher at Oakington Elementary School. Mr. Osman is the coordinator of the S.M.I.L.E.S (Service Makes an Individual's Life Extra Special) program, which teaches its participants to give back to the community.

Mr. Osman also serves on several community groups in Harford County, including the Susquehanna Museum Board of Directors, the Steppingstone Museum Board of Directors, the Harford County Community Service Day Committee, the Harford County Language Arts Parent Advisory Committee, the Havre de Grace Arts Commission, and the James R. Harris Stadium Board of Directors, among others. He is also a recipient of a number of awards and recognitions, including Harford County Public Schools Service Learning Star for the years 2004 through 2008, and the Harford Council of Community Services Unsung Hero Award in 2000. The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace declared the week of June 1 through June 7 "Don Osman Week."

Mr. Osman received his Bachelor of Arts in English from the Franciscan University of Steubenville in 1965 and received his Masters of Education from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a resident of Havre de Grace.

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Governor O'Malley Appoints Kevin L. Jackson to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 6, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Kevin L. Jackson to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

“I am proud to appoint Mr. Jackson to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education,” said Governor O'Malley. “I am confident that Mr. Jackson possesses the skill, expertise and the leadership necessary to ensure every child in Anne Arundel County receives the quality public education they deserve.”

Kevin L. Jackson has extensive leadership and management experience within the military and defense community. He currently serves as the Manpower, Training and Education Project Manager at the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, DC. In that capacity, he ensures that manpower, personnel and training requirements are defined for the maintenance and modernization of U.S. Navy ships. Prior to his current role, he served as Project Manager for the ITT Corporation, from 2005 to March of 2009 where he conducted coordinated and conducted manpower, personnel and management training analysis in support of the Naval Seas System Command for the US Navy, among other responsibilities and duties. In his service in the US Navy, Mr. Jackson held a number of positions, including Flag Aide to the Commandant; Fire Control Officer on the USS VELLA GULF, where he led and directed a team of over 27 highly trained AEGIS technicians that maintained over \$10 million of Aegis Weapon System equipment and spaces; Prior to that, Mr. Jackson served as Flag Aide to the Commandant of the Naval District; Electrical Officer and Damage Control Assistant on the USS A.W. RADFORD; and Minority Admissions Assistant at the Surface Warfare Officer School.

Mr. Jackson is certified as a Project Management Professional, and is a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, the Naval Academy Alumni Association Greater Washington Chapter Board of Directors where he serves as Secretary, and the Project Management Institute.

He is Midshipmen Ministry Leader/Coordinator for the Annapolis Church of Christ, and was an Elections Unit Judge for the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections in 2008. He received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in 2006, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for 2002 and 2003, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in 2004, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon in 2001, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal in 2000.

Mr. Jackson received his Bachelor of Science from the United States Naval Academy in 1999. Immediately following, he attended the Surface Warfare Officer's School and then attended Damage Control Officer's School. Mr. Jackson also attended the Aegis Training Readiness Center and the Department Head Leadership Course. He is a resident of Edgewater, Maryland.

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Governor O'Malley Appoints Felix W. Morrison to the Caroline County Board of Education

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 6, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Felix W. Morrison to the Caroline County Board of Education.

“I am proud to appoint Mr. Morrison to the Caroline County Board of Education,” said Governor O'Malley. “I am confident that Mr. Morrison possesses the skill, expertise and the leadership necessary to ensure every child in Caroline County receives the quality public education they deserve.”

Felix W. Morrison has worked in a number of roles at Bayer Health Care Pharmaceuticals including Manager of Sales Information, Manager of Sales Information and Incentives, and Division Sales Manager. Mr. Morrison also worked nine years, from 1991 to 2000 in various capacities at Bayer Corporation, including Sales Representative, Regional Coordinator for the Baltimore Region, Regional Accounts Manager for Integrated Health Care Systems and Division Sales Manager. He retired in 2007 from the Chesapeake Publishing Corporation where he served as a Classified Advertising Manager. Mr. Morrison was responsible for classified advertising for one daily and five weekly newspapers, and managed a multi-million dollar sales budget. Mr. Morrison is a former team member of the Department of Natural Resources Choptank Tributary Team, and is a member of the Caroline County Historical Society, the Maryland Farm Bureau, the Caroline County Council of Arts and was a Democratic Election Judge for Caroline County.

Mr. Morrison graduated from Towson University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Economics. In 1974 he participated in the University of Miami Medical School Clinical Pharmacology certificate program, and in 1979 participated in the Duke University Medical School Anesthesiology certificate program. In 2002, he was selected as a Corporate Diversity Trainer by the Bayer Human Resources Department. He is a resident of Greensboro, Maryland.

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Governor O'Malley Appoints Three Trial Court Judges

Judges Appointed to Circuit Courts for Kent County and Prince George's County, and District Court for Washington County

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 8, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley announced today the appointment of Paul M. Bowman to the Circuit Court for Kent County, Michael Pearson to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, and Dana Moylan Wright to the District Court for Washington County. Mr. Bowman will fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court created by the retirement of the Honorable J. Frederick Price. Mr. Pearson will fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court created by the retirement of the Honorable Ronald D. Schiff. Ms. Wright, who will be the first female judge in Washington County, will fill a vacancy on the District Court created by the retirement of the Honorable Ralph H. France.

"I am honored to appoint Paul Bowman, Michael Pearson, and Dana Moylan Wright to the bench," said Governor O'Malley. "Each of them has demonstrated a deep dedication to community service, hard work, and bettering the practice of law. Each has the intellect, thoughtfulness, sense of fairness, and expertise to be an excellent judge."

Mr. Bowman has been a sole practitioner in Kent County since 1979. He has experience in a wide variety of practice areas, including municipal and zoning law, trusts and estates, real estate transactions, education law, domestic matters, guardianship cases, personal injury and wrongful death cases, criminal law, and commercial law. He served for over two decades as the Town Attorney for Chestertown, and for several years as the Town Attorney for Millington. In 1987, the Circuit Court for Kent County appointed Mr. Bowman to be Court Examiner. In this capacity, he presides over uncontested domestic proceedings.

Mr. Bowman is a past president of the Kent County Bar Association, and a past member of the Kent County Ethics Commission. He has served on the Board of Directors of Kent Youth, Inc., which provides services to at-risk youth. In 2004, he received a Golden Key award from the Mid-Shore Community Foundation. Mr. Bowman also has served on the boards of several local banks. He graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Mr. Pearson is an Assistant State's Attorney in the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office. He is currently a senior prosecutor who handles exclusively homicide cases. Mr. Pearson initially served as a prosecutor in the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office from 1999-2004 and returned to the office in 2007; in his seven-years as a prosecutor, he has tried approximately 150 cases to verdict. He also has experience in private practice at the Greenbelt-based firm of Bennett & Bair, LLP, where he represented clients in Circuit and District Courts across the state.

Mr. Pearson has served on the Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Bar Association and the J. Franklin Bourne Bar Association, and as the co-chair of the Prince George's County Bar Association's Criminal Law Section for the past three years. He is a member of 100 Black Men of Maryland, Inc., as well as a member of the A.M.E. Church's Law Ministry. He graduated from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law.

Ms. Wright is a partner at the Hagerstown law firm of Miller, Oliver, Baker, Moylan & Stone. She specializes in insurance defense work and family law, but also has expertise in personal injury cases, administrative appeals, business litigation, and mediation. Her clients are both individuals and businesses, and she has performed pro bono work for several local non-profit organizations, including the Humane Society, the Community Free Clinic, and the Maryland Theater.

Ms. Wright's extensive community involvement includes chairing the Washington County Ethics Commission and serving as the secretary of the Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Commission Board of Directors. She also has served on the boards of the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce and the Hospice of Washington County. She graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law. After law school, she clerked for

the Honorable Cypert O. Whitfill of the Circuit Court for Harford County.

Mr. Bowman, Mr. Pearson, and Ms. Wright were nominated by the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commissions. More information about the nominating commissions can be found at <http://www.gov.state.md.us/executiveorders/01.01.2008.04eo.pdf>.

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley Exhibits Maryland's Recovery Web Tools before Congressional Committee



WASHINGTON, DC (July 8, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley **testified** before the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform today, where he exhibited Maryland's nationally-recognized, interactive website that tracks funding from President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) from its inception. The Governor joined Governors Edward Rendell (PA) and Deval Patrick (MA) in highlighting ways the states are conforming to federal accountability standards and using technology to achieve new levels of government transparency and efficiency.

"For those of us in the states, the Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been a true lifeline," said Governor O'Malley. "Were it not for these funds, we would have been forced to lay off 700 state employees, erode health care benefits, and forgo investments in public education which have produced record test scores and earned our state's schools a number one in the nation ranking for our public schools. This critical legislation is helping us create and save jobs, and position our State's economy to bounce back from recession. In Maryland, we share the President's commitment to investing these funds with maximum efficiency, openness, and transparency."

In February, just days after the passage of ARRA, Governor O'Malley announced Maryland's plan to monitor and track Recovery and Reinvestment funds in the State of Maryland through the launch of Maryland's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act website, www.recovery.maryland.gov to allow Marylanders to track recovery projects in the State of Maryland. Governor O'Malley provided a quick demonstration of the website that utilizes GIS (Geographic-Information System) technology.

The website, maintained by StateStat, Maryland's performance-measurement and management program implemented to make state government more accountable and more efficient, tracks every category of ARRA spending providing contract-level details to the public.

Recently, Maryland launched an updated application for the website, allowing users to find information more easily. The Map has been upgraded with additional information tools, detailed fund descriptions and project details. The new site also provides users the opportunity to send comments and questions about the data and the map directly to StateStat administrators.

[Click here](#) for the Governor's written testimony from today's hearing.

[Additional Press Releases](#)

Governor Martin O'Malley, Speaker Busch Address Maryland Autism Summit

State Leaders address needs, resources to chart multiple strategies



BALTIMORE, MD (July 10, 2009) –With the number of Maryland children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) growing annually, Governor O'Malley, Speaker Busch, other state officials and national experts gathered in Baltimore to begin charting new statewide approaches to health, education and employment services for children, adults and families of Marylanders with ASD. The Maryland Autism Summit follows in the wake of legislation that created the Maryland Commission on Autism, charged with developing “a comprehensive statewide plan for an integrated system of training, treatment, and services for individuals of all ages with Autism Spectrum Disorders.”

“Today we take the first giant step to better address the growing needs of far too many Maryland families dealing with autism disorders,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “In our One Maryland, where we are united in our belief in the dignity of every individual, and our conviction that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander, we will continue working together to put our children and families first in these difficult times.”

“We can no longer serve those with ASD in a piecemeal fashion. It's alarming how many more Maryland families face this troubling diagnosis each year only to discover there is so much we as a nation have left undone,” said Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates. “By bringing together state and national experts to learn the best available research, we can better serve Marylanders diagnosed with autism.”

Ten years ago, 1,600 Maryland children with autism were being served by Maryland's educational system. Today, that number has grown to 7,500. Yet, it remains unknown just how much of the increase is attributable to better diagnosis and how much to the prevalence of the disorder. Currently, 2,300 students between the ages of 14 and 21 will be “aging out” of the public educational system over the next 5 years. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) serves approximately 2,000 adults with autism through programs funded by the Developmental Disabilities and Mental Hygiene Administrations.

“Autism Spectrum Disorder affects a growing number of Maryland residents, and its root cause is still being researched,” said State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick. “This timely gathering will help provide state leaders with a better idea of the breadth of the challenge, as well as an understanding of the services that are available.”

“Our challenge is great, but so is the challenge of every family facing autism,” said John M. Colmers, DHMH Secretary. “As we reach across state agencies and outside to our partners, we want to fashion a system that addresses these needs and provides the supports necessary to ensure that individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder have what they need to reach their potential.”

Summit attendees include leaders, experts and representatives of the Maryland House of Delegates, the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Department of Disabilities, the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Maryland Insurance Administration, Kennedy Krieger Institute, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare - Bureau of Autism Services, the Missouri Department of Mental Health and multiple ASD stakeholders. The summit was facilitated by the Milbank Memorial Fund, a non-profit foundation that works to improve health by helping decision makers in the public and private sectors.

Renata Henry, DHMH Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health and Disabilities will serve at Chair of the Maryland Commission on Autism. The full commission membership, prescribed by law, will be named at a later time

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 10, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following an announcement by Pepco will distribute \$39 million in bill credits to its 500,000 Maryland customers as a result of an earlier legal settlement with Mirant Corp., the company that purchased Pepco's power plants in 2000.

"I want to commend the Public Service Commission for its efforts to save Maryland Pepco ratepayers additional dollars. Today, Pepco announced that its Maryland ratepayers would save an additional \$39 million as a result of a legal settlement with Mirant Corporation, the company that purchased Pepco's power plants in 2000.

The Maryland Public Service Commission and its Staff worked diligently to make sure Maryland consumers were represented and protected in this settlement. I also appreciate Pepco's willingness to work with the Maryland Public Service Commission as we work to secure our energy future."

[Additional Press Releases](#)



StateStat Report: Efforts to Protect Maryland's Vulnerable Youth



ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 13, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley today released **StateStat Report: Efforts to Protect Maryland's Vulnerable Youth** to update the public on efforts to improve state services for children and families in Maryland. Statewide efforts have focused on increasing access to evidenced-based programs (EBP) for at-risk youth, reducing the number of children in out-of-home care, reducing the number of children placed in group homes, and increasing access to comprehensive health care services for families.

The Governor's video message, [available online](#), is the first in a series of StateStat Reports to make Maryland's state government more accountable, open, and transparent.

"In these challenging times, there is nothing more important to our Administration than protecting our State's most vulnerable children and their families," said Governor O'Malley. "We have established long-term goals to continue making progress and make our state government more accountable and efficient. I hope the families of Maryland find these StateStat Reports useful in holding their state government accountable."

"In these difficult financial times, it is more important than ever that we dedicate scarce state resources in the most efficient and effective manner possible in order to maximize the protections we are able to provide to the state's most vulnerable citizens. I applaud the Governor's initiative and am proud of the progress we are making on behalf of Maryland children and families," said Delegate Adrienne Jones, a long time advocate of evidence-based practices in the area of education and social services and the lead sponsor of legislation promoting a focus on results-oriented funding.

StateStat, Maryland's performance-measurement and management program implemented to make state government more accountable and more efficient brings together relevant agencies on a variety of priority areas for the O'Malley-Brown Administration. Since applying this model to the agencies primarily responsible for youth services in Maryland, the state has increased enrollment in evidence-based youth programs, reduced juvenile crime, and expanded access to healthcare for low- to moderate-income families throughout the State.



The O'Malley-Brown Administration's StateStat program focuses on four priority areas in terms of protecting vulnerable youth: increasing access to evidence-based programs for at-risk youth, reducing the number of children in out-of-home care, reducing the number of children placed in group homes, and increasing access to

comprehensive health care services for families.

Since employing this model, the Department of Juvenile Services has increased funding for evidence-based practices by 300 percent within the last two years, offering approximately 300 dedicated slots to serve families and, when appropriate, divert youth from more costly and less effective residential placements. Operation Safe Kids, a youth violence prevention program targeted towards high risk youth has expanded programming by 136 slots, increasing the number of slots in Baltimore City and most recently, expanding the program to Prince George's County. The state's Violence Prevention Initiative, which provides increased supervision and services to youth identified as most at risk of being victims or perpetrators of crimes of violence, increased the number of youth under supervision by 43 percent.

The Department of Human Resources has reduced the number of children in out-of-home placements by 13.4 percent since July 2007, and nearly 39 percent fewer kids placed in group homes during the same period. In addition, Maryland has worked to enroll parents of eligible children as part of the Medicaid expansion signed into law last year by Governor O'Malley. Approximately 35,000 newly insured parents now have access to health benefits, and dental care for low-income children has been expanded statewide.

In addition, the O'Malley Brown Administration joined together with Share Our Strength to put Maryland on track to become the first state in the nation to end childhood hunger within its borders by 2015. Through school breakfast, lunch and year-round summer food services, the Partnership is ensuring that every child in Maryland has an opportunity to reach their full potential at school and at home. Governor O'Malley has secured an additional \$22 million to ensure that every child receives a daily, nutritional breakfast and lunch.

[StateStat Report: Efforts to Protect Maryland's Vulnerable Youth, along with today's video message on efforts to protect Maryland's vulnerable youth is available on the StateStat website.](#)

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley Announces the Creation of Civic Guard for Emergency Preparedness



BALTIMORE, MD (July 16, 2009) –Governor Martin O’Malley delivered the keynote address before the Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness today where he announced the creation of Maryland’s “Civic Guard,” a cooperative effort among state and local governments to engage private and non-profit organizations for assistance during a major emergency or disaster. The Summit, an opportunity for training and networking among emergency preparedness and response stakeholders, brings together high-level decision makers in business, government and nonprofit organizations.

“Protecting our people and preparing our State for emergency situations are critical pursuits to every part of our mission as public servants,” said Governor O’Malley. “I want to ask you for your help with a new initiative we are launching today which seeks to involve every citizen in the safety, security, and preparedness of the broader community we call Maryland. Your participation reinforces simple but important truths: that we are indeed One Maryland; that we are a community; and that we are all in this together.”

Pointing to recent examples of local cooperation during emergency situations, such as Hurricane Katrina during which private fuel providers offered tankers to travel south with a Baltimore City contingent of emergency responders to the disaster area, or during Hurricane Isabel during which Duck Tour Boats were used to evacuate coastal areas of the City, Governor O’Malley today launched the Civic Guard which seeks to expand this network. The Civic Guard is a coordinated effort between the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the University of Maryland’s Center for Health and Homeland Security that will engage local governments, private groups, businesses, corporations, and nonprofit organizations to enhance the system of cooperation during emergencies. The Civic Guard seeks to build on the strength of current partnerships between local governments, volunteer organizations, private businesses, and our state government.

“Emergency responders, tasked with multiple responsibilities during an event, can be quickly overwhelmed during any crisis” said Richard Muth, Executive Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. “The Civic Guard is a vital disaster response and recovery component having the ability to relieve first-responders of the burden of non-life threatening tasks thereby permitting responders to focus on critical emergency needs. But even more importantly Civic Guard can be employed during the long-term recovery process where their expertise can be used for rebuilding lives and revitalizing our communities after the disaster”.



Governor O'Malley urged businesses and non-profit organizations to visit [MEMA's website](#), where they can submit information on what they may be able to offer during an emergency situation. MEMA will use this information to help build partnerships to ensure that Maryland is prepared and protected.

In its initial stages, Governor O'Malley has asked MEMA to reach out to local governments seeking their resource needs in the event of an emergency, and to reach out to businesses and non-profits to determine the willingness and available resources they can provide, thus broadening and expanding the network of coordination in the event of an emergency. The effort is initially funded through a federal Regional Catastrophic Preparedness grant, a Department of Homeland Security / Federal Emergency Management Agency grant that is intended to support coordination of regional all-hazard planning catastrophic events. The recipients of the grant include Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia totaling \$11.587 million, with Maryland receiving \$2.68 million. In addition to the Civic Guard, Maryland will use these funds to fill resource gaps and to develop a plan to improve interstate exchange of information and resource management systems.

Additional Press Releases



Governor, First Lady O'Malley Host Second Annual "Buy Local" Cookout

Governor Kicks-off "Buy Local Week," July 18-26

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 16, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by First Lady Katie O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, today hosted the second annual "Buy Local" cook out and officially kicked-off Maryland's "Buy Local" week, which challenges Marylanders to incorporate at least one locally-grown, produced or harvested product into their meals each day.

Governor O'Malley has designated July 18-26 as "Buy Local Week" in Maryland to raise awareness about the benefits of local farms and food so that the use of fresh, local products among consumers becomes more familiar and more frequent. The cookout featured recipes from 16 teams of local producers and chefs from across the State showcasing the diversity of local products available in Maryland.

"Governor O'Malley and I challenge all Maryland residents, institutions and organizations to expand their purchases of locally grown products for their favorite dishes and to try some new ones," said First Lady Katie O'Malley. "Buying locally is key to ensuring a smart, green and growing future for Maryland families. It preserves farmland, protects the environment, keeps our money in Maryland, and provides fresh, nutritious food for a healthy diet."

For this year's Governor's Buy Local Cook Out, 16 teams of local producers and chefs were selected to showcase the diversity of local products available in Maryland for farmers, buyers, elected officials, and "buy local" advocates on the front lawn of the Government House in Annapolis. The recipes were submitted by chef/producer teams and selected for their creativity, availability of ingredients, geographic representation, and maximum use of local ingredients. Government House chefs also prepared a few favorites recipes of theirs and the O'Malley family featuring local products, including Crepes filled with Peach Chiffon Ricotta and White Wine Sangria.

"Including local, seasonal foods in our meals is easier than ever and buying local food helps our farmers, our environment, economy, and the health of our families," said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. "Today, there are more than 90 farmers' markets in Maryland. Community Supported Agriculture farms are thriving, and grocery stores are tapping into the demand for local farm and seafood products while saving transportation costs to bring the most nutritious, great-tasting food to our plates. The number of pick-your-own operations, roadside farm stands, and on-farm markets is growing too."

In addition to the selected chefs and producers, Deer Creek Beef, Honest Tea, Kilby Cream Ice Cream, Maryland Wineries Association, Roseda Beef and Snikiddy Snacks donated their products for the cook out. Waste Neutral Group donated recycling and composting disposal services.



The Challenge, created in 2006 by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, has grown since into a statewide initiative. This year, Governor Martin O'Malley invited teams of a chef and one or more farmer, waterman or producer to submit recipes featuring locally grown, raised or harvested ingredients. Over 60 recipes were submitted in the categories of appetizers, side dishes or salads, main dishes, desserts, beverages and table decorations (centerpieces). All 60-plus recipe submissions, along with a few O'Malley family favorites are available online at: www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/cookbook.pdf. The Maryland Wineries Association recommended wine pairings for each recipe.

In its 2009 Policy Choices Survey, the University of Baltimore Schaefer Center for Public Policy found that 77 percent of Marylanders want to buy produce that is identified as having been grown by a Maryland farmer.

To find local products, locate a farmers market and to learn more about Maryland's Buy Local Week Challenge, visit www.marylandsbest.net. Sources of local seafood can be found at www.marylandseafood.org.

Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance will make a series of visits during Buy Local Week to highlight the diversity of products and places to buy local food in Maryland, including farmers' markets, community supported agriculture farms, county fairs, wineries, and grocery stores.

Click on the following links for additional information:

- **Buy Local Benefits** www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/cookout_local_benefits.pdf
- **Biographies on Producers/Chefs** www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/cookout_bios.pdf
- **Menu Statistics** www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/cookout_menu_stats.pdf
- **2009 Maryland Buy Local Cookbook** www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/cookbook.pdf

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Constellation Energy

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 17, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley released this statement today following a settlement counter-proposal submitted by Constellation Energy Group.

“We acknowledge Constellation's decision to submit a settlement counter-proposal to us. We are pleased that Constellation acknowledges in their offer the need for robust ring-fencing to protect BGE and its ratepayers and the need to address the exorbitant compensation of their CEO.

“Based on our initial review, Constellation still has a long way to go to fully address the needs of Maryland ratepayers and the public interest. The proposal does not respond to our requirement for long term and short term rate relief, seeks green energy investment only at ratepayer expense, does not address the issue of Mr. Shattuck's compensation with transparency, and lacks specifics on ring-fencing.

“As we have said throughout these proceedings, we have full confidence in the Public Service Commission and the regulatory process to ensure that this transaction with EDF is in the public interest. We also are always willing to talk with Constellation about ideas in connection with a settlement of the issues in the regulatory proceedings. Any such agreement that is reached must do significantly more to protect ratepayers than what is now on the table.”

July 30: [Response to Greater Baltimore Committee](#)

July 23: [State's Letter to Constellation](#)

June 17: [Governor O'Malley on Constellation Energy](#) (video)

June 2: [Summary of the settlement proposal from the State](#)

June 2: [Complete settlement proposal, issued to Constellation Energy](#)

May 21: [State's letter outlining the terms of a potential settlement](#)

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Board of Public Works Approves \$280 Million in Budget Cuts

Governor renews commitment to protecting public schools, Maryland families

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 22, 2009) – Maryland’s Board of Public Works, a three-person panel authorized to approve budget actions, unanimously approved more than \$280 million in FY10 budget reductions today, a step in addressing a projected budget shortfall of more than \$700 million for Fiscal Year 2010. These actions would bring the total amount of reduced spending and budget cuts under the O’Malley-Brown Administration to \$4 billion.

“In the past two and half years, some very tough circumstances – first an inherited structural deficit, and then a troubled national economy – have forced us to make some difficult choices,” said Governor O’Malley. “We’ve made these choices with an eye toward protecting our core priorities of education, public safety, the environment, protecting our most vulnerable families, and protecting those things that keep Maryland positioned for economic growth and recovery. Were it not for these decisions we made together, the choices we’d face today would be far difficult and Marylanders would be facing many of the nightmare scenarios plaguing other states.”

Today’s budget actions focus largely on state agencies, but protect entirely investments made in Maryland public schools. General fund support for public education has increased more than \$700 million since FY07, while spending for the remainder of the Operating Budget has decreased more than \$800 million.

These cuts bring the FY10 Operating Budget below \$13 billion, representing the first known incidence of General Fund declines for three straight years in the in state history.

According to a recent Rockefeller Institute report, 45 of 50 states experienced revenue declines in the first quarter of 2009. The 11.7 percent overall drop in state revenues, according to the Institute, is the sharpest decline on record. While budget cuts in Maryland have been painful, the State has largely avoided the types of drastic scenarios such as cutting aid to public schools and implemented massive, large scale layoffs of state employees. California, for example, has enacted cuts of over \$11.6 billion to K-12 education, and more than 25,000 teachers already lost their jobs there. South Carolina has already laid off more than 1,500 employees in the past year.

Maryland’s unemployment rate remains well below the national average – 7.3 percent compared to the national 9.5 percent rate. And just this week, all three credit reporting agencies affirmed Maryland as one of only seven states to retain the coveted AAA bond rating, granted only to those governments that demonstrate remarkable fiscal stewardship.

[View the presentation Governor O’Malley delivered before the Board of Public Works today.](#)

[View a complete list of today’s budget actions.](#)

[Additional Press Releases](#)



Related Links

- **[View Governor's Comments](#)**
- **[View powerpoint presentation of 7.22.09 BPW Briefing](#)**
- **[Summary of Proposed July 2009 BPW Budget Cuts](#)**

Governor Martin O'Malley Releases StateStat Update on Foreclosure Prevention Efforts

Governor, Lieutenant Governor host foreclosure prevention workshop in Prince George's County



HYATTSVILLE, MD (July 24, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley joined Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown today to release encouraging data in the form of a StateStat Update on foreclosure prevention outreach efforts in Maryland as they, along with Administration officials, welcomed homeowners to the “Mortgage Late? Don't Wait” foreclosure prevention workshop aimed at assisting families facing foreclosure. The event, hosted by the housing counseling agency HomeFree-USA's Hyattsville facility, allowed participants to consult with counselors and receive valuable information on state programs that can assist in meeting their financial and housing needs.

“Strengthening the safety net for Maryland families is just one way we continue to put families first, even in tough economic times,” said Governor O'Malley. “Foreclosures are still on the rise in Maryland, and our outreach efforts must match the demand for services. When the crisis first hit, we worked together as One Maryland to move swiftly to enact an array of strategies and reforms. Those efforts have since expanded even further, allowing every family in need of assistance to receive the help they deserve during this vulnerable period in their lives.”

Through the first six months of 2009, approximately 18,112 foreclosure filings occurred in Maryland. Compared with 17,625 filings for the same period last year, this represents a growth of about 2.8 percent. In Maryland, MDHOPE counselors have aided nearly 23,000 consumers and helped more than 6,800 homeowners avoid foreclosure.

“We know that these difficult economic times are hitting our working families the hardest. Governor O'Malley and I have made difficult choices over the past several years but every step of the way, we have chosen to put Families First,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “We didn't get into this overnight and we won't get out of it overnight either. However, workshops like this are one of many steps we take to protect our priorities.”

Maryland's HOPE program has been successful in attacking the foreclosure crisis from every angle. In partnership with the Maryland Bar Association, the Pro Bono Resource Center, and Civil Justice, State agencies have trained attorneys to assist Maryland homeowners through the HOPE hotline. More than 700 attorneys have volunteered to be part of the Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project and are helping homeowners at workshops, assisting with individual cases, and advising nonprofit housing counseling agencies. The HOPE hotline has fielded more than 25,000 calls since being established in 2008.

At today's event, Governor O'Malley unveiled the State's latest outreach tool, a television spot featuring various housing counselors and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) officials encouraging homeowners to take advantage of the State's free foreclosure prevention services.



“We want to get the word out to our family members, neighbors and friends who may be having trouble in these difficult times,” added Secretary Raymond A. Skinner, of the Department of Housing and Community Development. “There is no shame in seeking help. If anything, the shame may lie in not seeking help.”

In addition to legal assistance and counseling, the Department of Housing and Community Development administers foreclosure prevention loan programs, including the Lifeline Refinance Mortgage Program, the Homesaver Program, and the Bridge to Hope loan program. Collectively, these programs have granted 152 loans for a total of \$27,761,061 in assistance.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program, funded initially with over \$46 million, will create 450 affordable workforce housing opportunities while mitigating vacant, foreclosure and abandoned properties. And the State’s fraud investigation efforts have helped identify, prosecute, and prevent scams and other threats to consumer housing. Since February, the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation has more than 80 active investigations underway and recovered more than \$600,000 in response to mortgage complaints, including monies recovered from loan modification scams used to prey on vulnerable homeowners facing foreclosure.

In November, Governor O’Malley announced agreements with six mortgage servicing companies to create a streamlined and transparent loss mitigation process for distressed Maryland homeowners. Together, these companies service 23 percent of home loans in Maryland. The agreements are part of the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s comprehensive efforts to combat what has become the worst housing crisis the nation has seen since the Great Depression.

In 2007, Governor O’Malley created the Homeownership Preservation Task Force to find ways to address the crisis and to make recommendations that would help promote and preserve homeownership.

Maryland’s comprehensive strategy includes:

- Emergency regulations, extending the amount of time available to homeowners to seek counseling and find alternatives to foreclosure.
- Creation of the Lifeline, Homesaver and the Bridge to Hope programs to help homeowners who are stuck with exotic, expensive and in some cases fraudulent loans.
- The creation of a pro-bono attorney network that has enlisted more than 700 volunteer lawyers to aid at-risk homeowners.
- The establishment of a framework of operations with six servicers to ensure the highest quality of service to homeowners seeking loan modifications or alternatives to foreclosure.
- The investment of significant resources into a statewide network of counseling agencies, giving homeowners access to free, reliable information about alternatives to foreclosure and resources to help them avoid it. DHCD supports a statewide network of 30 nonprofit housing counseling agencies and two nonprofit legal services providers as part of its Home Ownership Preserving Equity (HOPE) initiative. In a June report, NeighborWorks recognized Maryland as being in the top five states in serving the most clients through the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program.
- The distribution of more than \$5.5 million in federal, state and local funds to MDHOPE network members since 2007. Assistance providers have aided nearly 23,000 consumers and helped more than 6,800 homeowners avoid foreclosure.
- The launch of the “Mortgage Late? Don’t Wait” advertising campaign to direct beleaguered families to the

counseling agencies as early in the foreclosure process as possible. This includes the establishment of the HOPE Hotline, 1-877-462-7555 and the HOPE Web Site, www.mdhope.org.

- The allocation of more than \$18.9 million in federal funds through Maryland's Neighborhood Conservation Initiative to help local jurisdictions stabilize communities hardest hit by the foreclosure and subprime lending crisis.

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Related Documents

[View the Powerpoint Presentation](#)

Multi-Media

[Governor explains how to find help with housing](#)

Governor Martin O'Malley Joins Vice President Biden to Announce Funding for Local Law Enforcement Agencies



PHILADELPHIA, PA (July 28, 2009) –Governor Martin O’Malley joined Vice President Joe Biden and Attorney General Eric Holder in Philadelphia today, where they made a major American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding announcement for law enforcement agencies across the nation. Joined by Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, Delaware Governor Jack Markell, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey, the Vice President announced local funding allocations for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program, including more than \$23 million to create 112 law enforcement positions in Maryland.

“We saw the value of COPS program first hand in the City of Baltimore. Once the nation’s most violent and drug addicted City in America, we worked with law enforcement and the people of our City to take our streets and neighborhoods back for our families. And together we achieved a 40 percent reduction in violent crime,” said Governor O’Malley, noting that a contributing factor to the success in Baltimore City was a \$24 million COPS grant allowing the hiring of 200 additional police officers. “There is no greater or more solemn obligation we have as public servants than the protection of our citizens. Thanks to the leadership of President Obama and our federal delegation, local law enforcement agencies have an unprecedented opportunity to create or save jobs that directly impact the safety of our neighborhoods.”

“I’ve heard from state and local police around the country that lack of funding means fewer cops on our streets fighting gangs, drugs, and child predators and fewer prosecutions of criminals,” Senator Mikulski said. “That’s why, as Chairwoman of the Senate Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee, I fought so hard to put funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support our law enforcement through hiring grants like these. The funds announced today build upon the \$44 million already invested in Maryland state and local law enforcement agencies under the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to fight crime. I know how important this funding is. It means saving jobs and saving lives. It means more cops on the beat in communities across Maryland and across the nation to combat violence, protect families, and fight crime that is destroying neighborhoods.”

Eight police departments are receiving a total of \$23.2 million in Maryland, as part of the COPS Hiring Recovery Program of ARRA. The Maryland agencies receiving funding include:

Baltimore Police Department	50 positions	\$10,131,050
Town of Bladensburg	1 position	\$221,672

Cambridge Police Department	2 positions	\$356,212
City of Laurel	3 positions	\$726,411
Prince George's County	50 positions	\$10,630,950
Town of Princess Anne	1 position	\$187,437
Riverdale Police Department	1 position	\$203,727
City of Salisbury	4 positions	\$795,068

At the State level, Maryland is also using ARRA funds to provide up to \$10,000 per officer to help communities purchase radios, bullet-proof vests, computers, and other essential equipment to support each newly hired officer. Maryland is the first state in the nation to provide matching funds for equipment purchase.

“Investing in COPS will help save and create local jobs while enabling law enforcement to address critical public safety needs in our communities,” stated Congressman Steny Hoyer. “This is just another way that the Economic Recovery is working for Maryland.”



“The COPS program is an incredibly valuable tool as we work together with law enforcement to keep our families and communities safe. In these tough economic times, it is even more important that we continue to support these men and women who tirelessly work to protect our neighborhoods. In Congress, we worked alongside the President to fund these incredibly important positions,” said Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger.

ARRA provides \$1 billion in grant funding to the Department of Justice for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program. The COPS office received applications from 7,272 law enforcement agencies requesting more than 39,000 officer positions nationwide. COPS grants provide 100 percent funding for three years of entry-level salaries and benefits, and are awarded to localities and/or police departments to hire or rehire additional career law enforcement officers.

Following the passage of President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the O’Malley Brown Administration moved swiftly to capture more than \$26 million in additional federal funding to put state-of-the-art law enforcement and information sharing technologies into the hands of our police at every level across our State. The O’Malley-Brown Administration is expanding the use of smart law enforcement technology across Maryland, including advanced fingerprinting technology, eliminating backlogs and expanding our DNA database, tracking and monitoring repeat violent offenders, and increased drug treatment funding. The O’Malley Brown Administration is putting families first by making public safety a top priority, with 66 fewer lives lost to homicides last year Statewide, the second highest reduction in homicides in nearly a quarter-century.

Additional Press Releases

Governor O'Malley Appoints Lawrence Schmidt to Baltimore County Board of Education

Reappoints Rodger Janssen, Ramona Johnson and H. Edward Parker

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 28, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Lawrence E. Schmidt, and announced the reappointments of Rodger Janssen, Ramona Johnson and H. Edward Parker to the Baltimore County Board of Education.

“I am proud to appoint Mr. Schmidt, and reappoint Mr. Janssen, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Parker to the Baltimore County Board of Education,” said Governor O'Malley. “I am confident that each appointee possesses the skill and the leadership necessary to ensure every child in Baltimore County receives the quality public education they deserve.”

“I am very pleased with Governor O'Malley's newest appointment to the Baltimore County Board of Education,” said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. “Veteran Board members Ed Parker, Ramona Johnson, and Roger Janssen have worked extremely well with Superintendent Dr. Joe Hairston to move our schools forward. The appointment of Larry Schmidt, who will join this esteemed group, will only make the Board stronger. In addition to his extensive community involvement, Mr. Schmidt's children are products of our public schools and as the husband of a Baltimore County teacher, he is very familiar with emerging educational issues. The Governor continues to demonstrate his strong commitment to education in Baltimore County and the state with these strong appointments.”

Each appointee is a resident of Baltimore County. Below is background information on the four appointees:

Lawrence E. Schmidt – Mr. Schmidt is a partner at Gildea & Schmidt, P.A. specializing in land use, land development, zoning and planning, real estate, historic preservation and lobbying. He has had his own practice since 2004. Prior to that, he was the Zoning Commissioner and Hearing Officer for Baltimore County from 1991 to 2004. From 1986 to 1991, he was a partner at Potthast and Schmidt, P.A. and, from 1979 to 1986, he had his own law practice. He is a member of the Baltimore County Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, the Trial Table Law Club and the Sigma Delta Kappa Law Fraternity. Mr. Schmidt earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore in 1979. He is admitted into the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the United States Supreme Court, the United States District Court and the United States Tax Court. He is the President of the Greater Towson Committee, Inc and is also a volunteer for the Take 2 Project of the Baltimore County Bar Association, and the Mock Trial Program through the Maryland State Department of Education. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Western Maryland College in 1975.

Rodger Janssen – Mr. Janssen has a long association with Baltimore County Public Schools through his participation with the PTA Council of Baltimore County, where he had been a vice president and a member for 12 years. He holds life memberships in both the national and state PTA organizations. Professionally, Mr. Janssen received a degree in construction management at the Community College of Baltimore in 1970 and has been employed as Construction Manager for the Maryland Transportation Authority. He also served on the Board for “Kids Helping Hopkins.” He was first appointed in August 2004.

Ramona Johnson –Ms. Johnson began her Board of Education service in August 2004 following her appointment to a five-year term. Married and the mother of a son and two daughters, Ms. Johnson is employed by NeighborWorks America as a Management Consultant. Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. She is a 2002 graduate of Leadership Baltimore County and serves on the boards of the Liberty/Randallstown Coalition and the Community Capital of Maryland. She has served as chair of the Urban Design Assistance Team for Randallstown and enjoys reading, arts, and crafts.

H. Edward Parker - Mr. Parker is the retired principal of Sollers Point Technical High School. He came to his career as

an educator following an 11-year manufacturing career in the private sector. Mr. Parker received his bachelor's degree from the University of Baltimore in Business Management and a master's degree from The Johns Hopkins University in Educational Administration. He has served as a trustee for the Community College of Baltimore County and is a member of the board of directors for the Dundalk Renaissance Corp., member of the Bayview Medical Center Community Advisory Board, and the residential community representative for the Port Land Use Development Advisory Council. Under his leadership as principal at Sollers Point Technical High School, the school became ISO-9001 registered in 2000 – the only high school in the nation to meet the quality standards of business and industry. During his 30 years with Baltimore County Public Schools, Mr. Parker also served as supervisor of vocational-technical education. He is proud of his five children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 29, 2009) –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following Maryland's top-in-the-nation status for economic stimulus reporting by Good Jobs First, a non-profit research center based in Washington, DC. The report, titled "**Show Us the Stimulus**," ranks Maryland number one in the nation for best reporting of spending from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The study examined the quality and quantity of disclosure by state websites on the many ways ARRA funding is flowing through state governments to communities, organizations and individuals. Looking at both spending programs and individual projects, it evaluates the general ARRA websites that all states have created as well as the reporting specifically on highway projects, **ranking Maryland's number one in the nation.**

"President Obama acted swiftly upon taking office by crafting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and Maryland responded by immediately launching a tool for the public to track every penny that will come to Maryland, what it will be used for, where it is spent, and how many jobs each project supports.

"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been a lifeline for Maryland. It's allowed us to save the jobs of police officers and teachers. It's saved us from having to push children and vulnerable adults off of health care coverage. And it's allowed us to protect the investments we've made in our public schools.

"We are committed in Maryland to fulfilling President Obama's vision of timely, transparent, accountable information on the use and impact of Recovery dollars. We invite all Marylanders to explore the data and provide feedback as we continue to improve and update our innovative web tracking tools."

The website, maintained by StateStat, Maryland's performance-measurement and management program implemented to make state government more accountable and more efficient, tracks every category of ARRA spending providing contract-level details to the public.

Recently, Maryland launched an updated application for the website, allowing users to find information more easily. The Map has been upgraded with additional information tools, detailed fund descriptions and project details. The new site also provides users the opportunity to send comments and questions about the data and the map directly to StateStat administrators.

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley Declares Rockville Maryland's 'Capital for a Day'



ROCKVILLE, MD (July 30, 2009) –Today, Governor Martin O'Malley and Maryland's Executive Cabinet joined Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, Senator Jennie Forehand, Rockville Mayor Susan Hoffman and other local officials in Rockville, 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.

"I want to thank the people of Rockville for their hospitality today. I'm so proud to return to my boyhood hometown to officially proclaim Rockville Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,'" said Governor O'Malley, making his announcement during a Cabinet Meeting held in Rockville's Town Square. "It's important for families across Maryland to know that their government is working for them – putting families first and fighting to expand the safety net for working families during these difficult economic times. Strengthening our local partnerships is absolutely critical to the progress of areas like Rockville."

"It is an honor to have Governor O'Malley back in his old home town of Rockville," said County Executive Isiah Leggett. "I'm sure this Town Square looks far different from the days when he was growing up in Rockville. What you see here today represents a firm commitment and a significant investment in so many ways by the State, the County and the City in the redevelopment of Rockville Town Center. It represents a job well done."

Even in difficult economic times, development and progress continues in many parts of Montgomery County, including in Rockville, built on the foundation of a strong partnership with the State. State funding of school construction projects has contributed to continued success among local students in the recent Maryland School Assessments. Ninety-eight percent of Montgomery County elementary schools and 68 percent of middle schools made Adequate Yearly Progress on the 2009 MSAs. At the elementary school level, 127 out of 130 schools in Montgomery County met the state performance goal—an overall success rate of 98 percent compared with 95 percent in 2008. In Rockville, more than \$14 million has been appropriated over the last three years for public school construction, renovation, and repair.

"This is such an incredible opportunity for the city," said Rockville Mayor Susan R. Hoffmann. "We have a lot in common with the state, including our commitment to the environment and our desire to ensure we are taking a sustainable approach to development. Rockville has a long-standing history of working with the state and that has strengthened both our governments."

Governor O'Malley has also prioritized many capital projects in Rockville, even during difficult economic times, including the Rockville District Court building, the Rockville Civic Center, and the Rockville Senior Center and Senior Center Park. Rockville Town Center also received \$5.5 million to assist in the redevelopment of the Town Center.

"Even in these tough times, Rockville has continued to progress, and this success is built upon a strong foundation of local-state partnerships over the years," said Senator Jennie Forehand. "I am thrilled the Governor has this opportunity to speak to his hometown, and declare it Maryland's Capital for a Day. The O'Malley-Brown Administration has worked

tirelessly to continue to strengthen these partnerships that will benefit our residents for years to come.”



The Governor began the day at the Rockville Senior Center, where he joined his mother, Barbara O'Malley, Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Gloria Lawlah, Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John Colmers, and others for a discussion with local senior citizens on a number of issues, including the O'Malley-Brown Administration's fight to close the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit "donut hole" for Maryland seniors. In 2008, Governor O'Malley signed legislation that provides prescription drug assistance for thousands of Maryland's seniors. The bill effectively closed the eligibility "donut hole" in which thousands of Maryland seniors found themselves if their expenditures fell between the mandated benefit thresholds.



The Governor then joined Tom Fulop, owner of Rockville Interiors, an interior design firm founded in 1971, for a tour of his Rockville facility. After the tour, Mr. Fulop joined the Governor in a walk to Primo Italiano on Rockville's Town Square, where they met with a group of about a dozen local small business owners and several local and state economic development officials for a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of small business ownership in Maryland. Small business is the foundation of Maryland's economy, comprising 97.7 percent of all employers and employing 53.4 percent of the private sector workforce.



Governor O'Malley concluded the day with an official Cabinet Meeting in Rockville's Town Square. There, the entire Cabinet reviewed their respective schedules throughout the day, many of whom met with their local counterparts on the county and municipality levels. The Cabinet then listened as Mayor Hoffman, County Executive Leggett, and Senator Forehand presented local issues for Rockville and Montgomery County, and ways the State can continue to strengthen the state-local partnerships that benefit all Maryland residents.

"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 "Capitals" have included Calvert County, Westminster, Hagerstown, Chestertown, Leonardtown, the Port Towns of Prince George's County, Cumberland, Pocomoke City, Gaithersburg and Ellicott City.

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