

## Fiscal 2009 Accomplishments

**Public Safety:** partnered with State and Federal agencies on grant opportunities; developed the County's Continuity of Operations Plan; collaborated with the private sector for emergency planning purposes; received an "Exceeds Standards" rating from the MD Emergency Numbers Board for Communications Center's Training and QA program; dispatched and served over 80,000 calls for assistance with an increase in number of calls for both EMS and Sheriff's Office; put two new ambulances in service; continued a commitment to training; received a 100% compliance certification from the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.

**Public Works:** maintained over 570 miles of roads; land filled in excess of 52,000 tons of solid waste; continued expansion of landfill (new cell construction) and Airport (runway extension); installed a methane gas collection system at the Beulah facility.

**Recreation & Parks/Tourism/Economic Development:** offered over 40 R&P programs with more than 800,000 recreation hours; welcomed 18,702 visitors at Visitors Center; installed public kiosks, enhanced interpretive signage; conducted business needs survey; hosted ED summit: "An Eye on Workforce, Linking Economic Development and Education at the Hyatt Chesapeake Bay Resort; continued development of new Technology Park; partnered with Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center to assist small businesses.

**Information Technology:** conducted employee training; assisted local schools with wireless infrastructure; continued installation of fiber connections for County facilities, assisted with emergency radio upgrades as well as Maryland Broadband project and local GIS initiatives.

**Local Management Board/Youth Services:** continued community collaborations, funded School Based Wellness program; offered counseling to more than 107 families; engaged in Anger Management groups at middle and high schools.



Dorchester  
County

## County Government Goals and Priorities

- To provide for good and efficient Government
- To ensure public safety and welfare of the citizens of the County
- To adhere to the Charter of the County as adopted in 2002 by the voters in the general election
- To manage with fiscal responsibility
- To appropriately plan for growing needs of constituents
- To maintain service levels at or above expectations
- To make Dorchester County a desired place to live and work
- To welcome visitors to the County and to showcase our proud heritage and history
- To provide for the enjoyment and quality of life for all residents of the County

## Dorchester County Council

Jay L. Newcomb, District 1  
William V. Nichols, District 2  
Ricky Travers, District 3  
Rick Price, District 4  
Effie Elzey, District 5

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# Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report



Dorchester County Council  
501 Court Lane  
Cambridge, MD 21613



Dorchester County is the largest County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with 593 square miles of land and 108 square miles of water with 1,700 miles of shoreline.

The shape of the County resembles a heart and is located at the midpoint of the Chesapeake Bay. There are 122,000 acres of wetlands—40% of the entire State's wetlands—in the County.

There are nine incorporated municipalities along with numerous quaint communities. Southern and western Dorchester encompass a large portion of the waterfront and seafood harvesting remains a viable industry in those areas. Northern and eastern portions of the County are largely agricultural.

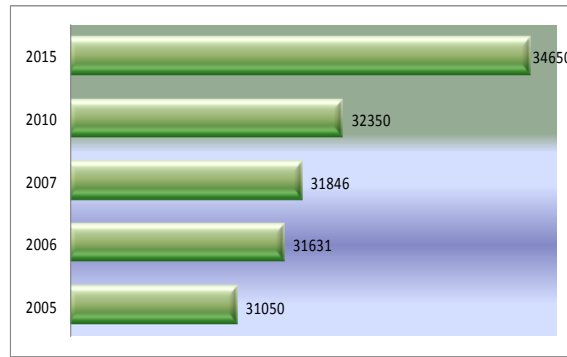
There are five County Council members, each representing a separate district. The County operates under Charter Home Rule form of Government which was successfully adopted by the voters in 2002. Under the Charter form of government, the Council may enact local laws, ordinances and policies that historically had to be sought through the State. Council members serve four-year terms and serve as the Roads Board, local Board of Health and Board of Estimates in addition to their Council roles.

Among the County's historic highlights is that it is the birthplace of Harriet Tubman, founder of the Underground Railroad. Annie Oakley, famed Wild West sharp shooter also made Dorchester County her home for a time. Old Trinity Church, the oldest Episcopal Church in continuous use in the United States, sits just below

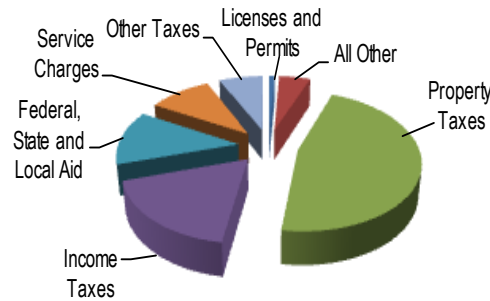
Cambridge (circa 1690) and our County is also home to the Nathan of Dorchester, a 45' working skipjack.



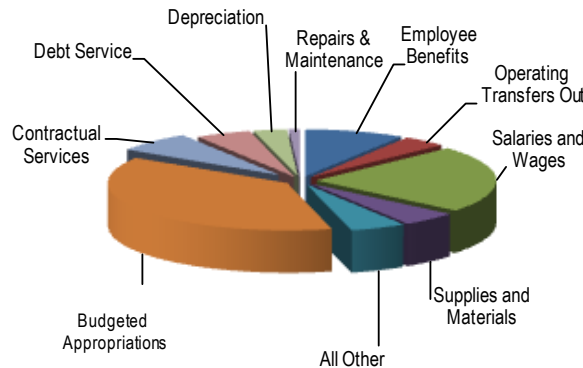
## Dorchester Population Comparison



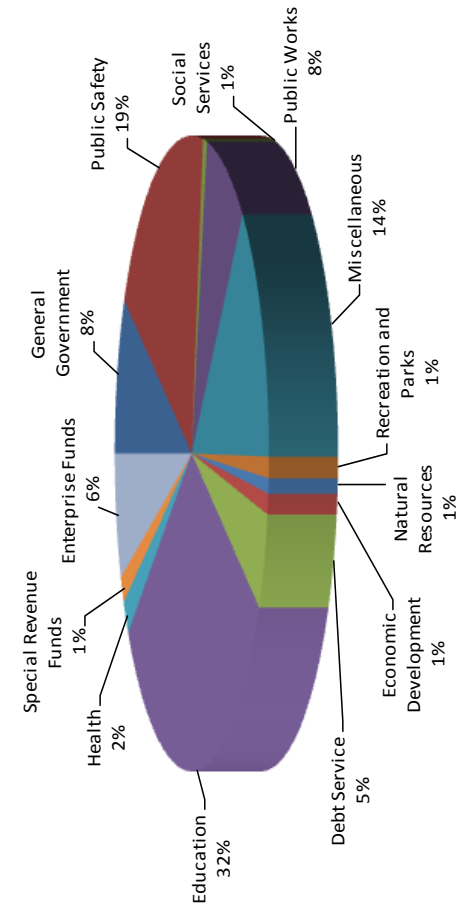
## County Budget by Revenue Source



## County Budget by Expenditure Type



## Operating Budget by Fund



## Budget in Brief

The Fiscal 2009 budget included a commitment to no new taxes, maintained the rate of \$.896 per \$100 of assessed value and prioritized municipal property tax relief with a decreased County property tax rate within the municipal boundaries of Cambridge and Hurlock. The General Fund growth was limited to 1.9% in the operating budget at \$53.1 million. The Council maintained its fiscal policy on stabilization of funds by maintaining the Reserve Fund equal to 5% of General Fund operating revenues. GASB 45 provided for post-employment retirement benefits and set aside \$1.2 million in a dedicated trust fund.