



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2023.10
(Rescinds Executive Order 01.01.2021.03)

Maryland 250 Commission

- WHEREAS, The 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America will occur on July 4, 2026;
- WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the State to develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness before, during and after the Revolution.
- WHEREAS, Maryland made significant contributions to the Revolutionary War by supplying material, resources, ships and soldiers;
- WHEREAS, This anniversary invites us to reflect on the ongoing evolution of American democracy, Maryland's integral role in that process, and the impact of Marylanders on the nation's past, present, and future;
- WHEREAS, Stories of revolution exist in all periods of time and in all places and sectors of our State, demonstrating Marylanders' boundless capacity for innovation, growth and development;
- WHEREAS, By celebrating our successes and reckoning with our setbacks, we will deepen public understanding of our complex history, strengthen public appreciation for service to our country, and inspire public engagement in civic life;
- WHEREAS, Inclusive conversations about our shared past allow us to discuss who we are today and who we want to be in the future so that we may invigorate and sustain the United States of America for the benefit of future generations, ensuring that no one is left behind.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY RESCIND EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2021.03 AND PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

I. There is a Maryland 250 Commission (the "Commission").

II. Membership.

A. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

1. The Lieutenant Governor;
2. The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;
3. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
4. The Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;
5. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
6. The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
7. The Secretary of Service and Civic Innovation, or the Secretary's designee;
8. The Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;
9. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
10. The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;
11. The State Archivist, or the Archivist's designee;
12. The State Historic Preservation Officer, or the Officer's designee;
13. The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, or the Executive Director's designee;
14. The Executive Director, Maryland State Arts Council, or the Executive Director's designee;
15. The Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, or the Administrative Director's designee;
16. The Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, or the Executive Director's designee;
17. The Director of the Maryland Commission for Women, or the Director's designee; and
18. Up to five members of the general public appointed by the Governor.

B. The following are invited to be, and shall be upon acceptance, members of the Commission:

1. Two members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate;
2. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates;
3. The Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or Executive Director's designee;

4. The Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or Executive Director's designee; and
5. Up to three members from the nonprofit community, selected from the Maryland Center for History and Culture, the Maryland Humanities Council, Preservation Maryland, or other similar organizations.

C. The Governor shall appoint the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Commission.

D. Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

III. The Maryland Department of Planning shall provide the Commission with resources and staff as feasible and necessary for administering and facilitating the work of the Commission.

IV. Members of the Commission may not receive any compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with the State Standard Travel Regulations and as provided in the State budget.

V. The Commission shall:

- A. Adopt administrative and financial procedures for the transaction of business, including, but not limited to, the establishment of advisory groups, committees, or working groups that address the themes of history, service, and civics.
- B. Hold at a minimum semi-annual meetings,
 1. At times and places to be determined by the Chair;
 2. That are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act; and
 3. That allow for remote meetings and electronic voting.
- C. Coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, and private and public partner organizations.
- D. Serve as the State of Maryland's official representative for the Semiquincentennial, and all related activities, communications, and events.
- E. Solicit, accept, use and dispose of donations, funds and gifts in conformance with the Public Ethics Law, to support the goals and purposes of the Commission.

- F. Invite broad-based public input on the meaning, significance, and opportunities of this anniversary that will inform development of commemoration activities, programs, and events.
- G. Acknowledge that the confiscation of Indigenous land and displacement of Indigenous people is central to the United States' origin story and recognize the persistence and contributions of these communities today.
- H. Honor the legacy of both free and enslaved African Americans in the making of Maryland and the nation, whose untold stories of heroism and perseverance are critical to the understanding of our shared past and present.
- T. Support the identification and enhancement of cultural assets that tell the story of who we are as Marylanders and promote place-based visitor experiences for residents and visitors alike.
- J. Engage youth, new Americans, and lifelong learners in programs designed to encourage the search for meaning behind America and deepen engagement in civic life.
- K. Celebrate service to country and community, and create opportunities that promote social responsibility, compassion and understanding that will unite and strengthen Maryland's diverse communities for the benefit of all.

VI. The Commission shall further:

- A. Submit an Action Plan to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2023, that outlines the Commission's goals, mission, and recommendations; and
- B. Produce by December 31 of each year an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly that includes an update on the Action Plan, implementation benchmarks, related deadlines and schedules, and an accounting and enumeration of all contracts, donations, and gifts.

Vii. The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

Viii. This Executive Order shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with all applicable statutes and regulations. Nothing in this Executive Order shall operate to contravene any State or federal law or to affect the State's receipt of federal funding.

IX. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Executive Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE
STATE OF MARYLAND, in the City of Annapolis, this 3rd
day of **July**, 2023.



Wes Moore
Governor

ATTEST:

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Governor Wes Moore Appoints Maryland 250 Commission

Maryland Department of Planning sent this bulletin at 12/04/2023 09:21 AM EST

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Maryland 250 Commission

Governor Parris N. Glendening, Chair
Judge Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley, Vice Chair

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Wes Moore Appoints Maryland 250 Commission

***Governor Parris N. Glendening and Judge Catherine Curran
(Katie) O'Malley to Lead New State Commission to Plan,
Encourage, and Execute the United States
250th Anniversary in Maryland***

(December 1, 2023) CROWNSVILLE, MD – Governor Wes Moore today announced the appointment of the Maryland 250 Commission. This Commission was created in July 2023 by Executive Order [01.01.2023.10](#), rescinding a 2021 Executive Order 01.01.2021.03 which created the Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission.

The Maryland 250 Commission will develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive, statewide, yearlong observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation focused on three themes – history, civics, and service. Nearly 40 states are now planning similar observances.

"If you don't understand your history, you will never understand your power. The 250th anniversary of America's founding calls on us to reflect on all parts of our history – the good and the bad – and recognize the inner power we all possess" said

Governor Moore. " Maryland is home to the origins of American democracy. By learning our history, Marylanders will be better prepared to strengthen American democracy."

Governor Moore appointed as Chair former Governor Parris N. Glendening and Vice Chair Judge Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley. Elected officials serving on the Commission include Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Senator Jack Bailey (District 29) and Senator Benjamin Brooks (District 10), Talbot County Council Member Pete Leshner, representing the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) and Bladensburg Mayor Takisha James, representing the Maryland Municipal League (MML).

Governor Glendening served as Governor of Maryland from 1995 through 2003. He previously served as Prince George's County Executive, member and chair of the Prince George's County Council, and member of the Hyattsville City Council. Governor Glendening served as President of the Smart Growth America Leadership Institute for 20 years, taught at the University of Maryland for 27 years, and is currently an Executive Visiting Professor at Johns Hopkins University. He resides in Anne Arundel County.

Judge O'Malley, a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, served as an Associate Judge in the District Court of Maryland in Baltimore City from 2001 through 2021 and is now a Senior Judge. She was the First Lady of Maryland from 2007 through 2015. She resides in Baltimore City.

A complete Commission list is available at planning.maryland.gov/Pages/md250-members.aspx.

All Marylanders are invited to be part of the planning for Maryland's official commemoration. Ideas for programs, events, or activities can be submitted to the Commission's [virtual suggestion box](#).

For more information about the Commission or to sign up for the Commission email list, go to <https://mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/>. Questions about the Commission can be directed to Michele W. Johnson, Commission Director, at Michele.Johnson1@Maryland.gov.

The first Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, in the third floor MHT Board Room. The Executive Order requires the Commission to submit an Action Plan and Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2023.

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JANUARY 8, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING



**Monthly Report for Mayor Takisha D. James
Town of Bladensburg, Maryland
4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710
(301) 927-7048**

Activity Report for December 2023 Meetings, Events & Updates

December 1: 22nd Annual Yule Log | The community came together to celebrate the holiday season with our annual Yule Log event on the first Friday in December. While the weather prevented us from being able to hold the outdoor activities, we were still able to bring together a diverse group of community members for a time of festivity and unity to celebrate the spirit of the season. It was fun to connect with residents, staff, and council members as we gathered to enjoy a meal and sing holiday songs with our wonderful emcee, Jim-Bo. We hope this was the first holiday event of the season that helped to kick off a joyous season of hope for residents. We look forward to connecting with everyone again next year.

December 1: Maryland 250 Commission: Governor Wes Moore announced the appointment of the Maryland 250 Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to plan, encourage, and execute an inclusive, statewide, yearlong commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, which is July 4, 2026. There will be three themes: history, civics, and service. Governor Moore appointed former Governor Parris N. Glendening and Vice Chair Judge Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley as chairs. Governor Moore's Executive Order is attached to this report (Attachment A). and I have included the December press release with this report (Attachment B). As noted in the press release, "Elected officials serving on the Commission include Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Senator Jack Bailey (District 29) and Senator Benjamin Brooks (District 10), Talbot County Council Member Pete Leshner, representing the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) and Bladensburg Mayor Takisha James, representing the Maryland Municipal League (MML)." This is a tremendous honor to serve on behalf of MML and I look forward to collaboratively working with the commission as we organize this wonderful celebration.

December 5: Swearing-in Ceremony | It was a pleasure to attend the ceremony where Council Member Elect Kalisha Dixon and Council Member Marilyn Blount took their oath of office. I'm very excited for the opportunity to work with our newest team member, Council Member Dixon, who has already hit the ground running! It has also been good to continue working with Council Member Blount as well.

December 6: Bladensburg 2nd Annual Senior Gala | This event was held for the second time and nearly every seat in the room was filled. I appreciate Council Member Blount continuing this program to enrich the lives of our seniors. Mr. Jeffries and Mrs. Caamano also did a wonderful job organizing, setting up, and implementing this event. During the program, senior residents received words of encouragement from our keynote speaker, Queen, and members of the Town Council. The selection of the gala's King and Queen was a part of the program as well and generated a lot of excitement along with giveaways. Attendees were served a delicious, hot meal by the Town Council, administrative staff, and the Police Department. We received many compliments from the attendees on the quality of the event and their appreciation for the Town taking the time to make the season brighter for our senior

residents. This time of year can be hard on our senior residents, who may not have regulated contact with family members and who may experience higher degrees of loneliness and feelings of isolation. Queen, our keynote speaker, tailored her remarks to remind the seniors of their value and contributions and encouraged them to take steps each day to ensure they are mentally and emotionally strong.

December 6: Port Towns Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment Project Kick-Off | The Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission facilitated this meeting to formally kick off the process for the development of a new sector plan. The meeting was facilitated by MNCPPC to allow attendees to hear from the Chair of the Prince George’s County Planning Board, Peter Shapiro, about the importance of this project. During his remarks, Mr. Shapiro stressed the importance of active community participation in the process. He noted that a goal of this Sector Plan is to assess existing conditions and opportunities for change in Port Towns. The new plan will replace the 2009 plan and sectional map amendment. As we work through this process, he noted we must make sure this plan is achievable and doesn’t end up on a shelf, as this is a major opportunity to improve the visual character of our communities.

Josephine Selvakuma, the Project Manager, was the facilitator for the meeting and took time to introduce the full team and allowed them to give remarks and explain their roles in the planning process.

For those who are not familiar with a Sector Plan, it:

- Contains strategies to attract and retain a variety of businesses.
- Contain strategies that may make the area more attractive for investment.
- Recommend zoning changes.

A Sectional Map Amendment amends a portion of the County Zoning Map to implement the recommendations of an adopted plan. An SMA is a separate legal procedure from a plan.

Project Objectives and Goals: To produce a draft sector plan through an inclusive participation process by February 2025. In order to achieve this, we will:

- Identify and analyze existing conditions.
- Develop a new and realistic vision and goals for the area in collaboration with the community.
- Provide policies and strategies for implementation.

The presenters spent time reviewing their findings from the SWOT Analysis of the Port Towns and asked meeting participants for additional thoughts on strengths and weaknesses.

There will be more opportunities to engage in this process so be on the lookout for future community meeting notifications.

December 7: Maryland 250 Civics Working Group Meeting | As part of my appointment to the Maryland 250 Commission, I'm a member of the Civics Working Group. The Chair, Dr. Antonio Ugues, Jr. (Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, St. Mary's College of Maryland) served as our facilitator. During the meeting, we reviewed our charge, meeting goals, and ideas for creating a work plan to promote civics. The Working Group's Charge is to:

- Engage youth, new Americans, and lifelong learners in programs designed to encourage the search for meaning behind America and deepen engagement in civic life.
- A top near-term priority is to create a work plan and annual report to provide to Governor Moore and the legislature by 12/31/2023.

December 7: Follow Up Meeting Regarding SHA Safety Improvements for Annapolis Road | We are continuing to work with SHA to improve the safety of Annapolis Road to prevent future pedestrian and vehicular accidents. This meeting was to hear an update on SHA's initial review of the area of concern and possible mitigation efforts. Efforts will continue and we will keep the community apprised of the SHA's developments on measures to address our concerns.

December 9: Christmas Meal Giveaway | The Town of Bladensburg partnered with Victory Grace Center (VGC) and No Opportunity Wasted (NOW Foundation) to provide meals to 400 families. The Council voted to use ARPA funds for this initiative to provide residents with a hearty meal for the Christmas holiday. I'm so grateful for the support of Principal Lisa Faulker-Jones of Bladensburg High School, who opened the doors of her facility for this event, encouraged her students to volunteer, and provided staff support for the event. VGC led the logistical efforts in securing the food, while NOW Foundation organized our volunteers and provided supervision of them and manpower for the implementation of the event. The giveaway was immensely successful, and we immediately received positive feedback from residents who benefited from the resources. I want to thank the Town Council and staff for all of your efforts in supporting this event in collaboration with our partners!

December 9: Shop with a Cop | I had the privilege of joining the Bladensburg Police Department for this annual event to bless underprivileged youth in our community with a shopping spree. Additionally, the event provided youth with the opportunity to interact positively with law enforcement members. Each child was paired with a police officer at the event's start. They could ride in the police car with their respective officers in a parade lineup from Port Towns Elementary School to our local Walmart. The store staff awaited our arrival and gave the children a warm and lively welcome as they entered the store to begin shopping. After completing their shopping spree, we returned to Port Town Elementary School, and the officers helped the children wrap their gifts. We also provided them with lunch before their parents returned to pick them up. I'm grateful to everyone who partnered with our police department to make this event possible. This includes the many police officers from other agencies, as well as Principal Marek of Port Towns Elementary School, who opened her school for this event, along with Principal Edwards of Rogers Heights Elementary School, their respective staff members, and RRR Automotive. This event puts a bright smile on the faces of our youth and lifts their spirits tremendously.

during the holidays, so thank you to everyone who made this event possible, especially the CAT Unit, which organized the event!

December 12: Town of Bladensburg Employee Holiday Luncheon | As the year ended, the Town Council hosted an employee luncheon to thank town staff for their hard work throughout the year. The event allowed us to express our appreciation for their hard work on behalf of the residents and council.

December 14: MML's State of the Municipality | The Maryland Municipal League hosted this briefing featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Anirban Basu, Sage Policy Group. Dr. Basu shared the release of the 2023 commissioned study, The Economic Significance of Maryland's Municipalities. The event also featured remarks from MML President Galena Mayor John Carroll and MML CEO Theresa Kuhns.

A few takeaways from Dr. Basu's economic analysis are:

Maryland has a corporate tax rate of 8.2% as compared to approximately 6% in Virginia. That doesn't make our state competitive. We are generating higher personal income tax rates on people making high salaries elsewhere and living in MD, which equates to treating the middle class badly.

Office buildings aren't maintaining their value. People aren't using office space as much anymore, and valuations are lower. In 2016, a building in Baltimore was valued at \$60 million and recently sold for \$25 million. PNC determined they would lose more money if they didn't take that deal. These scenarios put more pressure on the taxpayers.

Maryland taxes make it challenging for retirees. The federal government and military retirees are taxed so highly that they are retiring and moving out of state at high rates. We are also driving away wealthy retirees with tax rates on their income.

Whatever we can do to make the permitting and business applications will help spur private investment.

Maryland is often linked to federal funding for transportation. We need to transition from being a driver-centered focus to cultivating a culture of mass transit.

The event presentation was very informative and offered ideas that municipalities should be mindful of as we enter the budget planning season.

Final Thoughts for 2023 | This year has been extremely busy and productive for the Town of Bladensburg. I wish Town residents, business owners, and community stakeholders a very happy and blessed holiday season! Thank you for your continued support and partnership in moving our community forward. I look forward to continuing our efforts in 2024!

Policy Update

December 5: A major announcement was made by the Moore Miller Administration regarding transportation cuts. They announced a proposed \$3.3 billion of wide-ranging cuts for the state's six-year transportation spending plan. This proposal would include \$400 million in reductions to local governments (including HURs), \$1 Billion in operating budget reductions, and \$2 billion in cuts to capital programs. These cuts would also impact expansion and maintenance projects, reduce MVA offices, and more. We will monitor this throughout the upcoming legislative session and keep the community informed.