



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Regional business leaders creating a better tomorrow...today.



March 19, 2018

State House Update

FOLLOW THE GBC



GBC'S 2018 AGENDA

[GBC's 2018 Legislative Agenda](#)

GBC'S LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

To read testimony and get more information about bills the GBC tracked this year, visit our [legislative tracking website](#).

MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[General Assembly Website](#)

[Committee Schedule](#)

GBC EVENTS

Message to Members

The 90-day legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly has three weeks remaining. March 18 is the crossover deadline, meaning that if a bill has not passed its chamber of origin, its prospects for passage are less likely. This deadline provides a clearer picture regarding the fate of the 3,118 bills and resolutions introduced during the 2018 legislative session. In the next three weeks leading up to *Sine Die*, April 9, legislators will complete their work on the State's Fiscal Year 2019 budget and take up hundreds of pieces of legislation that remain viable.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) will continue to be active throughout the remaining days of the legislative session, serving as the voice of business and protecting Maryland's competitive business environment. To follow the GBC's work in Annapolis, visit our [legislative tracking page](#).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

SOLD OUT:**March 21, 2018**

Newsmaker Breakfast:
Improving and Funding
Education in Maryland with
William E. "Brit" Kirwan, Chair,
Maryland Commission on
Innovation and Excellence in
Education



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

March 22, 2018

Breakfast Briefing:
Women in the Workplace,
Women in Leadership

SAVE THE DATE:**April 26, 2018**

Maryland Gubernatorial Forum

May 14, 2018

Annual Meeting

May 23, 2018

Newsmaker Breakfast:
Baltimore's Housing Options:
Neighborhood Strengths and
Hidden Gems with Annie Milli,
Executive Director, Live
Baltimore

July 17, 2018

GBC Golf Classic

SAVE THE DATE:**September 13, 2018**

Economic Outlook Conference

SAVE THE DATE:**October 11, 2018**

Transportation Summit

SAVE THE DATE:**December 5, 2018**

Mayor's Business Recognition
Awards Luncheon

Event and sponsorship
information:

Lisa Byrd at 410-727-2820

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Transportation-Related Legislation Update

The GBC recognizes transportation and mobility as one of the most important factors for a competitive business environment in the Greater Baltimore region. In the GBC report, "[Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation](#)," one of the eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job creation is "superior transportation infrastructure with reliable funding mechanisms." Additionally, the GBC's [2018 Legislative Priorities](#) advocates for growth-oriented transportation policies, which include an interconnected multimodal transportation system that provides meaningful ways to reach employment hubs, strategic investments for the transportation network and transportation revenues that provide long-term stability. During the remaining three weeks of the 2018 session, legislators will consider a number of important bills that affect transportation policies.

The GBC supported legislation that seeks to improve access to jobs, including a bill that would increase commuter tax benefits and another that would provide innovative methods for connecting communities that need workers with employee hubs. The GBC also supported bills that seek to increase the share of highway user revenues for Baltimore City and municipalities. During the recession, highway user revenues were diverted to balance the General Fund budget, but was never restored to pre-recession levels. The GBC believes increasing the local share of highway user funds enable local jurisdictions to more adequately meet their transportation needs.

The GBC has also weighed in against transportation-related legislation, including a bill that would require two-person crews on trains in Maryland. This proposed requirement is unnecessary due to technological advances. In addition, requiring two-person crews would increase costs for train operators and reduce the competitiveness of the Port of Baltimore, as nearby states do not have similar legislation. The GBC has also opposed several pieces of legislation that seek to inhibit the development of high-speed or magnetic levitation (maglev) transportation systems in Maryland. The GBC is supportive of new and advanced transportation options and advocates for the construction of a maglev system in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Additionally, the GBC opposed legislation that sought to repeal the requirement that the motor fuel tax be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. It is vital that Maryland's transportation infrastructure maintain reliable and stable funding.

Another piece of legislation that has ramifications for the Greater Baltimore region would establish dedicated funding to support capital costs for the Washington Metro Area Transit



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Authority, which oversees the Washington, D.C. region's Metro system. Amendments added to the bill, which has passed the House of Delegates and is pending in the Senate, are beneficial for the Greater Baltimore region. The amendments require: (1) increased funding for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) by at least 4.4 percent for at least two years; (2) an appropriation of at least \$29.1 million in additional capital investments for three years; (3) an audit by the MTA on the condition of capital assets; and (4) the preparation of a Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan to meet the needs of the Core Service Area, which consists of the area in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, and Baltimore County that is served by light rail, metro or fixed bus route service. These amendments are an important development for the Greater Baltimore region, and the GBC will continue to follow them closely.



Upcoming Dates of Interest

This Wednesday, [March 21](#), the GBC is hosting a sold out Newsmaker Breakfast featuring a discussion with Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, Chair of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, commonly referred to as the Kirwan Commission. Dr. Kirwan will discuss the current ranking of Maryland schools in the United States and internationally as well as preliminary findings of the Commission. Findings include shortcomings of the funding formulas for the state's poorer jurisdictions, needed improvements for recruiting and keeping teachers and more support for at-risk students. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.



On Thursday, [March 22](#), the GBC is hosting a Breakfast Briefing entitled, "Women in The Workplace, Women in Leadership," featuring Jamie Fontaine-Gansell, an advocacy communications expert who will discuss leadership and corporate culture strategies that develop and nurture women leaders and increase organizational performance, and Michelle M. McGeogh, Of Counsel at Ballard Spahr LLP. The speakers will discuss the prevention of workplace harassment and the encouragement of gender diversity and its many benefits to both your workplace culture and your bottom line. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.



Join the GBC on [May 14](#) for its 63rd Annual Meeting, the state's premier business event of the year. To become a sponsor, please contact [Lisa Byrd](#), Director of Events and Business Development, at 410-727-2820.

