



# GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



March 5, 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 Greater Baltimore region lost one of its elected representatives yesterday with the unexpected passing of Senator H. Wayne Norman, Jr. Senator Norman, a Republican, represented District 35, which includes portions of Harford and Cecil counties.

Senator Norman was my Senator and a friend. We have known each other for over 40 years, once carpooling while we attended law school at the University of Baltimore.

As a legislator, he served with distinction on the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, which every year tackles some of the most formidable issues in the Maryland General Assembly.

Senator Norman enjoyed a wide range of friends, was devoted to his wife and children, worked hard to represent his constituents, and enjoyed life. His loss will truly be felt in the Senate of Maryland.

Sincerely,

**March 8, 2018**

NewsMaker Breakfast:  
Baltimore City's Plan to Reduce  
Crime and Improve Public  
Safety with Drew Vetter,  
Director, Mayor's Office on  
Criminal Justice



Donald C. Fry  
President and CEO

**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

## Budget Deliberations Heat Up in Annapolis

The budget bill is the only piece of legislation the Maryland General Assembly is constitutionally mandated to pass every legislative session. This year, the budget bill (SB 185 / HB 160) weighs in at \$44.4 billion, which represents a 1.8 percent increase over the current Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The budget must be passed by the 83rd day of the 90-day session, which falls on April 2. As the 90-day legislative session has passed the halfway point, budget hearings and negotiations begin to accelerate.

**March 22, 2018**

Breakfast Briefing:  
Women in the Workplace,  
Women in Leadership

**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

Budgets drive policy. The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) carefully monitors the budget bill because it contains numerous items that influence a strong and competitive business climate, including funding for economic development, education and transportation. The GBC has urged budget leaders to support full funding of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and the Maryland Department of Commerce, both of which administer critical programs that spur innovation and economic development.

**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

Each year there are many important issues addressed during budget negotiations and this year seems to have more than its fair share. Actions at the federal level are strongly impacting Maryland's budget. These include uncertainty of federal funding for programs and agencies, the specter of government shutdowns, changes to the Affordable Care Act and, most recently, passage of federal tax reforms.

Baltimore City is also greatly impacted by the budget debate. Following the April 2015 unrest in Baltimore, leaders in Annapolis instituted new spending for programs to address systemic issues exposed by the upheaval. The result was a multi-year, \$300 million package for Baltimore, including new spending for initiatives related to education, neighborhood development and job training.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

**Donald C. Fry**  
President & CEO  
410-727-2820 ext. 12

**Brian Levine**  
Vice President and Special  
Assistant to the President  
410-727-2820 ext. 44

**Shaina Hernandez**  
Director of Local Government  
Affairs and Strategic Initiatives  
410-727-2820 ext. 38

The ongoing funding for some of these programs faces uncertainty. Much of the funding was not included in the Governor's Fiscal Year 2019 budget. Baltimore legislators and budget leaders have indicated they will make every attempt to restore full funding for these initiatives. The GBC expects this issue to be an important component in this session's budget negotiations.

## Kirwan Commission Updates

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, better known as the Kirwan Commission after its Chairman,

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Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, former Chancellor of the University System of Maryland released its preliminary report on February 15. The Commission, which was formed to study and make recommendations to improve K-12 education and on adequate funding of Maryland's schools, will release its final report at the end of 2018.

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Dr. Kirwan briefed the GBC Board of Directors on the Commission's recommendations, calling for improvements to Maryland school systems, which he described as needing "marked improvement." The Commission's preliminary recommendations include increasing school funding, improving performance of schools in low income communities, expanding early childhood development programs and boosting the prestige of the teaching profession. GBC members will have the opportunity to learn more about the Commission's preliminary recommendations at the [GBC's March 21 Newsmaker Breakfast](#), which features Dr. Kirwan.



The GBC believes it is important to adequately fund education and maintain high-performing school systems. Maryland's workforce is one of the best in the country, but it is vital that less wealthy Maryland school systems are on a level playing field with wealthier jurisdictions and are preparing students to enter the workforce or institutions of higher education. Maryland's employers benefit if its students are well-educated and prepared for the workforce.

**Upcoming Dates of Interest**



On [March 8](#), the GBC is hosting its next Newsmaker Breakfast featuring a discussion with Drew Vetter, Director of the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, regarding Baltimore City's plan to reduce crime and improve public safety. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.



On [March 21](#), the GBC is hosting a Newsmaker Breakfast featuring a discussion with 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 his commission, including 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.



