



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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December 13, 2018

State House Update

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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](#)

Message to Members

Redistricting reform is back in the news, but did it ever leave? On November 7, 2018, a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland in *Benisek v. Lamone* ruled that Maryland's 2011 congressional redistricting plan for the 6th Congressional District violates the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As a result, the State of Maryland was ordered to redraw the boundaries of the 6th Congressional District, which encompasses Western Maryland and portions of Montgomery County. The order gave Maryland officials until March 7, 2019 to submit new district boundaries using the application of geographic contiguity, compactness, regard for natural boundaries and boundaries of political subdivisions, regard for geographic and other communities of interest.

Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh (D) has appealed the ruling, which puts the court order in limbo. In response, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan Jr. (R) issued an Executive Order creating the Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering to redraw boundaries. It is unclear when and who will redraw the boundaries, which depends on a variety of factors, including Attorney General Frosh's appeal.

GBC EVENTS**SOLD OUT!****December 18, 2018**

Newsmaker Breakfast:
Meet Baltimore's New Faces
in Annapolis

January 28, 2019

Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Forum

NEW DATE:**February 11, 2019**

Breakfast Briefing:
What the Affordable Care Act
Means for You

Four-part Speaker Series
with Chris McDonell,
President, McDonell Consulting
Group:

February 7, 2019

Caring Enough to be
Demanding of Exceptional
Results: Understanding your
Workforce and the Difference
between Ability and Motivation

May 8, 2019

LinkedIn and the Art of Social
Selling

September 26, 2019

Closing the Sale: How to Inspect
What you Expect

November 20, 2019

Effective Networking and
Business Development

Event and sponsorship
information:
Lisa Byrd at 410-727-2820

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The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) has a long-standing position that an independent entity should be created to redraw Maryland's Congressional and legislative districts following each decennial census. However, the GBC has suggested changing Maryland's approach to redistricting in a phased-in manner, with Congressional redistricting first and legislative boundaries at a later time.

[Click here](#) to read my recent commentary, published in *The Daily Record* on November 15, 2018, on this important issue.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald C. Fry".

Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

Major Issues on the Horizon for 2019

The 2019 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly will be the first year of a new four-year term. Typically, legislators wait to tackle more controversial issues until the second or third year of a term, but the 2019 session may see its fair share of important policy items considered. It is difficult to know all of the newsworthy issues prior to the session, but some of them will likely include the following:

- Kirwan Commission (Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) recommendations and cost estimates
- Statewide \$15 per hour minimum wage
- Redistricting reform for Congressional and legislative districts
- Sports betting authorization
- State budget surplus, future structural deficits
- P3 highway expansion/toll proposal
- Opportunity Zone program enhancements
- Juvenile justice reform
- Preakness Stakes and Pimlico Race Course future
- Prescription drug cost regulations
- Health care reform/individual mandate
- Cannabis legalization
- Higher education reform

While we will not know the contents of Governor Larry Hogan's legislative package until after the start of the session on January 9, 2019, he has said that during his second four-year term (Maryland governors are limited to two four-year terms) he plans to pursue some tax-cutting proposals, continue advocating for non-partisan redistricting and increase accountability in K-12 school systems. Generally, Governor Hogan has indicated that he plans to govern his second term similar to his first four years in office.



Joint Spending Affordability Committee

The Maryland General Assembly's Joint Spending Affordability Committee held a meeting on November 15, 2018 and will meet again on December 18, 2018, where it will issue its recommendations on state spending and debt authorization limits. The Committee studies and reviews the status and projections of State revenues and expenditures and the status and projections of the Maryland economy.



The Spending Affordability Committee meets under rare circumstances this year - Maryland's budget is expecting a nearly \$1 billion in surplus revenues for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year. That is in addition to \$503 million more revenue than was forecast for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2018. This significant uptick in revenue is largely attributable to federal tax law changes, a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which will allow states to collect sales taxes for online sales and stronger than expected revenue from corporate, income and sales taxes.



At the November 15 meeting, analysts from the Maryland Department of Legislative Services suggested several uses for the surplus, including an increase in contributions to the State Reserve Fund (aka Rainy Day fund), one-time infrastructure spending, one-time spending for forthcoming Kirwan Commission recommendations and addressing unfunded liability for post-employment benefits. Despite the promising short-term forecast, analysts warned that structural deficits, which means revenue projections that do not meet future expected spending growth, return in Fiscal Year 2020 and grow in Fiscal Year 2021.



2018 Final Election Results and Partisan Splits



Democrats gained another seat in the House of Delegates as Heather Bagnall (D- Anne Arundel) scored a victory after all provisional and absentee ballots were counted. Ms. Bagnall, 10 days after trailing by 645 votes on election night, defeated incumbent Tony McConkey (R), giving the Democrats their 99th seat in the House of Delegates. All other close races on election night remained unchanged by the counting of absentee and provisional ballots.



Following the November 6, 2018 General Election, the partisan split in the Senate of Maryland will go from 33 Democrats and 14 Republicans to 32 Democrats and 15 Republicans, a gain of one Republican seat. The 2018 partisan split for the House of Delegates changes from the current 91 Democrats and 50 Republicans to 99 Democrats and 42 Republicans, a gain of eight seats for Democrats. In both chambers, Democrats hold more than the three-fifths supermajority needed to override gubernatorial vetoes, if such votes are held on party lines.



Senate of Maryland Committee Assignments Announced

Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. (D) won another term as President of the Senate of Maryland. Senate President Miller also announced the members of each of the Senate's committees for 2019. Of the four major committees, only one chair or vice-chair (Judiciary Chairman Robert Zirkin) returns to the same post as prior to the 2018 election. With 17 newly-elected Senators and some significant reshuffling, the Senate's committee membership will look quite different.

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee - six new members

Senator Nancy King, Chair
 Senator Bill Ferguson, Vice Chair
 Senator Addie Eckardt
 Senator George C. Edwards
 Senator-Elect Sarah Elfreth*
 Senator-Elect Melony Griffith*
 Senator Guy Guzzone
 Senator-Elect Cory McCray*
 Senator Douglas J. J. Peters
 Senator James C. Rosapepe (formerly on Finance)*
 Senator Johnny Ray Salling (formerly on Finance)*
 Senator Andrew Serafini
 Senator Craig Zucker (formerly on Finance)*

Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee - six new members

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
 Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Vice-Chair
 Senator-Elect Jack Bailey*
 Senator-Elect Mary Beth Carozza*
 Senator-Elect Arthur Ellis*
 Senator-Elect Jason C. Gallion*
 Senator Cheryl C. Kagan
 Senator-Elect Clarence K. Lam*
 Senator-Elect Obie Patterson*
 Senator Bryan Simonaire
 Senator Ronald N. Young

Senate Finance Committee - five new members

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair* (formerly on Judicial Proceedings)*
 Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice-Chair
 Senator-Elect Malcolm Augustine*
 Senator-Elect Pamela Beidle*
 Senator Joanne C. Benson
 Senator-Elect Antonio L. Hayes*
 Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
 Senator J.B. Jennings
 Senator Katherine Klausmeier
 Senator-Elect Benjamin F. Kramer*
 Senator Edward R. Reilly

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee - five new members

Senator Bobby Zirkin, Chair
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice-Chair
Senator Jill P. Carter*
Senator Bob Cassilly
Senator-Elect Katie Hester*
Senator Michael J. Hough
Senator Susan C. Lee
Senator Justin Ready
Senator-Elect Jeff Waldstreicher*
Senator-Elect Mary L. Washington*
Senator-Elect Chris West*

** new to committee in 2019*

Commentary by GBC President and CEO Donald C. Fry

[Click here](#) to read Don Fry's most recent commentary, *Maryland voters deserve redistricting reform*, published in *The Daily Record* on November 15, 2018.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

On [December 18](#), the GBC is hosting a sold out Newsmaker Breakfast featuring a panel discussion with Baltimore City's new legislators in Annapolis. The breakfast will feature five new Baltimore City delegates: Dalya Attar, Regina Boyce, Tony Bridges, Stephanie Smith and Melissa Wells. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.

On [January 28](#), attend the GBC's annual Maryland General Assembly Legislative Forum, which will feature top legislative leaders from both parties and the Governor's Office who will discuss the legislative dynamics that are in store. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, 20 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

On [February 11](#), the GBC is hosting the Breakfast Briefing, "What the Affordable Care Act Means for You." Join a panel of insurance industry experts for a discussion about recent developments in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and what they mean to businesses of all sizes. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.