



THE WASHINGTON REPORT FROM ANNAPOLIS

Quarterly Update Interim 2024

June 30, 2024

Good evening,

It has been a while since I shared an update. The post-session activities have kept us extremely focused and engaged in addressing a range of issues that affect our communities. These include speaking engagements, site visits, advocacy meetings, and taking time out to enjoy the many parades and celebrations the 43rd District has to offer.

While there is so much more, I could share here about our spring activities, I will focus on state and local news that will give you a sense of the work we are doing, as well as provide you some information you may find interesting or helpful.

On this last day of June, I want to share a short midsummer meditation on Juneteenth and LGBTQ+ Pride. In an ever-changing landscape, it is imperative that we remember our shared interests and responsibility in the transformative power of community and our role in dismantling systemic injustices experienced by our neighbors.

“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not lead single-issue lives. . . Without community, there is no liberation.” Audre Lorde

“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

As I reflect on these words, I am deeply grateful for those who dared to believe and challenge us to work to uplift the voices of those who have gone unheard for far too long and seek healing and connection in our words and actions.

As always, if you have an issue or event that you would like me to discuss or attend, please email mary.washington@state.senate.md.us, or call our office at (410) 841-3476.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary L. Washington".

Senator Mary L. Washington
District 43 - Baltimore City & County



OFFICIAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

During the 90 Day legislation session, the Senator and her staff spend between 12-16 hours a day engaged in the work associated with hearing, researching, advocating, amending and voting on bills assigned to her standing committee (EEE) and those which come to the Senate Floor from the Budget & Tax, Finance and Judiciary Committees.

Additionally in the Senator's role as Co-Chair of the AELR Committee, she and its members are required to receive and review emergency executive orders, promulgated by the Governor and those proposed State agencies about the legislative intent and procedural due process.

THE OFFICE OF SENATOR MARY WASHINGTON



DISTRICT 43
BALTIMORE COUNTY AND BALTIMORE CITY
SUITE 200 - BASEMENT
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For the remainder of the year, Senator Washington spends a significant amount of time participating in number of Special Joint Committees, Caucus Meetings, Commissions, Task Forces, & Work Groups during the interim (May through December as well as meetings and events associated with local government, community and business organizations, stakeholders and policy matters associated with the welfare of the people of the 43rd District.

APRIL

- **16th** - Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy Task Force Meeting
- **24th** - Towson High School CIP Community Update
- **25th** - Bill Signing, Annapolis
- **30th** - Workgroup on Social Work Licensure Requirements Meeting



Senator Washington at the Bill Signing Ceremony for SB430: Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program

Site Plan - Building Entrances



Towson High School Site Plan – Building Entrances

MAY

- **8th** 43rd District Virtual Townhall: 2024 Session Wrap-Up
- **9th & 16th** Bill Signing, Annapolis
- **28th** Workgroup on Social Work Licensure Requirements Meeting
- **29th** Maryland Correctional Enterprises Workgroup Meeting
- **31st** Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy Taskforce Final Report Released.

JUNE

- **4th** - Signing of Governor Moore's Executive Order to Advanced

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

- **7th** - Hearing on Maryland Cannabis Administration's Emergency Regulation, AELR Committee
- **19th** -LBI-Capital Grant Meeting: Towson Elks Lodge #842 -Historic East Towson
- **21-24th** - Southern Regional Education Board Conference and Legislative Advisory Meeting.
- **25th** - Workgroup on Social Work Licensure Requirements Meeting.

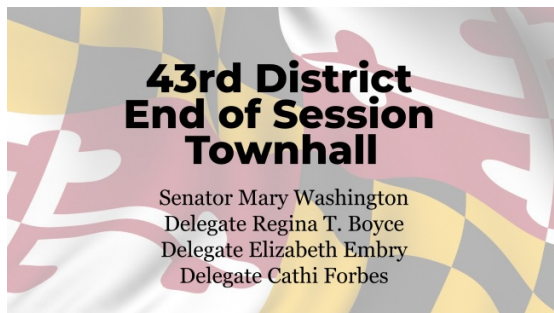


Senator Washington greeting the Governor at Executive Order Signing at the Henderson Hopkins Elementary School

Let's Take a Deeper Dive

In this section we take a closer look at a few of Senator Washington's activities noted in the above section. If you would like more details about her committee, taskforce, commission, workgroup or other duties please call us 410 841-3145 or email us Mary.Washington@senate.state.md.us.

On May 8th our 43rd District Delegation: Senator Washington and Delegates Regina Boyce, Liz Embry, and Cathi Forbes held a recap of the 2024 Session during a Virtual Townhall.



Please click on the slide about to view the presentation that accompanied the discussion.



[You may also watch the entire meeting HERE](#)

Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy Taskforce

During the 2023 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 382, sponsored by Senator Washington which established the Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy Task Force to study the placement of accessory dwelling units. From this analysis, the Task Force developed legislative and policy recommendations based on 18 months of discussion among stakeholders and experts, informed by study and research regarding impacts on local government, real estate markets, fair housing and neighborhood character.

See the final approved report [HERE](#)



Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy Task Force Final Report

May 31, 2024
 Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

STATE CAPITAL LBI GRANT

The Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World #842 was awarded both state and county capital grants to repair and reimagine the nearly 100-year-old "Pride of Towson Elks Lodge." Because of the significance and complexity of this endeavor Senator Washington and Delegate Cathi Forbes convened the Executive Committee of Lodge #842, Baltimore County Department of Planning, and other stakeholders onsite and led a discussion about the vision and plan for its restoration as one of Towson's premier social, historical and cultural sites. Our office is honored and grateful to take part in this project to preserve and revitalize Historic East Towson community for generations to come.



AELR Hearing on Maryland Cannabis Administration Regulations (DLS No. 24-019)

The AELR (Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review) Committee is Chaired by Senator Mary Washington and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg and is charged with determining whether an agency's regulations are necessary for the public interest, supported by statutory authority and judicial opinions, obsolete, and ultimately whether new regulations are appropriate for amendment or repeal. The AELR Committee held a hearing on June 7, 2024, to review the final regulations from the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) to replace the emergency regulations that went into effect on July 1, 2023 (DLS Control No. 23-121E).



The Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) briefed the committee on what the regulations entail and why they were submitted as both emergency regulations and permanent proposed regulations. The committee held the hearing, listened to questions and comments, and then voted on the passage of these regulations. The regulations passed by a majority vote of the AELR committee. Notable changes/additions to the regulations from 2023 to 2024:

- Medical patients are no longer required to obtain a patient identification card. Thus, related regulations requiring MCA to issue patient identification and caregiver identification cards are repealed.
- MCA is authorized to suspend, fine, restrict, or revoke a license if it is

determined that a licensee has not complied with statements in the application, including statements about standards of operation or employment practices related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- Authorizes the State Cannabis Testing Laboratory to establish pilot programs to (1) improve public health and safety, (2) review existing regulatory standards, or (3) develop new regulatory standards.
- All cannabis must be transported in one or more locked and secured storage containers anchored to the inside of the vehicle, not accessible while in transit, and concealed so they are not visible or identifiable from outside the vehicle.
- Access to a dispensary is restricted to qualifying patients, registered caregivers, and individuals aged 21 and older, but new to the regulations, a dispensary is authorized to admit children younger than age eight if they are accompanied by a qualifying patient or a registered caregiver
- A dispensary is prohibited from creating a consumer profile for an adult-use consumer without the customer's consent.
- The restriction that dispensaries may only operate for 12 hours a day is repealed, and dispensaries are authorized to conduct sales between 8 am and 11 pm.

Governor Moore's Executive Order on Climate Change

On Tuesday, June 4th, 2024, Governor Moore signed an Executive Order that addresses Maryland's sweeping climate goals, including directing a whole-of-government approach to address climate change, including requiring agencies to submit a Climate Implementation Plan by Nov. 1, action to propose new emissions standards, and the creation of the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate.

In December 2023, the Maryland Department of the Environment released Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan to support the goals of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, which requires Maryland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent below 2006 levels by 2031 and reach net zero emissions by 2045. The Climate Pollution Reduction Plan estimates that the implementation of new climate policies will generate up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits, a \$2.5 billion increase in personal income for Marylanders, and a net gain of 27,400 jobs between now and 2031.

The executive order also directs the Maryland Department of the Environment to take immediate action on climate change by proposing a zero-emission heating equipment standard regulation and a clean heat standard regulation, in addition to working with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative states to establish a new regional cap for carbon dioxide emissions from power plants that align with Maryland and partner states' 100% clean energy goals.

COMMUNITY EVENTS, ADVOCACY, OUTREACH

APRIL

- **13th** - Panel Discussion
"Implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future" -- Western MD Summit
 - **18th** - Towson Communities Alliance Meeting
 - **20th** - Northwood Baseball League Annual Parade & Opening Day
-



With Waverly Main Street Executive Director Diana Emerson and Delegates Boyce, and 14th District Councilmember Ramos at the ribbon cutting for Waverly Main Street's new offices.



Senator Washington signing first Pitch Ball on Opening Day

JUNE

- **7th** - Waverly Main Street's New Office Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- **9th** - Roger's Forge Pride March and Festival
- **17th** - Tour of the Towson Library Central Branch
- **27th** - A Celebration of Construction. Phase I completion of "The Enolia." New off campus dormitory project designed for Morgan State University students.

MAY

- **23th** ServiceYear / Maryland Corps Regional Training at Loyola University of Maryland
- **31st** Wide Angle Media Offices & Studio Construction Briefing



Wide Angle Youth Media's Design Team

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

Constituent Services

In this section we highlight opportunities available to constituents, including upcoming events, available resources, and other initiatives that are of use to individuals and community groups. If you have an opportunity you would like to highlight or have any questions about the ones offered below, please email us at Mary.washington@senate.state.md.us

INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE? BE A TEACHER

The 2024-2025 Teaching Fellows of Maryland Scholarship application is now open. The deadline to submit your application is September 15, 2024.

Here are a few program requirements:

OWN A SMALL BUSINESS AND NEED HELP PAYING ENERGY BILLS?

Small businesses located within BGE's service area can now apply for a BGE Energizing Small Business Grant of \$20,000 through July 12, 2024.

- Applicants must agree to work as public school or public prekindergarten teachers in the State upon completion of their studies at elementary and secondary schools, with at least 50% of the students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM).
- Enroll full-time or part-time at an eligible institution pursuing a course of study or program leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate.
- Applicants seeking to change careers to pursue a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate.

To apply, go to the Maryland Higher Education Commission's website at: <https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/pages/studentloandebtrelietaxcredit.aspx>

Questions? osfamail.mhec@maryland.gov

The deadline to submit your application is **September 15th**.

Since the program's inception in 2021, BGE has awarded more than \$13 million in grants to 651 small businesses in an effort to help the foundation of the local economy succeed and thrive. BGE will invest \$2 million in the program for 2024. The program prioritizes businesses operated by historically underrepresented minority groups often challenged with access to capital – with 65 percent of grants provided to businesses owned by people of color and 65 percent owned by women.

Interested business owners can apply and read full terms and conditions at bge.helloalice.com.

For technical assistance with application contact alice@helloalice.com



4th of July Parade

Join the Office of Senator Mary Washington next Thursday, July 4th, as we march in the Towson Independence Day Parade!

Be sure to wear your patriotic best as we come together for a day of fun and celebration.

Meet us at 9am at Starbucks (31 York Road) for coffee and snacks. Free parking is available in the Towson Library Garage and Tolbert Garage. Please bring plenty of sunscreen, water, and comfortable walking shoes. [CLICK HERE](#) to register now!



Constituent Services: How Can We Help?

Do you have an issue you need help with? Are you interested in having the Senator or her staff attend or speak at an event? You can reach out on our [website](#) and fill out our [contact form](#). You can also email or call us at: mary.washington@senate.state.md.us or by calling 410-841-3145.



43RD DISTRICT COMMUNITY BOARD

CITY POOL OPERATIONS
Effective Friday, June 14, 2024

Park Pools
Monday-Thursday, 12-3 pm & 4-7 pm
Friday-Sunday, 11 am-3 pm & 4-8 pm

Neighborhood Pools
Monday-Saturday, 12-3 pm & 3:30-6:30 pm

*Neighborhood Pools are closed on Sundays.

BALTIMORE CITY
RECREATION & PARKS

BALTIMORE FREE FALL 2024

GRANT

APPLICATIONS OPEN!

DEADLINE TO APPLY: JULY 8, 2024
APPLY AT: [BIT.LY/FREEFALLGRANT](https://bit.ly/freefallgrant)

AWARDED BY: BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS
SUPPORTED BY: MSAC, PNC, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS

EXCITING NEWS FOR BALTIMORE CITY FAMILIES

Rise Early Learning & Family Support Center is launching its Family Support Center in partnership with Maryland Family Network.

The Family Support Center will provide early childhood education for prenatal to 48 months. Children will develop and strengthen their social and emotional learning skills and techniques.



We Will Also Offer:

Self-Sufficiency Programming

Adult education, family literacy, computer literacy, and employment preparedness

Parent Education

Developing/Enhancing parenting skills for caregivers, informal interactions, role modeling, and peer education.

Infant/Toddler Program Parent Education

Developmentally appropriate, individualized programming to maximize development.

Service Coordination

Linking caregivers to supports and establishing goals to support caregivers in to affect positive change for families.

Health Education

Primary and prenatal health care education, family planning counseling, behavioral health counseling, nutrition and more.

In-Home Intervention

Home visiting enhances the provision of services to families. Supporting families not readily engaging in the FCS but willing to work towards doing so.

Participant (Parent) Support and Involvement

Developing relationships that extend beyond the center and services. Collaboration and resource leadership development.

Outreach, Collaboration & Resource Development

Engaging in communities to raise awareness of the center and services. Collaboration and resource development are also necessary.

To express interest in the program please email us at familysupport@ssw.umaryland.edu to be added to a listserv and receive updates on the opening of the center.



940 Madison Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-706-3982

WHAT Maryland Medicaid will deny all medication prescriptions from unenrolled prescribers. This is a federal Medicaid requirement.

WHEN Starting July 1, 2024.

IMPACT Medicaid participants won't be able to access their medications at the pharmacy if their prescriber is not enrolled with Maryland Medicaid. If a prescriber won't enroll, the Medicaid participant must switch to a different enrolled prescriber.

- SUPPORT**
- See our participant [FAQ](#).
 - Check if a prescriber is enrolled by searching their name in the [Provider Verification System](#).
 - For help finding a new prescriber, call Medicaid Beneficiary Services at 1-800-492-5231.
 - Search for Medicaid-enrolled providers using the [Medicaid Provider Finder](#). (e.g. To find a psychiatrist, select the specialty "Physician" and subspecialty "Psychiatry".)

Thank you for your continued service to Maryland Medicaid recipients!
Email us at mdh.rxenroll@maryland.gov with questions or concerns.



Do you have an event or information you would like to share on our District Community Board?

Submit it online anytime at www.senatormaryashington.com

Or by emailing us at mary.washington@state.senate.md.us, or call our office at (410) 841-3476.

That's all for now, folks! Please reach out anytime.
Happy Pride Month from Senator Washington and our team!



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