

MD TWO FIFTY

The meeting of the Maryland Two Fifty Commission was held virtually at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 29, 2025.

Commissioners and Designees Present: Governor Parris Glendening, Chair, Elaine Rice Bachmann, Senator Jack Bailey, Senator Benjamin Brooks and Kimberly Shiloh, Katie Caljean, Dr. Tony Campbell, representing General Janene Birckhead, Alexandra Cenatus, Raquel Coombs, Judith Emmel, Secretary Rebecca Flora, Dr. Joni Floyd, Terri Freeman, Steve Kearney, Deputy Secretary Michael Lore representing Secretary Susan Lee, Cynthia Miller, Secretary Paul Monteiro, Assistant Secretary Sandi Olek representing Secretary Josh Kurtz, Nick Redding, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Robin Sproul, Dr. Antonio Ugues, Jr., Larry Walker

Commissioners Absent: Katie O'Malley, Vice-Chair
Brenda Coakley
E. Keith Colston
Elizabeth Hughes
Mayor Takisha James
Chanel Johnson
Steve Kearney
Councilman Pete Leshner
Lt. Governor Aruna Miller
Peter Phin Ramsey
Acting Secretary Ed Rothstein

Staff Present: Michele W. Johnson Erin Bode
Mary Zell Galen Angela Rush
Parys Wyatt

Call to Order and Administrative Matters

The meeting was called to order by Governor Parris Glendening, Chair:

- Welcomed new Commissioners and guests, and introduced Parys Wyatt and Angela Rush, new Service Year Option Members on the MD Two Fifty staff.

A Land Acknowledgement was read by Deputy Secretary Michael Lore:

Working Group and Committee Updates and Votes

Terri Freeman, co-chair of the African American Heritage Working Group gave a brief update and encouraged Commissioners to join the working group. The next meeting will be October 10, 2025.

Dr. Antonio Ugues, Jr., Chair, Civics Working Group, introduced two new Citizen Academy grant applications and gave an update on the Freedom of the Press initiative, and the Civics Moonshot program.

Vote: Motion to approve new Citizen Academy grants for City of Takoma Park and Queen Anne's County. Senator Benjamin Brooks moved to recommend both grants, motion seconded by Elaine Bachmann, and motion carried.

Katie Caljean, Chair, History working group:

- America's Tapestry: Embroidery of the Maryland panel is underway. Thirteen panels will be featured in a traveling exhibit in 2026.
- Maryland 400 and the Battle of Brooklyn event planning is moving forward, exploring participation of Governor Wes Moore on Saturday, August 22, 2026.
- Black Revolutionary War Patriot monument: To be unveiled August 29, 2026 at State House.

Secretary Paul Monteiro, Chair, Service Working Group:

- Nine new applications were received for the MD Two Fifty Fellows grant with funding available for four grants. The grant program is now closed, with a legacy goal to secure funding so that this grant program can exist in perpetuity

Vote: Motion to approve MD Two Fifty Fellows grants for Morgan State University Foundation in Baltimore City, African American Resource, Cultural, and Heritage Society (AARCH) in Frederick County, Hosanna Community House in Harford County, and Clara Barton Fund, Inc., in Montgomery County

- Senator Benjamin Brooks moved to recommend the grants, motion seconded by Terri Freeman, and the motion carried.

Steve Kearney and Robin Sproul, Co-chairs, Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committee:

- Provided statistics on viewership rate of the social media ad campaign of the Maryland State Ad Agency.
- Shared an overview of the Sail250 Maryland and Airshow Baltimore planned for June 2026..
- Noted initiatives for consideration in October:
 - Sharing the Spirit of America (Hawaii): Simultaneous national reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 2026 at 6 pm
 - America's Potluck (Utah): Community meal on July 5, 2026
 - Once in a Generation grant program for local 250 Commissions
 - Online merchandise store partnership

Commissioner Updates and Announcements

Michele Johnson:

- Reminded that the Commission will meet virtually on October 27, 2025 and in Accokeek (Prince George's County) on November 18, 2025.

Alexandra Cenatus encouraged Commissioners to attend a *Kin* event (One Maryland, One Book).

Deputy Secretary Michael Lore shared information about viewing the full Constitution and the Bill of Rights at the National Archives.

Governor Parris Glendening gave a reminder that the Commission's ending date is December 31, 2027, as noted in the Executive Order.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Commission, Governor Parris Glendening adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.