

MD TWO FIFTY

Monday, October 27, 2025, 3:00p.m.

Virtual Commission Meeting Minutes

Attendance

- **Commissioners and Designees Present:** Chair Governor Parris Glendening, Vice Chair Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley, Senator Benjamin Brooks, Katie Caljean, Dr. Tony Campbell, Alexandra Cenatus, Brenda Coakley, Raquel Coombs, Deputy Secretary Kristin Fleckenstein, Dr. Joni Floyd, Terri Lee Freeman, Chanel C. Johnson, Steve Kearney, Councilman Pete Leshar, Deputy Secretary Michael Lore, Cynthia Miller, Secretary Paul Monteiro, Peter Ramsey, Acting Secretary Ed Rothstein, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Robin Sproul, Dr. Tony Ugues Jr.
- **Commissioners not Present:** *Elaine Bachmann, Senator Jack Bailey, Keith Colston, Sandi Olek, Judi Emmel, Elizabeth Hughes, Mayor Takisha James, Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Nick Redding, Rev. Larry Walker*
- **Staff:** Director Michele W. Johnson, Mary Zell Galen, Angela Rush, Parys Wyatt
- **Guests:** Patricia Maclay, MD, Kim Shiloh, William Meyer

Chair Governor Glendening opened the meeting, and Councilman Leshar read the Land Acknowledgement.

Vice Chair O'Malley introduced the working group and committee updates.

- African American Heritage working group Co-chair Commissioner Freeman shared that the working group met on Friday, October 10, to plan a second virtual convening with leaders of African American museums and cultural centers on Thursday, November 13 at 12:00 p.m.
- Civics working group Chair Commissioner Ugues gave an update on the Civics Moonshot and shared that the final deadline for the Citizen Academy grant program was on Saturday, October 18, and that 14 new applications were received from 8 counties:
 - Dorchester: City of Cambridge
 - Harford: Harford Co. Public Library with New-Service Training Employment Program
 - Prince George's: Fairmount Heights; City of New Carrollton, Town of North Brentwood, City of Seat Pleasant, and City of Seat Pleasant/Seat Pleasant Elementary School

- Somerset: City of Crisfield, Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County Public Library (Ewell Library, Smith Island)
- Talbot: Talbot Co. Free Library/Town of Easton
- Washington: City of Hagerstown/Reach of Washington County/Gatekeepers
- Wicomico: Town of Hebron
- Worcester: Town of Snow Hill
- **VOTE:** Motion to approve all 14 new Citizen Academy grant applications by Commissioner Sproul, Seconded by Senator Brooks, all in favor.
- History working group Chair Commissioner Caljean gave an update on America's Tapestry; the Maryland 400 and the Battle of Brooklyn events on August 22, 2026; and on the new monument honoring Black Revolutionary War Patriots scheduled to launch on August 29, 2026.
- Service working group Chair Commissioner Secretary Monteiro, announced that with the final MD Two Fifty Fellows grants awarded in September, the focus is now on the legacy aspect of this grant program.
- Communications, Fundraising, and Events committee Co-Chairs Commissioners Sproul and Kearney shared news that the MD Two Fifty video won a Platinum award at the AMA MX awards event in Baltimore, and advised that the committee met on Thursday, October 9 to review proposals for new initiatives and said the Commission should expect more recommendations in November:
 - MD Two Fifty "Once in a Generation" grants for local/regional 250 Commissions
 - Event co-sponsorship with Washington College Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience: "115 Years since Ordinance 610: The Origins of Redlining, Maryland's Historic Reversal and America's Path Toward Healing"
 - Promote America's Potluck national 250 initiative from America250 Utah: Potluck dinners in communities on Sunday, July 5 2026
 - Promote and participate in Sharing the Spirit of America national 250 initiative from America250 Hawaii: Simultaneous nationwide reading of Declaration of Independence on Wednesday, July 8 2026 at 6:00pm, with local communities and statewide event partnership in Annapolis, modified to read additional milestone documents
 - Statewide Maryland Liberty Tree project with Preservation Maryland, Maryland Center for History and Culture, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources: \$10,000
 - Online Merchandise Store partnership to launch website to advertise, sell, and distribute MD Two Fifty merchandise on request
 - **VOTE:** Motion to approve all six proposals by Senator Brooks, seconded by Commissioner Sproul, all in favor.

Commissioner and Director announcements followed:

- Director Michele W. Johnson reminding the Commission of an in-person meeting in Accokeek, Maryland, on Tuesday, November 18, at 10:00 a.m., hosted by grantees Alice Ferguson Foundation and Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park.
- Commissioner Secretary Monteiro shared the news that this will be his final meeting as his service to the state will end in November.

There was no public comment, and Chair Governor Glendening adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Michele W. Johnson, Director, MD Two Fifty Commission