



## Virtual meeting of MD Two Fifty Commission: Monday, March 30, 2026, 3:00pm

### Attendance

Commissioners and designees present: Elaine Bachmann, General Janeen Birckhead, Geri Byrd, Katie Caljean, Alexandra Cenatus, Brenda Coakley, Chanel Compton, Raquel Coombs, Secretary Rebecca Flora, Dr. Joni Floyd, Terri Lee Freeman, Governor Parris Glendening, Elizabeth Hughes, Steve Kearney, Councilman Pete Leshar, Deputy Secretary Michael Lore, Patti Maclay MD, Special Secretary Maria Martinez, Sandi Olek, Judge Katie O'Malley, Peter Phin Ramsey, Nick Redding, Robin Sproul, Dr. Tony Ugues, Assistant Secretary Larry Walker,

Commissioners absent: Senator Jack Bailey, Senator Benjamin Brooks, Keith Colston, Secretary Jonny Dorsey, Judi Emmel, Mayor Takisha James, Cindy Miller, Secretary Ed Rothstein, Steven Skerritt-Davis

Guests: Cindy Orban (Talbot County 250), Cherie Warehime (Governor's Office of Community Initiatives)

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

### Minutes

Chair Glendening called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Councilman Pete Leshar read the Land Acknowledgement.

Chair Glendening introduced the minutes from the February 13, 2026 virtual Commission meeting. No changes were requested. *Motion to approve by Commissioner Caljean, seconded by Commissioner Sproul, with all in favor.*

Chair Glendening reported that the Executive Committee took no votes since the February 13, 2026 meeting.

Commissioners Sproul and Kearney, co-chairs of the Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committee, reported on the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the committee where three proposals were recommended to the Commission for approval:

A sponsorship proposal submitted by the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives for a September 2026 Hispanic Heritage Month event at Carroll Community College in Westminster, showcasing music, dance, storytelling, oral history, exhibits, youth activities, and a community resource fair. The connection to the MD Two Fifty Executive Order is a reference to "new Americans". \$4,500 was requested. *Vice Chair O'Malley called for discussion and then for a motion to approve. Commissioner Walker moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cenatus, with all in favor.*

A proposal for sponsorship of an oral history project collecting stories of the women of the US Naval Academy as 2026 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women being admitted. It was noted

that women's history is an important part of Maryland's history, and that very few grant applications were received which were focused on women's history. \$1,500 was requested. *Vice Chair O'Malley called for discussion and then for a motion to approve. Commissioner Cenatus moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sproul, with all in favor.*

A proposal from the Pride of Baltimore 2, offering the Commission a no-cost 2-hour sail for 32 guests on Wednesday, June 24 at 4:30pm, on the first day of Sail250 Maryland/Airshow Baltimore, and the opportunity for the Commission to host a reception for 100 people after the sail. *Vice Chair O'Malley called for discussion, and Commissioners Redding and Flora raised questions about the budget and funding source for the reception. There was a motion to approve the no-cost 2-hour sail by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Sproul, with all in favor. The Commission requested that at the April Commission meeting, staff propose a budget, program, and plan for a reception.*

Updates were shared including the Maryland State Lottery MD Two Fifty lottery game which launched on March 2, the Freedom of the Press project where the traveling exhibits have moved to new locations, and plans for a July 4<sup>th</sup> week page on the MD Two Fifty website.

Co-chairs Compton Johnson and Freeman give an update from the African American Heritage Working Group, noting that with Juneteenth on the third weekend in June, there will be events throughout Maryland. They shared that the working group is planning a statewide virtual convening of Juneteenth organizers, and that staff is tracking events throughout the state and will launch a Juneteenth page on the website.

Chair Ugues of the Civics Working Group announced that a proposal will be coming to the Commission in April for the MD Two Fifty Civics Moonshot signature program for youth. He also noted that very positive feedback has been received from communities receiving citizen academy grants from the Commission on their experiences, and that Mayor James and Director Johnson will be presenting a session at the June Maryland Municipal League conference on citizen academies.

Chair Caljean of the History Working Group shared updates on America's Tapestry, the Battle of Brooklyn/Maryland 400 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in Brooklyn, New York, on August 22, 2026, and a new monument honoring Black Revolutionary War Patriots on the State House grounds, anticipated to be unveiled on August 29, 2026.

Co-Chair Byrd of the Service Working Group reminded the Commission of a legacy goal of raising \$3 million for the MD Two Fifty Fellows program, and announced that a plan is in process for a fall signature event – a statewide celebration of service and multicultural celebration.

Director Johnson announced that the Commission will meet in person on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center.

There was no public comment, so Chair Glendening asked for a motion to adjourn, motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Kearney, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele W. Johnson*, Director, MD Two Fifty Commission