

News Release

Comptroller Lierman Outlines Priorities for Third Year in Office; Unveils 2025 Legislative Package

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 17, 2025) — Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman began her third year in office Thursday. Since taking office in January 2023, Comptroller Lierman has focused on working in partnership to create a state that is more equitable, resilient, and prosperous in ways that align with the agency’s three priorities:

1. Implement critical agency-wide improvements to help state government work better.
2. Ensure resources and expertise of the agency create opportunities for and positively impact Maryland families, communities, and businesses; and,
3. Ensure Maryland is well-positioned for responsible long-term economic growth and success.

“My team and I are focused on building a modern and responsive agency that meets the needs of every Marylander and every Maryland business. The next two years will be filled with continued progress that Marylanders can see,” Comptroller Lierman said. “It has been an honor to serve as your comptroller for the past two years, and I’m looking forward to what’s ahead.”

Key accomplishments for Comptroller Lierman’s second year in office included:

- Releasing the agency’s first State of the Economy report and two follow-up briefs focused on [immigration](#) and [child care](#).
- Launching the Maryland Tax Connect self-service portal for businesses. To date, users have filed more than 1.2 million returns.
- Relocating more than 300 employees from the State Center Complex to [newly-renovated](#) office space at 7 St. Paul Street in Downtown Baltimore.

- Securing funding for new technology and personnel to support the work of the agency.
- Hosting 300 people from 100 Maryland nonprofits and governmental organizations for the agency's inaugural [Nonprofit Conference](#) and releasing an [impact report](#) with key takeaways
- Launching a new secure portal for Marylanders to report suspected tax fraud under the [Whistleblower Reward Program](#).
- Receiving a [Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting](#) from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the 44th consecutive year.
- Partnering with Drexel University to develop the first-of-its-kind [Maryland Procurement Playbook](#); and,
- Passing several pieces of legislation to support Marylanders including:
 - [Electronic Tax and Fee Return Filing Requirements](#)
 - [Tax Assistance for Low-Income Marylanders](#)
 - [Stop Scam Tax Preparers Act](#)

Later this month, Maryland will be one of 25 states to participate in the [IRS Direct File](#) program, allowing more than 870,000 eligible Marylanders to file their state and federal taxes securely online, at no cost.

The agency will also increase accountability and transparency with the launch of other new tools to improve interactions and the customer experience, including:

- A new Comptroller of Maryland website.
- **MYCOMConnect**, a new platform allowing the agency to better track progress in interactions with customers, including calls and emails.
- A new Board of Public Works Dashboard, making it easier for the public to track where and how tax dollars are spent.

In the coming weeks, Comptroller Lierman will also introduce a trio of bills during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session focused on modernizing and

improving the business processes and practices of the agency to help the government work better for Marylanders.

The first bill would update the **Abandoned Property Act**, which governs Maryland's Unclaimed Property program, to allow the state to collect newer forms of property, including virtual currency (cryptocurrency), gift cards, and certain individual retirement accounts. The proposal would also allow Marylanders to receive their unclaimed property, valued at less than \$5,000, faster and without requiring the filing of a claim. This complements the agency's modernization efforts and implementation of new technology.

The second bill will increase government efficiency by allowing the Comptroller's Office to send letters encouraging businesses to share information about the **Earned Income Tax Credit** using the Maryland Tax Connect portal. This would save the agency \$145,000 in annual mailing costs.

The third proposal would update the **Field Enforcement Bureau Citation Process** to ensure employees are not penalized for wrongful and illegal actions of employers.

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