Brooke E. LiermanComptroller of Maryland



News Release

Maryland Board of Public Works Launches New Spending and Contract Dashboard

New online tool offers searchable, accessible data, empowering Marylanders to track public investments

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (October 22, 2025) — <u>Maryland's Board of Public Works</u> (BPW) today announced the launch of its <u>new BPW Dashboard</u>, which enhances transparency and accountability in the board's approved contracts and spending. The BPW Dashboard, hosted on the Maryland Board of Public Works website, features data from January 2023 through December 2024 and allows users to sort contracts by agency, vendor, date of BPW approval, and contract amount.

Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman's <u>2023 Transition Report</u> included a recommendation to build dashboards to allow the Comptroller's Office, partners, and members of the public to track key metrics, including the status of contracts during development, approval, and implementation, and track progress toward small and minority business enterprise (MBE) participation.

"Transparency is the foundation of public trust, and this new dashboard gives Marylanders a clearer window into how the state is spending their tax dollars," Comptroller Lierman said. "By placing this information online in an accessible format, we are empowering Marylanders to understand the decisions made by the Board of Public Works and track how public investments are improving their communities."

Maryland's BPW has approved \$30.7 billion in state spending since 2023, including an estimated \$2.1 billion to certified small and veteran-owned business contractors, and \$1.45 billion to certified minority business enterprise contractors.

"Good governance requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency," said Governor Wes Moore. "I thank the Treasurer and the Comptroller for their partnership in making this dashboard a reality, giving Marylanders a clearer view into our work as stewards of our state's fiscal health. The Board is one of Maryland's cherished institutions — allowing us to lead with flexibility, agility, and partnership. Now, we will be moving with greater transparency, too."

"This dashboard will serve as a valuable resource for Marylanders to track how their taxpayer dollars are being spent," said Treasurer Dereck Davis. "As fiscal guardians of our state, we will continue to advocate for tools that promote transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public funds."

The BPW Dashboard was the direct result of <u>2024 legislation (HB 877)</u>, which required the Office of the Comptroller to develop it and enhance the visibility and transparency of procurements approved by the BPW. The bill was sponsored by Delegate N. Scott Phillips and was a 2024 legislative priority of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

"I am proud to mark today's launch of the BPW Transparency Dashboard, a bold and necessary step toward opening up the state's procurement and contract-approval process to the people of Maryland," Delegate Phillips said. "With the enactment of HB 877 in 2024, we committed ourselves to a higher standard of accountability, providing Marylanders, business owners, and policymakers with a clear window into how state dollars are spent, how decisions are made, and how minority, women, and veteranowned enterprises engage with the state."

"Transparency in government spending supports our path toward equity and shared prosperity. When we can clearly see where the state spends our dollars, we can improve the chances minority-owned businesses have a fair opportunity to compete for contracts and build opportunities for lasting wealth in our communities," Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, said. "I appreciate the work of Delegate Phillips, my colleagues in the Maryland General Assembly, and the Board of Public Works in giving the public another tool to demystify state government."

In addition to robust, downloadable data that allows for independent analysis, the dashboard is searchable, accessible, and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The National Federation of the Blind commends Comptroller Lierman, Governor Moore, Treasurer Davis, and the Maryland Board of Public Works for their outstanding commitment to equal access to government information for all Marylanders," Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind, said. "The new BPW spending and contract dashboard is a model of screen-reader accessibility, allowing blind and deafblind users to search, sort, and access the data easily and with all the functionality available to all other users. Accessibility is a simple matter when government agencies prioritize it and collaborate with blind and deafblind users, recognizing that we have the same right as others to learn about our state's activities in order to be well-informed citizens. The state of Maryland increasingly understands this and has demonstrated it to extraordinary effect with this project."

The BPW Dashboard will be updated quarterly with new information. Additional features, such as data visualizations, will be added in future iterations. In the coming months, data from the 2025 BPW meetings, as well as historical data prior to 2023, will be added to the dashboard to enhance transparency.

"The creation of this new tool for accessing the work of Maryland's highest administrative body is a step forward toward greater transparency, said John Gontrum, Executive Secretary for the Board of Public Works. "Board of Public Works proceedings serve as a unique window for the public into decisions that impact all Maryland residents, and, to the credit of the Board of Public Works and the Maryland General Assembly, this dashboard will expand that window."

The BPW Dashboard was developed by the Office of the Comptroller, in partnership with BPW Executive Secretary Gontrum, and the Offices of the Governor and Treasurer. The Office of the Comptroller has hired an analyst to maintain the dashboard going forward.

The next BPW meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2025. Meeting materials can be found here: https://bpw.maryland.gov/Pages/board-of-public-works-meetings.aspx

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