

News Release

Comptroller Lierman Highlights Key Achievements and Outlines Priorities for Fourth Year in Office

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 20, 2026) — Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman this week began her fourth year in office. During her first three years, Comptroller Lierman has partnered with elected leaders, community organizations, and businesses to advance the agency's mission to create a state that is more equitable, more resilient, and more prosperous, so that all Marylanders can reach their full potential.

Since her swearing in, Comptroller Lierman has worked with the 1,300 team members with the Comptroller of Maryland to implement critical agency-wide improvements to make state government work better, ensure the resources and expertise of the agency create opportunities for and positively impact Maryland families, communities, and businesses; and ensure that Maryland is well-positioned for responsible long-term economic growth and success.

"As I enter the final year of my first term, I'm more driven than ever by what we've achieved — and by the work still ahead to ensure Maryland's government serves our residents and businesses effectively," said Comptroller Lierman. "The Comptroller's Office plays a key role in expanding access to resources and opportunities that help our communities and economy grow. I'm grateful for this responsibility and for the dedicated public servants I work with each day. I'm ready to keep pushing this work forward and continue serving the people of Maryland in the year ahead."

During Comptroller Lierman's third year in office, the agency:

- [Processed more than 3 million personal income tax returns](#) and issued \$2.7 billion in refunds to 1.9 million taxpayers between January 20, 2025, and May 30, 2025. During that period, the agency took an average of less than 3 days to process electronically filed returns and 16.9 days to process paper returns.

- Answered 696,000 calls across all lines/divisions, 122,485 emails, and 210,000 total cases created [through MyCOMConnect](#).
- Assisted 130,368 taxpayers in-person and virtually through its [11 Branch Offices across Maryland](#).
- Launched the “Earned It” campaign to publicize the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Data shows the [campaign resulted in 3.2 million touchpoints for Marylanders](#), more than 33,000 visits to the campaign webpage, and a 7.8% increase in EITC filers in tax year 2024, compared to the previous tax year.
- [Partnered with the Urban Institute](#), a national anti-poverty think tank, to undertake a first-of-its-kind study on uptake of the EITC and to identify strategies to increase access to state-level tax credits for low and middle-income individuals and families.
- Launched the [Office of the Taxpayer Advocate](#).
- Published essential reports exploring the factors influencing Maryland’s economic performance, including [housing affordability](#), and cuts to [federal jobs and spending](#).
- Explored cost drivers facing the state related to [transit](#), [climate change](#), and [school construction](#) to understand how they impact public goods and projects that promote inclusive growth.
- [Relocated the Baltimore County Branch Office](#) from Towson to Windsor Mill.
- [Passed legislation to modernize the operations of the office](#), including updating Maryland’s Abandoned Property Act.
- Launched a [new and modern unclaimed property system](#), allowing the agency to process claims faster, handle documents more securely, and return unclaimed funds to their rightful owners more efficiently.
- Implemented new additions to the tax code from the Maryland General Assembly, [providing updated regulations](#) to help individuals and businesses navigate those changes
- [Issued a 60-day report](#) detailing the impacts of the federal budget reconciliation bill.
- Launched several tools to improve customer interactions with the agency, including a redesigned [Comptroller of Maryland website and new MyCOMConnect self-service tool](#).
- Launched a new [Board of Public Works Dashboard](#) to track state spending.

- Released the first-ever comprehensive report on the feasibility and potential impacts of implementing a [statewide “Baby Bonds” program](#), in response to a request from the Maryland General Assembly.
- [Received a Certificate of Achievement](#) for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the 45th consecutive year.
- Launched the new [Maryland Accounting Academy](#), which provides comprehensive finance and accounting training and support to Maryland’s fiscal workforce.
- Participated in the [IRS Direct File program](#), allowing thousands of Marylanders to file their state and federal taxes securely online, at no cost.
- Increased MBE participation in contracts by 10 percentage points over three years to 30.36% MBE participation for FY 2025.
- Hosted the second annual [Bridging Communities nonprofit conference](#), connecting nonprofits from across Maryland with state government resources and programs.
- Held numerous roundtable discussions with business leaders across the state to help inform the revenue forecasting process and understanding of the state’s economic performance.

Comptroller Lierman also continued serving on numerous boards, many of which had notable progress during the past year, including:

- The [Board of Public Works](#) approved 6,031 contracts totaling \$36 billion over the past three years, with \$874.2 million prime awards to certified small businesses and \$596.7 million prime awards to MBEs.
- The [Maryland State Retirement & Pension System Board of Trustees](#) launched a [new Climate Advisory Panel](#), adopted worker protection principles for private equity firms in the portfolio, and achieved a 9.8% annual return on behalf of Maryland retirees and a fund with a market value of \$73.2 billion.
- The [Maryland Food Center Authority](#) hired its first new executive director in more than 30 years who will usher in a new era of innovation and excellence in food infrastructure in Maryland.
- [Maryland Community Investment Corporation](#) was established in 2024 with Comptroller Lierman as chair and has quickly become a key resource across Maryland in catalyzing community development projects in under resourced communities.

- Comptroller has joined several other important state boards, including the Procurement Improvement Council, Maryland Commission on Climate Change, and [Maryland Saves](#).

During the fourth year of her first term, Comptroller Lierman will continue her push to modernize the agency, expanding access to [Maryland Tax Connect](#) beyond businesses to personal income tax filing, fiduciary income tax filing, and pass-through entity tax payments. The agency will also complete the migration of the state's central payroll system to a cloud-based payroll system and continue upgrades to the Financial Management Information System, to make payment processes for vendors, nonprofits, and others more efficient. Comptroller Lierman will also continue her leadership roles on the many boards on which she serves.

The Earned It Campaign will continue with a new webpage, additional mailings from Maryland state agencies, and expanded social media outreach to remind Marylanders to file their taxes and discuss the Maryland EITC and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) with their tax preparers.

The agency also anticipates [relocating its Elkton Branch Office](#) in Cecil County to a new location in Harford County in February and will announce relocations for its offices in Wheaton and Frederick later this year.

The Office of the Comptroller, with funding from the Moore-Miller Administration, will move forward with a Cost of Climate Change study to provide lawmakers with critical information on the costs associated with climate change.

[View the Full Video Message from Comptroller Lierman](#)

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Media Contacts

Robyne McCullough

rmccullough@marylandtaxes.gov

410-980-0139 (cell)

Adam Abadir

aabadir@marylandtaxes.gov

667-408-0768 (cell)

Comptroller of Maryland, 80 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, United States