



News Release

Comptroller Lierman Announces 2026 Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week and Cash Prize Video Contest

Annual tax holiday helps families save on back-to-school essentials while supporting Maryland businesses

GREENBELT Md. (July 15, 2026) —Comptroller **Brooke E. Lierman** announced today, at a press event at Beltway Plaza Mall, that the annual Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week will run from Sunday, August 9, through Saturday, August 15, 2026, allowing shoppers to save on qualifying clothing, footwear, and backpacks while supporting businesses statewide. Comptroller Lierman also announced a partnership with the Maryland Retailers Alliance that offers Marylanders the chance to win up to \$1,000 to use during Tax-Free Week.

During Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week, qualifying clothing and footwear priced at \$100 or less per item will be exempt from Maryland's 6% sales tax. In addition, the first \$40 of a backpack's purchase price will qualify for the exemption. This year's theme focuses on savings for families, local businesses, and communities across the state.

"Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week provides meaningful savings for families on everyday essentials while supporting the Maryland businesses that strengthen our communities and local economies," said **Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman**. "Whether you're preparing for a new school year, shopping for fall clothes, or visiting from out of state, I

encourage everyone to shop local to take advantage of these savings and experience everything Maryland's retailers have to offer.”

During the press conference, speakers underscored the importance of Tax-Free Week for local businesses and the communities they serve. Beltway Plaza Mall is home to more than 90 businesses, the vast majority of which are small, family-owned establishments. Together, they represent more than 20 languages and reflect the rich diversity of Prince George's County, making Tax-Free Week an important opportunity to support local entrepreneurs while helping families save on back-to-school shopping.

“Quantum Companies and Beltway Plaza Mall are proud to support the small businesses and entrepreneurs who make our community vibrant and unique. We are grateful for the continued partnership and support of the State of Maryland and Prince George's County in fostering economic growth and strengthening local businesses,” said **Beltway Plaza Mall VP of Operations Kenny Wine**. “Tax-Free Week is one of the busiest and most important shopping events of the year for Beltway Plaza Mall, providing families with valuable savings while driving increased traffic and opportunities for our local retailers. We look forward to welcoming shoppers from across the region to support the many small businesses that call Beltway Plaza home.”

“As families continue to face rising costs, every opportunity to save makes a difference,” said **Delegate Nicole Williams**. “Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week helps Prince George's County residents afford the clothing, shoes, and school essentials their children need while encouraging Marylanders to shop local.”

“Greenbelt is excited to partner with the State Comptroller to highlight Tax-Free Week and shine a spotlight on our incredible local businesses,” said **Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan**. “This provides a great opportunity for residents to save money while also supporting the small businesses that power our local economy. When you shop in Greenbelt, you are investing in the strength, vitality, and future of our community.”

“Tax-Free Shopping Week is the perfect opportunity for Maryland families to save money while supporting the local businesses that strengthen our communities, said **Maryland Retailers Alliance President Cailey Locklair**. “Every purchase made at a neighborhood retailer helps sustain local jobs, invest in our Main Streets, and keep our economy thriving. We encourage shoppers to take advantage of the savings this week and remember that when you shop local, your dollars have a lasting impact right here in Maryland.”

This year, Marylanders can win up to \$1,000 by participating in the Maryland Tax-Free Week Video Contest, sponsored and administered by the Maryland Retailers Alliance in partnership with the Comptroller of Maryland. Marylanders are invited to record and submit a short video at a brick-and-mortar Maryland retailer, sharing a tip for saving money during Tax-Free Week. Entries should be submitted between July 15 and August 1, 2026. Winners will be announced on August 8, 2026, the day before Tax-Free Week begins. Contest instructions, eligibility information, and the entry form can be found on the [Comptroller of Maryland Programs website](#).

The tax holiday is open to everyone who shops in Maryland, making it an ideal time to explore Maryland’s shopping districts, support small businesses, and save money. To learn more, including a complete list of qualifying tax-free items and answers to frequently asked questions, visit the [Comptroller of Maryland Programs website](#).

[View photos of the press conference](#).

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