



# City of Bowie

## Regular City Council Meeting

**Monday, March 2, 2026**  
**Council Chambers - 8 p.m.**

### **AGENDA**

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. QUORUM**
- IV. AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS**
- V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**
- VI. PRESENTATIONS**
- VII. CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**
- VIII. COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**
- X. CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A.** Adoption of Resolution R-32-26 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing And Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie to Allow the Purchase of Outdoor Furniture from Sister Bay Furniture Co., and Authorizing the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order in the Amount Of \$167,014.50
  - B.** Adoption of Resolution R-33-26 Awarding a Professional Services Contract to Frank R. Nero to Conduct a Study on Creating a Private Economic Development Corporation for the City in an Amount Not To Exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) Plus Expenses.
  - C.** Ordinance O-3-26 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026, as Embodied in Ordinance O-4-25 and Amended by Ordinances O-11-25, O-13-25, and O-1-26, to Appropriate Funds in the Amount of \$142,100 for a Network Connectivity Redundancy Project and Fiber Optic Network Expansion Project, and to Appropriate \$67,600 to Replace Tasers for the Police Department and to Account for the Receipt of a Grant From Prince Georges County and Allocate the Grant Funds to Certain Services
  - D.** Council Approval of a \$750 Donation to Support Community Outreach Efforts
- XI. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A.** Adoption of Amended Ordinance O-2-26 - Amending Bowie City Code, Chapter 6 Elections to Remove Supplemental Registration Provisions and to Clarify That Registration Shall Be In Accordance With State Law, to Prohibit Write-In Candidates, and to Generally Clarify Election Processes and Procedures in the City - **Public Hearing/Eligible for Action**

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** Prince George's County Innovation Workgroup - Report Submission and Appreciation
- B.** Anacostia Trails Heritage Area PGC250 - Members of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area will discuss the organization's mission, goals, current projects and upcoming events with an emphasis on the upcoming PGC250 commemoration
- C.** Washington Gas Operational Briefing: Infrastructure Updates and Incident Review

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Note:** The Ethics Commission has advised that under certain circumstances, members of the public may qualify as lobbyists when they testify before the City Council. If so, the Bowie Ethics Ordinance requires that certain information be filed with the Ethics Commission. Please review the information about lobbying that is provided with the City Clerk. If you have any questions about lobbying, please contact the Ethics Commission or the Assistant City Manager.

**This meeting will be televised live on Verizon Channel 10 and Comcast Channel 71 and 996, repeated on 3/4/2026 and 3/7/2026 at 7:00 p.m., and [web-streamed live](#).**

**For a closed-captioned version of the meeting video, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofbowiemd/playlists> and select the 2026 Council Meetings list. Once the meeting video opens, be sure to click on “CC” button to turn on closed captioning.**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOWIE CITY COUNCIL - MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026  
- COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 8:00 P.M.**



## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Waive Bidding for Purchase of Outdoor Furniture for the Bowie Golf Club Driving Range - Resolution R-32-26

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

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The FY26 Department of Community Services Capital Improvements Program budget provides funding for the renovation of the driving range at the Bowie Golf Club. As part of that renovation, outdoor furniture needs to be purchased. The Department of Community Services has located a Contract with Sourcewell (Contract #101625-PSW) through Sister Bay Furniture Co. that we can piggyback.

In FY26, \$545,000 was appropriated for the driving range renovation project in account 10545-57015. Sister Bay Furniture Co. has provided a quote in the amount of \$167,014.50 for the items for purchase.

The Department of Community Services recommends waiving bidding requirements for good cause shown, as allowed by Section 61(b) of the City Charter, for the purchase of Outdoor Furniture in the amount of \$167,014.50.

I concur with the above recommendation and request your approval of Resolution R-32-26.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. 20260302 - Resolution R-32-26

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**  
**WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 61**  
**“PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING” OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF**  
**BOWIE TO ALLOW THE PURCHASE OF OUTDOOR FURNITURE FROM SISTER**  
**BAY FURNITURE CO., AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE A**  
**PURCHASE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,014.50**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter of the City of Bowie, Maryland (hereinafter, “the City”) requires, in section 61, that all expenditures for inter alia, materials, construction of public improvements or contractual services involving more than twenty-five thousand dollars be made by written contract upon sealed bids to the lowest responsible bidder, except where the City Council by two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members waives the bidding requirement for good cause shown; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY26 Capital Improvements budget allows for the renovation of the driving range at the Bowie Golf Club; and

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to provide furniture for use by patrons at the Bowie Golf Club; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Services has located a Contract with Sourcewell (Contract #101625-PWS) through Sister Bay Furniture Co. that we can piggyback; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed contract price for the services to be procured will exceed twenty-five thousand dollars and the City Council deems the aforesated economic efficiencies to constitute good cause to waive the bidding requirements otherwise required by the Charter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, by at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members, that:

Section 1. The competitive bidding requirements of Section 61 of the Bowie City Charter for good cause shown, are hereby waived.

Section 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized to issue a purchase order to the said company for the above mentioned purchase.

**INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on March 2, 2026 by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council.

**ATTEST:**

**THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
 City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
 H.L. Dufour Woolfley  
 Acting Mayor





## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Contract To Conduct A Study On Creating A Private Economic Development Corporation For The City - Resolution R-33-26

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

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In November 2025, the City Council asked staff to seek a consultant to study and advise on the formation of a private economic development corporation for the City ("Project"), and in February 2026 the City Council specifically identified elements of the Project to be included in the scope of work:

### **City of Bowie's Economic Development Goals**

1. Raise the quality of life, in particular, high-quality, restaurant and retail experiences in Bowie
2. Increase tax revenue through new opportunities beyond existing homeowners
3. Increase high-quality employment within the City

### **Objectives for an Economic Development Corporation**

1. Lead City's effort to redevelop the Bowie Town Center
2. Lead City's effort to revitalize Old Town Bowie

(City has Existing Community Development Corporation for Old Town Bowie)

1. Lead City's effort to revitalize South Bowie/Pointer Ridge Shopping Center
2. Expand and Diversify Bowie's business base

### **Potential Strategies and Tactics**

1. Creative Placemaking
2. Leveraging Bowie State University (e.g. land use and workforce development)
3. Positioning Bowie as an Athletic/Recreation Destination and Tourism Hub
4. Façade Improvement Programs
5. Vacant storefront/commercial registry ordinances, minimum maintenance ordinances
6. Capital structuring, developer engagement, and project delivery
7. Tenant attraction programs

## 8. Public-private partnerships

With the City Council's direction, City staff researched knowledgeable and experienced consultants in the area of forming economic development corporations and determined that Frank R. Nero would be the best person to provide the services required by the City and that Mr. Nero has the qualifications, experience and demonstrated understanding of the scope of work and proposed approach to the project to provide the required services.

Funding for this project is contained within the City Manager's contingency funding.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve this Resolution awarding the contract for the project to Frank R. Nero in an amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.), plus expenses, and authorize the City Manager sign an agreement with Frank R. Nero as approved.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. 20260302 - Resolution R-33-26

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**  
**AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO FRANK R. NERO TO**  
**CONDUCT A STUDY ON CREATING A PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**CORPORATION FOR THE CITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY**  
**THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) PLUS EXPENSES**

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, the Council of the City of Bowie ("City Council") asked staff to seek a consultant to study and advise on the formation of a private economic development corporation for the City ("Project"), and

**WHEREAS**, in 2026 the City Council specifically identified elements of the Project to be included in the scope of work; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the City Council's direction, City staff researched knowledgeable and experienced consultants in the area of forming economic development corporations; and

**WHEREAS**, staff determined that Frank R. Nero would be the best person to provide the services required by the City and that Mr. Nero has the qualifications, experience and demonstrated understanding of the scope of work and proposed approach to the project to provide the required services; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Nero's proposal in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), plus expenses, can be funded through the City Manager's approved FY 2026 budget; and

**WHEREAS**, staff recommends that the City Council award the contract for the Project to Frank R. Nero in an amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.), plus expenses, and the City Council deems it to be in the best interest of the City to award the contract to Frank R. Nero as recommended.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, that a contract for the study and report on the formation of a private economic development corporation for the City is hereby awarded to Frank R. Nero in an amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus expenses, and the City Manager is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with Frank R. Nero as approved.

**INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on March 2, 2026.

**ATTEST:**

**THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**

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Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

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H.L. Dufour Woolfley  
Acting Mayor



## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** An Ordinance Approving Supplemental Appropriations for the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 - Ordinance O-3-26

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

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Ordinance O-3-26 proposes to amend the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget to provide additional appropriations for the following purpose:

\$142,100 in additional funding is requested to address the Network Connectivity Redundancy and Expansion Fiber Optic Project. Due to a critical increase in the scope of work - specifically a change in fiber optic design, engineering, and procurement services to expand project to the new Ice Arena and adjacent Golf Course - additional funding is required to design Phase II of this project. This amendment ensures the project remains on track for its scheduled completion in FY2027. The project is 100% funded by the PEG funds received via our Franchise Agreements with Comcast and Verizon.

The City has received a grant of \$42,500 from Prince George's County for approved housing, fair housing and homelessness services. The Grants department is requesting that an additional \$42,500 be appropriated for housing assistance.

\$67,600 is requested from the Police Department to replace Tasers no longer in warranty. Tasers are an integral part of policing, they are a required piece of equipment for the City of Bowie Police Department. Presently, the Tasers that are issued to the City's Police Officers are more than five (5) years old and are now out of warranty. This presents potential challenges if the Tasers are ineffective upon use which exposes the City to the potential for civil exposure. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the City to replace the existing Tasers in use with newer Tasers that are fully under warranty.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. 20260302 - Ordinance O-3-26

**ORDINANCE**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**  
**AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING**  
**JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AS EMBODIED IN ORDINANCE**  
**O-4-25 AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCES O-11-25, O-13-25, AND O-1-26,**  
**TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$142,100 FOR A NETWORK**  
**CONNECTIVITY REDUNDANCY PROJECT AND FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**  
**EXPANSION PROJECT, AND TO APPROPRIATE \$67,600 TO REPLACE TASERS**  
**FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TO ACCOUNT FOR THE RECEIPT OF A**  
**GRANT FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND ALLOCATE THE GRANT**  
**FUNDS TO CERTAIN SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, as required by the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and the Charter of the City of Bowie, the Bowie City Council (hereinafter, "the City Council") adopted Ordinance No. O-4-25 to appropriate funds for the several objects and purposes for which the City intended to provide for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. O-4-25 was amended by Ordinance No. O-11-25, O-13-25 and O-1-26; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 45 of the City Charter, no public money may be expended without having been appropriated by the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, supplemental appropriations are necessary to reflect additional expenditures that were not included in Ordinances O-4-25 as amended; and

**WHEREAS**, an additional appropriation to the Appropriated Fund Balance of \$142,100 is required to facilitate immediate design, engineering, and procurement services to the Network Connectivity Redundancy and Fiber Optic Network Expansion Project and an additional appropriation of \$67,600 to the Appropriated Fund Balance is required to replace Tasers for the Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to allocate \$142,100 hereby appropriated to the Business Operations expense line item for the Network Connectivity Redundancy and Fiber Optic Network Expansion Project and to allocate \$67,600 hereby appropriated to the Police Department line item for the acquisition of replacement Tasers for the Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has received additional revenue in the amount of \$42,500 through a grant from Prince George's County ("the Housing Grant") for which the adopted budget did not account; and

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to appropriate the monies received through the Housing Grant to the City Manager line item to make corresponding expenditures of \$42,500 for approved housing and homelessness-related services; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't Article, § 5-205, the City may spend money for a purpose different from the purpose for which the money was appropriated or spend money not appropriated at the time of the annual levy if approved by a two-thirds vote of all the individuals elected to the Council; and

**WHEREAS**, City Charter, Sec. 12 "Procedure for enacting ordinances" requires that ordinances become effective at the expiration of thirty (30) calendar days following their passage by the City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland that the Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, ending June 30, 2026, as adopted by Ordinance O-4-25, amended by O-11-25, O-13-05 and O-1-26; is further amended as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

**ESTIMATED REVENUES**

|                                      |                       |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
|                                      | ***                   |                            |
| Revenues and Other Financing Sources | [\$71,419,500]        | <b>\$ 71,462,000</b>       |
| Appropriated Fund Balance            | <u>[19,846,800]</u>   | <u><b>20,056,500</b></u>   |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                | <u>[\$91,798,400]</u> | <u><b>\$92,050,600</b></u> |
|                                      | ***                   |                            |

**APPROPRIATION BY ACTIVITY**

|                             |                       |                            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
|                             | ***                   |                            |
| City Manager                | [\$2,036,000]         | <b>\$ 2,078,500</b>        |
| Business Operations         | [867,400]             | <b>1,009,500</b>           |
| Police                      | <u>[18,069,600]</u>   | <u><b>18,137,200</b></u>   |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b> | <u>[\$91,798,400]</u> | <u><b>\$92,050,600</b></u> |
|                             | ***                   |                            |

**AND, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE** that, this Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its enactment by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland provided that it has been approved by a vote of 2/3 of the City Council and a fair summary of this Ordinance is published at least once prior to the passage and at least once within ten (10) days after the date of passage in a newspaper having general circulation in the City.

**INTRODUCED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on March 2, 2026.

**PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

**ATTEST:**

**THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**

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Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

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H.L. Dufour Woolfley  
Acting Mayor

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
SUFFICIENCY:**

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Elissa D. Levan  
City Attorney



## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Amendments to City Code, Chapter 6 Elections - Amended Ordinance O-2-26

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

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### **Amended Ordinance reflecting recommended changes made by Council during the February 17th Council meeting.**

The City Clerk's Office, in coordination with the City Board of Elections and the City Attorney, conducted a comprehensive review of the City's election-related Charter and Code provisions. This review identified outdated language, inconsistencies with State law, and provisions that no longer reflect how City elections are administered.

In January 2026, the City Council adopted Charter amendments updating election-related provisions. Corresponding updates to Chapter 6 of the City Code are necessary to ensure consistency between the Charter, the Code, and State law, and to remove obsolete or duplicative provisions.

The proposed ordinance:

- Updates Chapter 6 to reflect current Maryland election law and administrative practices.
- Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the City Board of Elections, County Board of Elections, and City Clerk.
- Removes obsolete voter registration and election procedures no longer applicable to municipal elections.
- Prohibits write-in candidates, consistent with the City Charter.
- Modernizes and reorganizes election procedures, including provisions related to polling places, judges of election, voting equipment, absentee voting, recounts, and campaign finance administration.

The proposed amendments do not change voter eligibility, election dates, or the fundamental structure of City elections.



**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. 20260302 - Amended Ordinance O-2-26

**ORDINANCE**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**  
**AMENDING BOWIE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 6 ELECTIONS TO REMOVE**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL REGISTRATION PROVISIONS AND TO CLARIFY THAT**  
**REGISTRATION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW, TO PROHIBIT**  
**WRITE-IN CANDIDATES, AND TO GENERALLY CLARIFY ELECTION**  
**PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES IN THE CITY**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Maryland Code Ann., Local Gov't Art ("LG"), Section 5-202, the Council of the City of Bowie ("the City") has the authority to pass such ordinances as the City Council deems necessary to assure, among other things, the good government of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to this authority, the Bowie City Council enacted City Code, Chapter 6, Elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Clerk and the City Board of Elections conducted a comprehensive review of the City Charter and the City Code regarding elections; and

**WHEREAS**, they discovered that there are several references to State law that need to be updated, there are provisions pertaining to supplemental registration to be conducted by the City that are no longer relevant, and there are other miscellaneous provisions that require clarification, and have made recommendations to address these issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bowie City Council recently adopted the proposed Charter revisions and agrees that the issues raised regarding City elections must be addressed and agree with the proposed amendments as set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland that Bowie City Code, Chapter 6, "Elections," be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 6 Elections

ARTICLE I In General

§ 6-1. Definitions; word usage; computation of time.

A. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears:

\* \* \*

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|                             |   |                                                              |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BOLD SMALL CAPS</b>      | : | Indicate matter added to existing law.                       |
| <b>Strikethrough</b>        | : | Indicate matter deleted from existing law.                   |
| <b>Asterisks***</b>         | : | Indicate matter retained in existing law but omitted herein. |
| <b>Double Strikethrough</b> | : | Indicate matter deleted after introduction.                  |

~~BOARD LIAISON — The person chosen by the Board pursuant to § 3-403 of the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, to~~ **WHO SHALL** work with the County Board in the development and implementation of a plan of universal registration. **THE BOARD LIAISON SHALL BE THE CITY CLERK.**

\* \* \*

~~COUNTY BOARD LIAISON — The person chosen by the County Board pursuant to Section 3-2 Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), as amended, to work with the Board in the development and the implementation of a plan of universal registration~~ **AS SET FORTH IN MD CODE ANN., ELECTIONS, § 3-403 “MUNICIPAL REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.”**

\* \* \*

~~LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS or LIST — The list of registered voters of the City established~~ **INCLUDED ON THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST** and prepared by the County Board. **SOMETIMES REFERRED TO HEREIN AS THE VOTER REGISTER OR REGISTRY.**

\* \* \*

**REGISTRATION — The act by which a person becomes qualified to vote in any municipal election.**

~~SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS or SUPPLEMENTAL LIST — The list of registered voters of the City established and prepared by the Board.~~

\* \* \*

~~VOTER REGISTER — An index of all registered voters whose names appear either on the list or the supplemental list together with the information required by § 6-5 hereof.~~

\* \* \*

## § 6-2. Election districts.

- A. ~~Election~~ **FOUR CITY ELECTION** districts are established pursuant to Section 22 of the City Charter. The geographical boundaries of the election districts ~~are set forth in § 6-80 of the City Code~~ **SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE AND SHALL BE DEPICTED ON A MAP ON THE CITY’S WEBSITE ENTITLED “CITY ELECTION DISTRICTS.” THE MAP SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.**
- B. The Council shall ~~periodically~~ **AS IS REQUIRED BY CITY CHARTER, § 6-22,** evaluate the election districts of the City to ~~insure~~ **ENSURE** that the

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|                             |   |                                                              |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <b>Double Strikethrough</b> | : | Indicate matter deleted after introduction.                  |

representation is reasonably equal, and shall have the power to change the boundaries thereof.

- C. The effective date of any change of boundaries shall be determined by the Council.

§ 6-3. Appointment of Board of Elections.

The Board shall be appointed as provided in **CITY CHARTER**, Section 23 "**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**" ~~of the City Charter.~~

§ 6-4. Duties of Board of Elections.

The Board shall carry out election duties as prescribed in **CITY CHARTER**, Section 25 "**DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**" ~~of the City Charter~~ and in this chapter.

§ 6-5. REGISTRATION Records of Board of Elections.

~~[A record of registered voters by districts shall be maintained by the Board. Such records shall include:~~

~~A. In columns:~~

- ~~(1) Name of applicant.~~
- ~~(2) Address of applicant.~~
- ~~(3) Record of oath of citizenship.~~
- ~~(4) Place of birth of applicant.~~
- ~~(5) Date of birth.~~
- ~~(6) Time of residence in the City.~~
- ~~(7) Date of application.~~
- ~~(8) Applicant's signature.~~
- ~~(9) Qualification verification to be marked "yes" or "no."~~
- ~~(10) Disqualification or other remarks if applicable.~~
- ~~(11) Record of when applicant votes.~~

~~B. Registration lists shall be kept up to date by the Board as provided in Section 27 of the City Charter.~~

~~C. Such records shall be in the possession of the Board.~~

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|                                 |   |                                                              |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <del>Strikethrough</del>        | : | Indicate matter deleted from existing law.                   |
| <del>Asterisks***</del>         | : | Indicate matter retained in existing law but omitted herein. |
| <del>Double Strikethrough</del> | : | Indicate matter deleted after introduction.                  |

PURSUANT TO MD. CODE ANN., ELECTIONS LAW, SUBTITLE 5 STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST, THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL MAINTAIN THE VOTER REGISTRY FOR THE CITY OF BOWIE AND UPDATE THE REGISTRY BY REMOVING FROM THE VOTER REGISTRY NAMES OF ANY PERSON WHO HAS DIED, TERMINATED RESIDENCE IN THE CITY OR WHO HAS OTHERWISE BECOME DISQUALIFIED. THE CITY OF BOWIE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL ACCEPT THE LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS PROVIDED BY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AS A VALID REGISTRATION LIST FOR THE CITY.

§ 6-6. Oath of appointees to Board of Elections.

The oath taken by appointees to the Board of ELECTIONS shall be as provided for in CITY CHARTER, Section 92 of the City Charter ~~OATH OF OFFICE.~~

§ 6-7. Compensation of Board of Elections.

- A. Each member of the Board of Elections, including the Chairperson, shall receive compensation in an amount established by the City Council in the applicable City budget for any year in which there is a regular or special election. Calculations and payment shall be on a fiscal year basis.

\* \* \*

§ 6-8. Vacancies and removal of members of Board of Elections.

A. VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL BE FILLED AS PROVIDED FOR IN CITY CHARTER, SECTION 23 "BOARD OF ELECTIONS."

- B. The ~~vacancies and~~ removal of members of the Board shall be as provided for in CITY CHARTER, Section 24 "REMOVAL OF ELECTION BOARD MEMBERS" of the City Charter.

§ 6-9. Notice of elections.

Notice of elections shall be as provided for in CITY CHARTER, Section 26 of the City Charter "NOTICE OF ELECTIONS."

\* \* \*

§ 6-11. Chief Judges and Judges of Elections.

- A. Appointment; oath. The Board shall have the power to appoint a sufficient number of Chief Judges, Judges and ~~four~~ Alternate Judges AS MAY BE REQUIRED for the conduct of City elections CONSISTENT WITH THE FUNDING PROVIDED THEREFOR IN THE APPLICABLE CITY BUDGET. Such Chief Judges,

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|                      |   |                                                              |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Double Strikethrough | : | Indicate matter deleted after introduction.                  |

Judges and Alternate Judges shall subscribe to the oath of office set forth in Section 92 of the City Charter.

- B. Qualifications. Each Chief Judge, each Judge and each Alternate Judge so appointed must be a registered voter of the City, must be able to speak, read and write the English language and, during the time of the Judge's term of appointment as a Chief Judge, Judge or Alternate Judge, must not be a candidate for any public ~~FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY OF CITY ELECTED~~ office within the City.

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#### § 6-12. Establishment of candidacy.

The ~~method of~~ **PROCEDURE FOR** establishing candidacy of a person ~~for~~ **SEEKING** elective office in the City shall be as provided for in **CITY CHARTER**, Section 28 of the City Charter **"PROCEDURE FOR FILING OF CANDIDACY."**

#### § 6-13. Withdrawal of candidacy.

Any candidate who has established a candidacy for elective office under the provisions of **CITY CHARTER**, Section 28 ~~of the City Charter~~ may withdraw from candidacy at any time up until ~~21~~ **30** days prior to the date of an election. Any person withdrawing as a candidate for any reason shall not be entitled to any refund of the filing fee.

#### § 6-14. Conduct at polling places.

- A. Each of the Judges has the authority to keep the peace and to cause any person to be arrested for any breach of the peace, or for any breach of the election laws of the City, or any interference with the progress of an election, the canvass of ballots or the ascertainment and transcription of the votes recorded on the ~~ANY~~ voting machines **EQUIPMENT**. It shall furthermore be unlawful for any person to canvass, electioneer or post any campaign material in a polling place or on public property within a ~~certain~~ **THE** radius **ESTABLISHED** from the entrance and exit of the building closest to that part of the building in which voting occurs. This radius shall be that established pursuant to ~~Article 33, § 24-23, of the~~ Annotated Code of Maryland, **ELECTION LAW, § 16-206(B)**, as amended from time to time.<sup>4</sup>
- B. This section is not intended to prevent vehicles bearing campaign stickers or signs from using public thoroughfares that may be within the established radius, **PROVIDED THAT THE VEHICLES ARE NOT PARKED**. Nor is this section intended to prevent canvassing, electioneering and posting of any

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campaign material outside of the prescribed limit.

- C. It shall be the duty of all officers of the law present to obey the order of any ~~Election Judge~~ **MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, and an officer making an arrest ~~by~~**AT** the direction of any ~~judge~~ **SUCH MEMBER** shall be protected in so doing fully as if a warrant had been issued to him to make such arrest.

§ 6-15. Hours of voting.

Hours of voting shall be as provided for in **CITY CHARTER**, Section 31 ~~of the City Charter~~ **“CONDUCT OF ELECTION.”**

§ 6-16. Challengers and watchers.

- A. Authorized. Each candidate or ~~[political]~~**CAMPAIGN** committee shall have the right to designate a registered voter as a challenger and watcher at each place of registration and election. ~~Such persons~~**DESIGNATED CHALLENGERS AND WATCHERS** shall be assigned to such position near the judges, inside the registration or polling room, as to enable them to see each person as he/**SHE** offers to register or vote. The challengers and watchers shall be protected in the discharge of their duty by the judges and the police.
- B. Certificate as evidence of right to be present. **EACH CHALLENGER AND WATCHER SHALL PRESENT A** A certificate signed by ~~any~~**A** candidate or chairperson of a campaign committee ~~shall be sufficient~~**AS** evidence of the right of such challenger and watcher to be present in the registration or polling room.
- C. Rights; unlawful acts. Each challenger ~~or~~**AND** watcher shall have the right to remain in the polling place from the time the polls are opened until the returns are completed. It shall be unlawful for any such challenger and watcher to inquire or ascertain for what candidate any voter may intend to vote, or has voted, or to converse **WITH ANY VOTER** in the polling place or within 100 feet thereof ~~with any voter~~ or to assist him **A VOTER** in the preparation of the voter's ballot or in the operation of the voting machine **EQUIPMENT**. Any challenger and watcher offering or attempting to do so shall lawfully be ejected by the judges and shall also be subject to the punishment provided in this chapter. **A CHALLENGER AND WATCHER ALSO MAY BE REMOVED FROM A POLLING PLACE BY AN ELECTION JUDGE OR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IF THE PERSON INTERFERES WITH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS OR VIOLATES ANY CITY ELECTION LAW OR REGULATION.**
- D. Removal. A challenger and watcher may be removed **AS A CHALLENGER AND WATCHER** at any time by the same person who appointed the challenger or watcher.

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- E. Other persons allowed in polling places. Persons other than accredited challengers and watchers who desire to challenge the vote of any person shall be permitted to enter the polling place for that purpose, but a majority of the judges may limit the number of persons to be allowed in the polling places at any one time for such purpose, and all such persons shall leave the polling place as soon as the right to vote of the person challenged by them has been decided.
- F. Form of certificate. The form for the certificate of a challenger and watcher shall be **INCLUDED IN THE CANDIDATES PACKET.** ~~in the following form:~~

**CHALLENGER'S AND WATCHER'S CERTIFICATE**

City of Bowie, Maryland

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

To the Judges of Election:

This is to certify, That \_\_\_\_\_, a registered voter, has been designated by me to act as Challenger and Watcher, for \_\_\_\_\_ Election District, during the Election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Candidate or Chairperson of  
Committee)

Campaign

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Office)

**Duties of Challengers and Watchers**

Each Challenger and Watcher shall have the right to remain in the polling room from the time the polls are opened until they are closed, and after that time he shall be permitted to remain until the returns are completed.

A Challenger and Watcher shall not converse with voters, assist a voter in voting or operate a voting machine.

**§ 6-17. Record of persons voting.**

- ~~A. Identification of voters by voting authority cards. A registered voter offering~~

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to vote at any election, before being permitted to vote, shall be identified to a judge, **WHO IS USING THE POLL BOOKS**, by the voter announcing the voter's name and address, ~~by signing a voting authority card and giving any change of address in the presence of the judges which shall be entered on the voting authority card or on a change of address form by the voter. The judge in charge of that portion of the voter register for the election district shall compare the signature upon such card with the signature upon the registration card. If the same are not identical, the applicant shall not be permitted to vote unless the majority of judges are of the opinion that the applicant is the same person whose name appears upon the registration card. If the entry "cannot sign" appears upon the registration card, then the applicant shall state the applicant's age, which shall be compared with the age stated upon the registration card; or the applicant shall be identified by such other means as are referred to upon the registration card. If, upon comparison of the signature or other identification, it is found that the applicant is entitled to vote, then the judge having charge of the registration file shall approve the voting authority card by initialing the voting authority card. The number of voting authority cards furnished to the judges shall exceed by 10% the number of registered voters in each election district. Each voting authority card shall be numbered and dated, and they shall be handed to the applicants in numerical order, as such applicants shall appear and offer to vote.~~

- ~~B. Disposition of voting authority cards at close of polls. At the close of the polls the judges shall account for all voting authority cards surrendered to them, and return them to the Board wrapped and sealed in a package marked "Surrendered Voting Authority Cards." Such package shall bear the signature of the judges. The unused and spoiled voters' voting authority cards shall be wrapped and sealed in a separate package, marked "Unused and Spoiled Voting Authority Cards." Such package shall bear the signature of the judges and be returned to the Board with other election equipment.~~

\* \* \*

#### § 6-19. Ballots and ballot labels.

\* \* \*

- C. Correction of errors. If a mistake on the ballot is discovered, it shall be the duty of the Board to correct the same without delay. If the Board shall decline or refuse to make the correction an appeal may be filed with the City Council **MANAGER**. If the ~~Council~~**CITY MANAGER** fails or refuses to correct the error then upon the sworn petition of any qualified voter who would have the right to vote for a candidate at the approaching election, the Circuit Court for Prince George's County may, by order, require the Board

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to correct the error or to show cause why such error should not be corrected.

- D. List of candidates to be furnished on demand. A correct list of the names of the candidates for the designated offices shall be furnished on demand by the Board to any registered voter.
- E. Color and type. The ballots shall be printed in plain clear type in black ink, upon clear white materials, ~~of such size~~ **WITH A MINIMUM OF A 12-TWELVE-POINT FONT** and arrangement as to fit the construction of the machine.

§ 6-20. Names of candidates on ballots.

A. Alphabetical arrangement.

- (1) The names of candidates for every office shall be arranged alphabetically on the ballots exactly as their name appears on the ~~registration card~~ **CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION** according to their surnames, under the designation of the office.
- (2) The use of nicknames, titles, degrees or other professional designations on the ballot is absolutely prohibited.

B. Instructions as to number of candidates to vote for. Above the group of names of the candidates for each office, and upon a separate line immediately underneath the designation of the office, there shall be printed in bold, plain ~~roman capitals~~ **CLEAR TYPE OF WITH A MINIMUM** twelve-point ~~pica type~~ **FONT**, an appropriate direction or instruction to the voter informing the voter of the number of persons for whom the voter may lawfully vote for the particular office mentioned immediately above each such direction, as: "Vote for One," "Vote for Two" or "Vote for Six," as the case may be.

**§ 6-20A. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES.**

**WRITE-IN CANDIDATES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY CITY ELECTION.**

§ 6-21. Questions on ballot.

- A. Condensed statement and descriptive title. The ballots shall contain a condensed statement in understandable language of every Charter amendment or other question to be submitted to the vote of the people at any election. It shall be sufficient ~~in any case~~ to print the legislative title, **OR** a brief summary of the contents or purpose of the proposed amendment or referendum, unless the act proposing the Charter amendment or other question specifically provides the title to be used. The City Attorney shall prepare and certify the form in which a Charter amendment or question

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shall appear and each amendment or question shall be captioned with a descriptive title in boldface type ~~containing not more than three words~~. A Charter amendment, or any question to be submitted to the popular vote, shall be printed on the ballots following the names of the candidates for office, and in the absence of some other provisions shall be accompanied by the words "For" and "Against." ~~The City Attorney shall prepare and certify to the Board the form in which questions shall appear on the ballots.~~ In the event the title of the bill, ordinance or resolution, as the case may be, is 100 words or less, the title shall be sufficient. In the event the title exceeds 100 words, a summary of the title containing not in excess of 100 words shall be prepared and certified to the Board.

\* \* \*

§ 6-22. Specimen ballots.

- A. ~~Printing. The Board shall cause to be printed on light cardboard or heavy-sized paper two or more copies of the form of the~~ **A SPECIMEN ballot WHICH SHALL BE** ~~provided for TO each voting place LOCATION at each election therein, in type of the same size, which shall be called "specimen ballots"; and the same number of copies of the form of the ballot label, printed on similar material in type of the same size, shall be furnished for each voting place at which voting machines shall be used.~~

\* \* \*

§ 6-23. Challenge of right to vote.

- A. Ground for challenge. No person's right to vote shall be challenged at the poll on any ground but identity. **AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE RIGHT TO VOTE MAY BE CHALLENGED AT THE POLLS MAY ESTABLISH THE INDIVIDUAL'S IDENTITY BY PRESENTING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION:**
- (I) THE INDIVIDUAL'S VOTER REGISTRATION CARD;**
  - (II) THE INDIVIDUAL'S SOCIAL SECURITY CARD;**
  - (III) THE INDIVIDUAL'S VALID MARYLAND DRIVER'S LICENSE;**
  - (IV) ANY IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED TO THE INDIVIDUAL BY A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, THE STATE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OR ANY UNIT OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, THE STATE OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**
  - (V) ANY EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION CARD OF THE INDIVIDUAL THAT CONTAINS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND IS ISSUED BY THE EMPLOYER OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF THE EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS; OR**

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(VI) A COPY OF A CURRENT BILL, BANK STATEMENT, GOVERNMENT CHECK, PAYCHECK, OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT THAT SHOWS THE NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

IF AN INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHES THE INDIVIDUAL'S IDENTITY AS SET FORTH ABOVE, AN ELECTION JUDGE SHALL AUTHORIZE THE INDIVIDUAL TO VOTE A REGULAR BALLOT.

B. Procedure. When the right of any person to vote shall be challenged, the challenge shall be made **BEFORE THE INDIVIDUAL IS ISSUED A BALLOT** and its validity determined immediately before or after such person receives a voting authority certificate or card and before the challenged voter enters the voting booth to cast the voter's ballot. The person challenging **A PERSON'S RIGHT TO VOTE** shall be put under oath by a judge and assign **STATE** the person's reason for the challenge, and one of the judges shall administer to the challenged voter an oath to make true answers to questions. The judges shall question the challenged voter touching the cause of the challenge, and if a majority of the judges, after the questioning is concluded, is of the opinion that the challenged voter is the person so registered, the challenged voter's vote shall be received accordingly. Unless a majority of the judges is of the opinion that the challenged voter is entitled to vote, the challenged voter's vote shall not be received, and the word "Rejected" shall be written on the challenged voter's voting authority certificate or card.

§ 6-24. Closing of polls.

~~Closing of the polls shall be as provided for in Section 31 of the City Charter.~~  
**RESERVED.**

§ 6-25. Tabulation of votes.

The tabulation of votes shall be as provided for in **CITY CHARTER**, Section 33 of the ~~City Charter~~ **COUNTING VOTES; DECLARING RESULTS.** In addition, the tabulation of machine votes shall be governed by ~~§ 16-16 of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 edition, as amended.~~<sup>2</sup>

§ 6-26. Voting machines**EQUIPMENT** authorized.

The Board shall ~~MAY~~ provide for the use of voting machines**EQUIPMENT** in all **CITY** elections in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and under the City Charter and under such rules and regulations as the Board may deem advisable or necessary.

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§ 6-27. ~~Use of voting machines.~~ **RESERVED.**

~~The use of voting machines in City elections shall be governed by the provisions of §§ 16-8 through 16-12 of Article 33, Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 edition, as amended, where such provisions are applicable to such use.<sup>3</sup>~~

§ 6-28. Time allowed for voting.

No voter shall remain within the voting machine booth longer than four minutes, ~~if there are other voters awaiting an opportunity~~ **IS NECESSARY** to register ~~CAST~~ their vote, ~~except that an additional two minutes shall be allowed if there are City Charter amendments or referenda to be voted upon.~~

§ 6-29. Recount of ballots.

- A. Time for petition for recount. ~~Within two days~~ **NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. EST OF THE SECOND BUSINESS DAY** after the day of any election, any candidate for municipal elective office who has been defeated on the face of the returns **BY A MARGIN OF LESS THAN 5%** may petition the Board for an appeal from and review of the action and decision of the judges in counting the ballots and for a recount of the ballots cast in any or all of the districts in which the petitioner was a candidate.
- B. Affidavit. The petition shall be filed with an affidavit or affidavits, made from personal knowledge by candidates, watchers, challengers or other persons, setting forth acts of fraud, mistake, error or irregularity in making the count or returns by the judges, or setting forth that some of the returns and tally sheets of the election show on their faces ambiguity, error, fraud, or mistake or miscalculation by the judges.
- C. Procedure for recount.
- (1) The Board, after receiving the petition, shall review the votes recorded ~~on the voting machines or otherwise received and recorded in the manner provided for in § 6-25 herein~~ **BY ALL MEANS**, and, if required to resolve the issues raised by the petition, the Board shall proceed without answer, pleading or technicality and without requiring any evidence to be taken or proof submitted, to recount the ballots in those districts named in the petition.
  - (2) The review and recount of ballots shall be conducted with all possible expedition and in preference to all other business under such procedure as the Board shall prescribe.

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- (3) The recount shall be conducted in the presence of the candidates or their representatives and of the press and the general public.
- (4) The petitioner shall pay the cost of the recount unless the result of the election is changed, in which case the costs shall be borne by the City.

§ 6-30. Absentee voting.

- A. Any qualified voter of the City may vote as an absentee voter in any general or special election.
- B. The application for an absentee voting ballot must be made in writing and signed by the applicant or, if the applicant is unable to sign, shall bear the mark of the applicant and the signature of two witnesses. The application must be ~~presented~~ **SUBMITTED** to the Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day ~~THAT IS THE SEVENTH DAY PRIOR TO before the election, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. IF THE SEVENTH DAY IS A SATURDAY, SUNDAY OR HOLIDAY, THE APPLICATION SHALL BE DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY.~~ It may be ~~presented~~ **SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**, by mail or delivered in person by the voter or the applicant's duly authorized agent. A voter may designate a duly authorized agent by any signed writing to that effect or if the applicant cannot sign then the writing shall bear the applicant's mark and the signature of two witnesses. Whenever the Board has received an application for an absentee voting ballot it shall issue to the applicant an absentee voting ballot.
- C. When the application is received by mail, **OR ELECTRONICALLY** the Board shall issue the absentee voting ballot by return mail; when the application is presented in person by the voter or duly authorized agent, the Board shall issue the absentee voting ballot to the voter or duly authorized agent at the time of application.
- D. Persons receiving absentee ballots shall also be furnished an official self-addressed return envelope for use in returning the marked ballots. Only those ballots returned in an official return envelope shall be counted and considered properly cast.
- E. All absentee voting ballots must be received by the time of the close of the polls on election day. The ballots are to remain in the unopened official return envelope in which they are received and be placed in any ballot box which is designated for the purpose of storing absentee ballots until they are to be counted. Ballots returned in any envelope other than the official return envelope shall be destroyed and not counted.
- F. The Board shall open all absentee ballots only after all the polling places have ~~been closed~~ **OPENED ON ELECTION DAY**. Absentee ballots are thereafter

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to be opened, approved as to form, and totaled. The grand total of the ballots cast at the polling places and the ballots cast in absentia shall thereafter be added together and included in any official election result as determined by the Board.

- G. Absentee ballots are to be preserved in the same manner as prescribed for any other election ballots in Section 34 of the City Charter.

#### **§ 6-30A. RECALL**

**REGISTERED VOTERS MAY FILE A PETITION WITH THE CITY CLERK FOR THE RECALL OF ANY COUNCILMEMBER OR MAYOR WITH SIX (6) OR MORE MONTHS REMAINING IN HIS OR HER TERM. UPON RECEIVING A PETITION FOR RECALL, THE CITY CLERK SHALL VERIFY THAT AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS, WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF THE AFFECTED COUNCILMEMBER OR WITHIN THE CITY FOR COUNCILMEMBERS ELECTED AT LARGE OR THE MAYOR, HAVE SIGNED THE PETITION. REGISTERED VOTERS ARE THOSE PERSONS QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN A GENERAL CITY ELECTION AS CERTIFIED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS. ONCE THE SIGNATURES HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AND THE PETITION IS DETERMINED TO MEET ALL APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS, THE SPECIAL RECALL ELECTION SHALL BE SCHEDULED. THE SPECIAL RECALL ELECTION SHALL TAKE PLACE NOT LESS THAN SIXTY (60) DAYS NOR MORE THAN NINETY (90) DAYS OF THE DATE OF CERTIFICATION OF THE PETITION.**

#### **§ 6-31. INSTRUCTIONS; Preparation AND SUBMITTAL of forms and instructions.**

All instructions or forms required under any section or subsection of this chapter shall be prepared for the Board by the City ~~Attorney~~ **CLERK**. **EXCEPT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS, WHEN SUBMITTING FORMS AND APPLICATIONS PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER, ELECTRONIC FORMS AND APPLICATIONS MAY BE COMPLETED ON-LINE AND SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY.**

#### **§ 6-32. Interpretation.**

Unless an interpretation to the contrary is clearly intended from the context in which it appears, ~~each provision of this chapter shall be interpreted in conformity with the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended~~ **MAY BE A GUIDE TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN INTERPRETING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER. THIS CHAPTER SHALL ALWAYS BE INTERPRETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE CITY CHARTER.**

#### **§ 6-33. Violations and penalties.**

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- A. Unless otherwise specified by this chapter or the City Charter, and except as set forth in Subsection B of this section, any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a municipal infraction pursuant to § 1-6 of this Code.
- B. Any person who attempts to fraudulently influence the outcome of any election conducted under this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or both fine and imprisonment. The following actions shall be deemed actions designed to fraudulently influence the outcome of an election under this subsection:
- (1) Offering a bribe.
  - (2) Accepting or soliciting a bribe.
  - (3) Acting on a bribe.
  - (4) Making a political contribution under a false name.
  - (5) Coercing a City employee to support any candidate for election or to contribute any money or other thing of value to the candidate or the candidate's campaign.
- C. Any person who has been adjudicated guilty or who has paid a fine prior to trial with respect to two cumulative municipal infractions of this chapter over the course of one campaign and who commits a third violation of § 6-75 of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- D. Any person who violates the provisions of § 6-75 of this chapter shall be guilty of a municipal infraction and shall be subject to a fine ~~not to exceed \$500~~ **OF \$100 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE, \$200 FOR THE SECOND OFFENSE AND \$500 FOR EACH OFFENSE THEREAFTER.**
- E. Any ~~election~~**ELECTED** official ~~or WHO IS A~~ candidate who is found guilty of a misdemeanor under the provisions of this chapter shall immediately cease to hold such office, and shall be disqualified as a candidate **PURSUANT TO CITY CHARTER, § 4 QUALIFICATIONS OF COUNCILMEMBERS OR § 15 QUALIFICATIONS.**
- F. The City may institute injunctive, mandamus or any other appropriate action or proceedings at law or equity for the enforcement of this chapter or to correct violations of this chapter. Any court of competent jurisdiction shall have the right to issue restraining orders, injunctions, mandamus, or any other appropriate form of relief or remedy.
- G. For purposes of the issuance of municipal infraction citations under this chapter, the City Clerk shall be designated as the code enforcement officer.

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- H. The Board of Elections is authorized to direct corrective action for violations deemed by the Board to be either inadvertent or minimal and having no effect on the election campaign.

## ARTICLE II

### Registration of Voters

#### § 6-34. Voter lists.

- ~~A. The voter register shall consist of the combined list of registered voters and the supplemental list of registered voters. PURSUANT TO MD. CODE ANN., ELECTIONS LAW, TITLE 3 "VOTER REGISTRATION," SUBTITLE 4 "MUNICIPAL REGISTRATION," § 3-403, A VOTER RESIDING IN THE CITY OF BOWIE IS CONSIDERED TO BE REGISTERED FOR ELECTIONS IN THE CITY IF THE VOTER IS INCLUDED ON THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST AT AN ADDRESS WITHIN THE CITY. ACCORDINGLY, EVERY PERSON WHO IS INCLUDED ON THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST SUPPLIED BY THE LOCAL BOARD TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AT AN ADDRESS WITHIN THE CITY OF BOWIE, WHO RESIDES IN THE CITY AND IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE IS CONSIDERED REGISTERED TO VOTE IN CITY ELECTIONS. THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL MAINTAIN AND UPDATE THE VOTER REGISTRY FOR THE CITY OF BOWIE.~~
- ~~B. List of registered voters. All eligible persons registered to vote with the County Board who reside in the City and whose names appear on a list of registered voters supplied to the Board by the County Board shall be considered registered voters of the City and shall have their names placed upon the voter register.~~
- ~~C. Supplemental list of registered voters.~~
- ~~(1) There is hereby established a supplemental list of registered voters of the City.~~
  - ~~(2) The supplemental list of registered voters shall be established through the registration of eligible applicants by the Board, of eligible voters who have not registered to vote with the County Board, and whose names do not appear on the list.~~
  - ~~(3) Registration of voters in the City shall be conducted continuously under the direction of the Board.~~
  - ~~(4) The Board shall take all reasonable steps to enable registration by citizens who cannot conveniently register in person or by mail.~~

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- ~~(5) All persons whose names appear on the supplemental list of registered voters shall have their names placed upon the voter register.~~

~~§ 6-35. Hours and places of registration.~~ **RESERVED.**

~~The Board shall be open at City Hall during normal City business hours, and at such other times and places as the Board may, from time to time, determine. A person may register any time the Board is open for business.~~

~~§ 6-36. Registration to be permanent.~~ **RESERVED.**

~~Registration shall be permanent except as otherwise provided in § 6-54.~~

~~§ 6-37. Qualifications of voters.~~

~~Qualifications for voting in City elections shall be as provided for in CITY CHARTER, Section 21 "QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS" of the City Charter and this chapter.~~

~~§ 6-38. Persons becoming of voting age.~~ **RESERVED.**

~~Registration for persons becoming of voting age shall be as provided for in Section 27 of the City Charter and this chapter.~~

~~§ 6-39. Oath for registrants.~~ **RESERVED.**

~~The Board by the registering official shall administer to all persons who shall personally apply to register the following oath or affirmation:~~

~~"You do solemnly swear (or affirm) under penalties of perjury that you will fully and truly answer all such questions as shall be put to you touching your place of residence, name, place of birth, your qualifications as a voter and your right as such to register and vote under the laws of the City of Bowie."~~

~~§ 6-40. Registration by mail.~~ **RESERVED.**

~~A. When any person desires to register by mail and gives notice to the Board by postal card provided for that purpose and made available at convenient locations within the City of Bowie to the Board of the desire of such person to register, the Board shall send to the person desiring to register a form requesting the information contained in Subsection B of § 6-46.~~

~~B. Registration by mail shall be permitted and the Board shall provide suitable~~

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~~application forms to any person who desires to register. Any such mail registration form received with the information required shall thereafter be processed by the Board according to the provisions of this chapter, and if the applicant is found to be qualified, a voter identification card shall be mailed to the registrant, provided that any mail registration request received by the Board when the registration books are closed shall not be processed, nor shall the applicant be registered, until after the books are next opened.~~

§ 6-41. Registration.

- A. Any person eligible to vote ~~and desiring to register~~ may register ~~TO VOTE by registration—~~ **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MD CODE ANN., ELECTION LAW, TITLE 3, § 3-201 “VOTER REGISTRATION”** ~~with the County Board or by registration with the Board.~~
- B. The time and procedure for registration or change of registration shall be as provided in ~~this chapter~~ **MD CODE ANN., ELECTION LAW, TITLE 3 “VOTER REGISTRATION;”** ~~HOWEVER, No~~ **NO** one shall be permitted to register 30 calendar days prior to or 14 calendar days following an election.

§ 6-42. Procedure for change of address or name.

- ~~A.~~ Persons whose names appear on the **VOTER REGISTRATION** list shall make application to the County Board **OR THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS** requesting name or address changes.
- ~~B.~~ ~~Persons whose names appear on the supplemental list shall:~~
  - ~~(1) Subject to the provisions of § 6-41, notify the Board of a change of address or of a change of name, in writing, by mail, or by making application in person at the office of the Board or other place of registration, or by written notice to the Board signed by the voter requesting that the proper form for providing such written notification be mailed to the voter.~~
  - ~~(2) Upon receiving such written notice, the Board shall cause the signature to be compared with the original registration records of such applicant, and if such signature appears to be the same, such change of residence or name shall be made on the original and duplicate registration records and the registrant shall be immediately notified by mail of the change so made.~~
  - ~~(3) When the Board is not satisfied as to the signature on the written notice or that the change should be made, notice shall be sent to the applicant by mail directing the applicant to appear at the office of the Board to~~

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~~answer such questions under oath as may be deemed necessary. If an applicant so notified fails to appear at the office of the Board as directed, no such entry of change of residence or name shall be made.~~

§ 6-43. Universal registration.

- A. Not less than six months prior to each election, the Board shall submit a request to the County Board for the development of a plan and a schedule to implement universal registration.
- B. The application shall include the name of the person designated to be the Board's liaison who is responsible for working with the County Board in the development of the Plan and the schedule for implementation of the Plan.
- C. Upon receipt of notice from the County Board of its designated liaison, the County Board liaison and the Board liaison shall conduct meetings at a mutually agreed upon time with other appropriate persons, if required, for the purpose of developing a schedule and plan for implementing universal registration. The plan shall include:
  - (1) Procedures for identifying by geographical reference the boundaries and election districts of the City and the methods for including this information on the list of registered voters.
  - (2) The format of the list of registered voters, and whether it is to be divided according to a registrant's City polling place.
  - (3) Information on whether:
    - (a) The dates of birth are to be printed on the list of registered voters.
    - (b) The names of registrants who will have attained the age of 18 years as of the date of the next general or special election.
  - (4) The timing for furnishing the list of registered voters for use in the City elections, including the deadline for accepting voter registration applications of those persons residing in the City prior to the City election.
  - (5) Procedures for obtaining, updating, and maintaining in the County Board files the voter history of registrants on the list who vote in City elections.
  - (6) Procedures for obtaining, updating, and maintaining changes to the boundaries and election districts that result from annexations, subdivision development, street name changes, street abandonments,

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redistricting and other changes.

- (7) Procedures of the City for providing the information required by **CITY CODE**, § 6-5.
- D. The County Board shall provide to the City at no cost a certified list of registered voters, as required by law, and in compliance with the agreed upon timing and format referred to in Subsection C of this section.
- E. On request by the City, the County Board shall at no cost, as provided by law, deliver a certified preliminary list of registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the City, not later than 90 days prior to any City election. The request for this preliminary list of voters shall be made to the County Board before or during the negotiations authorized in Subsection C of this section. Within 20 days after receiving the preliminary list of registered voters, the Board shall notify the County Board of any potential errors in the residency of registered voters. If the actual residency of any person listed on the preliminary lists of registered voters is in doubt, the County Board shall notify such persons within 10 days after receiving notification from the Board, and shall thereafter verify in accordance with the procedures of the County Board the residency of such person. Should the County Board determine that such person is not a resident of the City, it shall inform the Board and such person of its determination and thereupon strike such person from the preliminary list of registered voters.
- ~~F. If upon receipt of the preliminary list of registered voters, or during the combining of the list and three supplemental list, the Board determines that names on the preliminary list of registered voters are found on the supplemental list, then the Board shall, pursuant to the procedures set forth herein, strike such names from the supplemental list as duplicate registrations.~~

§ 6-44. Appointment of registrar. **RESERVED.**

~~The Board shall appoint registrars from the voter register as well as from a list of classified employees of the City supplied by the City Manager. The registrars shall have all the powers and duties, including that of administering oaths, to properly register any citizen qualified to vote in City elections. The Board shall notify the City Manager of such appointments~~

§ 6-45. Form of permanent registration.

- ~~A. The registration of voters shall be conducted as herein provided on cards or loose-leaf pages. When such cards or loose-leaf pages have been duly~~

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~~filled out, and both the original and duplicate registration forms have been signed by the applicant for registration and returned by the registrars or other designated persons to the Board, the original and duplicate form shall be filed in different filing cases or loose-leaf binders. The original forms shall be arranged by election districts in alphabetical order and shall constitute, when combined with the cards received from the County Board, the voter register for use in polling places on election days. The duplicate forms shall be kept in metal filing cabinets and shall be arranged by election district for the whole City, in alphabetical order, and shall constitute the permanent official record of the Board.~~

- ~~B.~~ The registration records shall be open to public inspection under reasonable **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE** regulations at all times when the office of the **COUNTY** Board is open for the registration of voters except upon the special order of the Board.. The registration records **IN THE POSSESSION OF THE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AT ANY TIME** shall not be removed from the office of the Board except on the order of a court and except for temporary removal solely for purposes of data processing, provided that in such removal for data processing, one duplicate copy is always retained in the office of the Board.
- ~~C.~~ ~~Locking and unlocking of binders and cabinets. The binders or filing cases containing the~~ **THE** voter register shall be securely locked and the keys safety kept by the Board. The cabinets containing the duplicate forms shall be securely locked, and neither the binders nor the cabinets shall be unlocked except by a clerk or other employee of the Board upon its authorization.

§ 6-46. Registration forms and cards. **RESERVED.**

- ~~A.~~ It shall be the duty of the Board, after consultation with the county liaison, to prescribe the style, color, quality and dimensions of all forms, cards and records required for the continuous registration of voters as herein provided, and to prescribe the requirements of the cabinets, binders and other equipment needed for filing the original and duplicate registration cards. Such registration forms or cards shall consist of an equal number of original cards or loose-leaf pages of one color, and duplicate cards or loose-leaf pages of another color, of a size adequate to contain the information required. Provisions shall be made on said cards or loose-leaf pages for recording the fact that registered voters have or have not voted at each election, and space shall be provided for such recording for a period of not less than 12 years. The fact of voting shall be indicated by writing the letter "V" in the proper space. Provision shall also be made on such cards or loose-leaf pages for showing changes of address.

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- ~~B. Form. The cards or loose-leaf pages shall be in substantially the following form and provision shall be made on the reverse side of such cards or loose-leaf pages for showing subsequent changes of address. The form shall include the following columns:~~
- ~~a. Name of applicant.~~
  - ~~b. Address of applicant.~~
  - ~~c. Record of oath of citizenship.~~
  - ~~d. Place of birth of applicant.~~
  - ~~e. Date of birth. If the applicant objects to giving the applicant's date of birth, than a statement under oath that the applicant swears that the applicant meets the minimum age requirement for voting.~~
  - ~~f. Time of residence in the City.~~
  - ~~g. Date of application.~~
  - ~~h. Applicant's signature.~~
  - ~~i. Qualification verification to be marked "yes" or "no."~~
  - ~~j. Disqualification or other remarks if applicable.~~
  - ~~k. Record of when applicant votes.~~
  - ~~l. Sex of applicant.~~

§ 6-47. Completion of registration forms; comparison of record. **RESERVED.**

- ~~A. Whether applying by mail or in person, the applicant shall be required to answer all questions required on the registration forms. If it shall be determined that the applicant is not qualified to be a voter, an entry shall be made in appropriate place on the forms. If the applicant is qualified, an entry shall be made. After the answers of the applicant to all questions have been properly entered on the forms, the applicant shall sign his name in the place on the forms for his signature, if he can do so. When applying in person, if the applicant is unable to sign the applicant's name, the registrars shall make the entry "cannot sign" on the forms in the place of his signature, and shall with two witnesses note on the forms the applicant's height, color of eye and distinguishing physical marks. Applicants who cannot sign an application appointment must accomplish the foregoing in person.~~
- ~~B. At the end of each registration session, the original and duplicate~~

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~~registration forms shall be compared, verified and conformed. If any person is found to have registered more than once, the additional registration forms shall be canceled.~~

§ 6-48. Old registration forms. **RESERVED.**

- A. ~~Whenever in the opinion of the Board the registration forms have become obsolete and can no longer be used, the information contained thereon shall be transcribed on new forms under the supervision and direction of the Board.~~
- B. ~~The Board shall retain all old registration books or forms which have been transcribed onto new forms under this section for a period of at least five years before the books or microfilm forms may be destroyed.~~

§ 6-49. Temporary certificates of registration.

- A. When issued. If at any election it shall appear that ~~the original registration form of any person representing to be a voter is not among the cards~~ **NAMES ON** constituting the voter register **REGISTRY** for use on election day, such person may apply to the Board, on forms to be provided by the Board, for a certificate entitling the person to cast a ballot in spite of the absence of such original registration form **THEIR NAME ON THE VOTER REGISTRY**. Upon receipt of any application for such a certificate, ~~accompanied by proof of the identity of the applicant, a majority of the Board shall inspect the duplicate registration forms retained in the office of the Board, and if inspection discloses that the applicant is~~ **A duly registered voter, the Board shall make reasonable effort to locate the applicant's original registration form** **THE BOARD SHALL CONTACT THE COUNTY BOARD TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE**. If such original form is not found and if the Board shall be satisfied that its absence is not due to fraud or malfeasance **THE ISSUE IS RESOLVED**, the Board shall issue its certificate, a copy of which shall be retained by the Board, ~~to the judges assigned by the Board to the election district in which the applicant is a resident declaring the applicant to be a registered voter. The certificate shall be marked "Temporary Certificate of Registration," shall be in the form provided by Subsection C of this section~~ **THE BOARD**, and shall be sufficient authority to permit the voter to cast the voter's ballot in the voter's election district as though the voter's original registration form were present. The certificate, when presented to the judges, shall be retained by the judges and returned to the Board at the time ~~prescribed for the return of the original registration forms~~ **THE POLLS CLOSE**.
- B. ~~New original registration form. At the same time a voter receives a~~

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~~temporary certificate the voter shall sign a new original registration form containing the same information shown by the voter's duplicate registration form. The new original registration form shall entitle the voter, subject to the provisions of this chapter, to vote at any subsequent election.~~

~~C. Form. The form of the temporary certificate of registration shall be as follows:~~

~~TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ ELECTION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~To the Judges of the Elections of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Election District~~

~~Upon the application of \_\_\_\_\_ and pursuant to the provisions of section 6-49 of the Code of the City of Bowie, we, the undersigned, constituting a majority of the Board of Elections of the City of Bowie, do hereby certify that:~~

- ~~1. \_\_\_\_\_ is a registered voter of the \_\_\_\_\_ Election District and entitled to cast his ballot in the aforesaid Election District, having heretofore sworn that he or she has not applied for or received any absentee ballot for this election.~~
- ~~2. The following entries appear upon the duplicate registration form of the said applicant retained in the office of said Board:~~

~~THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR THE PERMANENT REGISTRATION FORM  
ADOPTED AND MADE A PART OF THIS CODE AT § 6-46~~

~~WHEREFORE, In conformity with the provisions of § 6-49 of the Code of the City of Bowie, you are hereby authorized and directed to permit the said \_\_\_ to cast his or her ballot at the election aforesaid provided that he or she signs his or her name on a Voting Authority Card, and that signature corresponds with his or her signature as it appears on the line directly below.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant for Temporary  
Certificate of Registration~~

- ~~3. You are further directed to retain this Temporary Certificate of Registration until the polls close and then return same to the Board of Elections, together with the Election District Binder containing the original registration forms of the voters.~~

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As Witness the following signatures of said Board and the Seal of the Board of Elections.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

§ 6-50. Challenges of voters and correction of lists.~~RESERVED.~~

- A. ~~Who may file challenge or application for correction of the supplemental list; when and where filed. Any voter may file in accordance with the provisions contained herein with the Board objections to the registration of any person whom such voter has reason to believe is not eligible to vote, or a request for the addition of any person whose name has been erroneously omitted or dropped from the supplemental list. Application for the correction of the list or a challenge of the right to vote of a person named on the list may be made by any qualified voter at the office of the Board on or before 30 days prior to the election.~~
- B. ~~Manner of making application or challenge. Such applications or challenges shall be made in the form provided by Subsection E of this section and such forms shall be provided by the Board for that purpose. The voter shall state thereon, under oath and of the voter's own personal knowledge, the reason for the application or challenge. Thereafter the voter so applying or challenging shall be required to appear in person at the time of the hearing on the application or challenge as provided for in Subsection D of this section and for wilful failure to so appear shall be subject to the penalties provided for in this Code.~~
- C. ~~Notice; voter may appear in person or by counsel. Any person whose right to register has been challenged and any person whose name has alleged to have been erroneously omitted or dropped from the supplemental list shall be given written notice, sent by mail, addressed to the voter at the last address given on the voter's registration form. Any person so notified may appear before the Board in person or by counsel.~~
- D. ~~Hearing and action of Board on applications and challenges. The Board shall sit for the purpose of hearing applications for changes on the supplemental list, or challenges of the right to vote on the supplemental list. It shall meet at least 15 days before an election at such hours as the Board may designate. If all such applications or challenges are not determined on that day, it shall sit during the same hours on succeeding days until all cases are heard and decided. All cases shall be decided immediately after hearing. No voter as to whom an application or a challenge has been made shall be removed from the supplemental list unless the application or~~

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~~challenge is substantiated by affirmative proof. In the absence of such proof the presumption shall be that the voter as to whom the application or challenge was made is properly registered. If the Board is satisfied that the person so challenged, omitted or dropped from the supplemental list has actually moved to another election district and is presently residing within that other district, the Board may transfer that person to the election district in which the voter presently resides.~~

~~E. Form of challenge~~

- ~~(1) Objections to the registration of any person shall be made in substantially the following form:~~

~~"OATH OF PERSON WHO ASKS THAT A NAME BE REMOVED  
FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF REGISTERED  
VOTERS"~~

~~— I, \_\_\_\_\_, a voter of the City of Bowie, do solemnly swear that I believe that who professes to reside at \_\_\_\_\_ is not a qualified voter in the \_\_\_\_\_ District of the City of Bowie, on the ground that \_\_\_\_\_ Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.~~

~~(Notary Public or other person authorized to administer oaths.)~~

- ~~(2) Any person objecting to the registration on the supplemental list of any voter must appear in person to substantiate such objection by affirmative proof. Willful failure to appear at the hearing on such challenge shall be a misdemeanor and is subject to imprisonment for not more than 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$100, or both.~~

~~§ 6-51. Removal because of change of address. **RESERVED.**~~

~~The procedure for removal because of change of address shall be as provided for in this chapter.~~

~~§ 6-52. Report of change of address. **RESERVED.**~~

~~The Board may also in its discretion make such arrangements with the postal authorities serving the City and with the water department of public service companies serving persons therein to receive notices of changes in addresses of persons receiving mail or using such services in the City. The Board is authorized to pay a reasonable compensation for the necessary clerical service involved.~~

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~~§ 6-54. Cancellation of registration for failure to vote.~~ **RESERVED.**

- ~~A. If a voter whose name appears on the supplemental list has been registered but has not voted at least once at a general or special election within the five preceding calendar years, it shall be the duty of the Board, unless cause to the contrary be shown, to cause the registration of that voter to be canceled by removing the registration cards and forms of the voter in the original and duplicate files and placing them in a transfer file. A notice of this action and the reason therefor shall be sent to the last address of the voter, notifying him to appear before the Board at a date specified in the notice, but not earlier than one week or later than two weeks from the date of the mailing of the notice, and to show cause why his or her name should not be removed from the supplemental list.~~
- ~~B. A list containing the names and last known street address of those voters whose registration is to be canceled shall be made available upon request 30 days prior to the date of removal. The Board may charge reasonable fees for such lists.~~
- ~~C. A voter whose registration has been canceled under this section shall not thereafter be eligible to vote except by registering again in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or by registering with the County Board.~~
- ~~D. Annually, the Board shall determine which persons have not voted at least once at a general or special election within the five calendar years immediately preceding January 1 of the then-current year and send those persons the notice required in Subsection A of this section. The notice shall be in a form prescribed by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws.~~

~~§ 6-55. Copies of registration lists.~~

~~The Board shall furnish to anyone making written application therefor, within 10 days after such application has been received, a certified copy, under their hands, of the names and addresses of all persons registered in the City insofar as the City's records reflect such registration on its most current voter register and/or supplemental list for a sum designated by the Board and approved by the City Council.~~ **ANY PERSON SEEKING A COPY OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST FOR THE CITY OF BOWIE SHALL MAKE A REQUEST THEREFOR WITH THE COUNTY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNTY BOARD'S PROCEDURES.**

~~§ 6-56. Voters' identification cards.~~ **RESERVED.**

- ~~A. Issuance; duplicates. The Board shall issue a card containing the name and~~

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~~address of the voter, the date of issue and the election district of the voter. Such card shall be prima facie evidence that such voter has been properly registered on the date appearing thereon. The Board shall have the authority to issue duplicate voters' identification cards, to be stamped "Duplicate" to a voter when he changes his address.~~

- ~~B. Reproduction, etc., unlawful. Except for the purpose of filing as an exhibit in a court proceeding, it is unlawful to reproduce or copy in any manner for any purpose a voter's identification card. Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor punishable as provided herein.~~

§ 6-57. Preservation of canceled registration records.

~~The Board is authorized to microfilm canceled registration records at any time and to destroy the original records after they have been canceled for a period of five years. All files and binders shall be retained in the office of the Board for a period of five years, and shall be open to public inspection. SHALL RETAIN ALL RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF BOWIE RECORDS RETENTION POLICY.~~

ARTICLE III  
Questions

§ 6-58. Certification.

Whenever a proposed Charter or Charter amendment **IS SUBJECT TO REFERENDUM** or other **A** question is to be submitted for popular approval to the voters of the City, the City Attorney shall certify the same to the Board on or before three weeks prior to the election. Thereupon the Board shall include the same in the publication provided for in Section 26 of the **CITY** Charter and the applicable provisions of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended.

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§ 6-62. ~~Statement of petition contributions and expenditures.~~ **RESERVED.**

- ~~A. At the time of filing with the City Manager a petition, including an associated or related set of petitions, under the provisions of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, the person which **WHO** files the petition shall file with it a statement showing the contributions and expenditures for the petition. This shall be certified by the person who files the petition, giving:~~

- ~~(1) The name and post office address of every contributor to the expense~~

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~~of the petition, and the amount paid by each; and~~

~~(2) The name and post office address of every person to whom, and for what service, any money was paid or promised on account of the petition or which is owed to be paid.~~

~~B. If such a certified statement is not filed with the petition, the City Manager shall treat the petition as invalid and shall not certify the question of the referendum to the Board.~~

~~C. In any proceeding to test the validity of any petition filed as specified in Subsection A of this section, the person certifying the statement required in this section shall be a party to such a proceeding. Such proceeding shall be filed in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.~~

#### § 6-63. Effect of question concerning validity of petition signature.

On any petition, including an associated or related set of petitions, submitted to the City Manager under the applicable provisions of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, any question concerning the validity of the signature of any person on the petition affects that signature only and does not affect or impair any other portion of the petition.

#### § 6-64. Enforcement.

In the enforcement of §§ 6-61 and ~~6-62~~, each separate violation and the invalidity or impropriety ~~or~~ **OF** each individual signature is a separate offense, punishable under the general penalties provided in § 6-33.

#### § 6-65. Result of votes.

The result of votes shall be governed by the applicable sections of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, **IF APPLICABLE.**

### ARTICLE IV

#### Fair Election Practices

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#### § 6-68. Appointment of campaign treasurer; candidate joining ticket or slate.

A. Each candidate for election to public office, upon or before, and as a condition precedent to, qualifying as such candidate, shall appoint one

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campaign treasurer and shall file the name and address of the campaign treasurer with the Board as provided in Subsection C of this section. A campaign treasurer shall be a resident of the City and have resided in the City for one year prior to the date of his or her appointment. Every treasurer so appointed shall accept such appointment, in writing, prior to filing thereof. The Board shall not accept any certificate of candidacy unless the name of the treasurer has been filed with it as provided in this subsection. ~~Nothing herein contained shall prevent a candidate from naming himself or herself as treasurer.~~ **A CANDIDATE CANNOT BE THEIR OWN CAMPAIGN TREASURER OR THE CAMPAIGN TREASURER FOR ANOTHER CANDIDATE.**

- B. The City Clerk shall devise and maintain a form for appointment of a treasurer and the acceptance of such appointment by the treasurer. Each candidate shall obtain and use, without alteration, the City's form for appointment of a treasurer.
- C. Any candidate, after filing the name of a treasurer as prescribed in Subsection A of this section, may choose, at any time after such filing and the first filing as required in Subsection A(1) of § 6-75, to join a group, combination or organization of candidates, commonly known as a "ticket" or "slate," at which time the candidate must notify the Board of the fact that he has joined the ticket or slate. **THE TICKET OR SLATE SHALL ALSO APPOINT A TREASURER AS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS ARTICLE.** The treasurer of the ticket or slate shall report in the same manner as the treasurer of any political committee as prescribed in § 6-69.
- D. No person may solicit or collect funds to be used in furtherance of the election to municipal office of any person who has not filed a certificate of candidacy and the notice of appointment of treasurer required by Subsection B of this section.

\* \* \*

#### § 6-74. Expenditures by treasurer.

- A. Proper expenditures. It shall be lawful for any treasurer in connection with any election and in making provisions therefor to pay all lawful expenses including, but not limited to, the following expenses:
  - (1) Hiring of halls and music for public meetings and for advertising the same;
  - (2) Printing and circulating political articles, circulars, pamphlets and books or renting radio and television time and newspaper space for political speeches and advertising;
  - (3) Printing and distributing the sample or specimen ballots or instructions

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to voters, subject, however, to such prohibitions or restrictions as may be imposed by this chapter upon the publication and distribution of such sample or specimen ballots or instructions;

- (4) Renting rooms and headquarters to be used by political committees;
  - (5) Compensating clerks, stenographers and typists employed in the committee rooms;
  - (6) Traveling and other legitimate expenses of political agents, committees and public speakers;
  - (7) Necessary postage, stationery, ~~telegrams~~, telephoning, and printing expenses.
- B. Time for presentation of statement of money due. Any statement of money owing by a treasurer must be presented for payment to the treasurer within 30 days following the election in connection with which such liability was incurred.

§ 6-75. Election reports to be filed by treasurer.

- A. The treasurer designated by a candidate prior to an election shall file reports or statements of contributions and expenditures as prescribed in this section and § 6-76 with the Board in accordance with the following schedule:
- (1) By the close of business on the 15th day of each month, or if the 15th day of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday or federal holiday, by the close of business on the Monday immediately following the 15th day of the month, a report shall be filed containing all contributions received and expenditures made in furtherance of the candidate's election, including those made by the candidate, or with the knowledge of the candidate, and those made by any other person or groups of persons since the date of the last preceding election to fill the office for which he is a candidate. Within 48 hours of its submission, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, the Board or its designee shall review each report and return any such report that does not meet the requirements of this article. **A TREASURER TO WHOM A DOCUMENT IS RETURNED SHALL HAVE 48 HOURS TO CORRECT THE DOCUMENT AND RESUBMIT IT. ~~THE RETURN OF THE DOCUMENT BY THE BOARD AND THE RESUBMITTAL OF THE DOCUMENT MAY BE DONE ELECTRONICALLY.~~** A copy of all monthly and final campaign financial reports shall be posted on the City's website by close of business within three business days after review and acceptance by the Board.
  - (2) A successful candidate shall file a final campaign financial report **NO**

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**LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. ON THE EIGHTH DAY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION. THE FINAL CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL REPORT SHALL BE** ~~that is accepted and approved as sufficiently itemized and complete by the Election Board~~ **OF ELECTIONS** or its designee no later than ~~12:00 noon~~ **4:00 P.M.** on the **LAST BUSINESS** day prior to the date on which the successful candidate takes office. ~~ALL SUBMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS MAY BE DONE ELECTRONICALLY.~~ **IN THE EVENT OF A SPECIAL ELECTION IN WHICH THE ABOVE TIMEFRAMES CANNOT BE MET, THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE SHALL FILE A FINAL CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL REPORT NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE LAST BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO THE DATE ON WHICH THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE TAKES OFFICE.**

- (3) Unsuccessful candidates shall file a final campaign report that is accepted and approved as sufficiently itemized and complete by the Election Board **OF ELECTIONS** or its designee within 30 days of the election. **AN UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WHO FAILS TO SUBMIT A FINAL CAMPAIGN REPORT AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RUN FOR OFFICE IN THE CITY OF BOWIE AGAIN UNTIL SUCH REPORT IS FILED AND ALL OUTSTANDING FEES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID IN FULL.**
- B. Before filing a final campaign report, the treasurer shall pay all outstanding obligations and dispose of all of its remaining assets in accordance with Subsection F below. It shall be the responsibility of each candidate to advise the candidate's creditors that invoices must be received by the candidate within 14 **5** days of the election. Any unpaid debts reflected in the final campaign report shall be deemed a contribution and therefore subject to the limitations of contributions prescribed in § 6-73.
- C. It is the responsibility of the treasurer to file the report and such report shall be in full and accurate detail. Each report shall contain all contributions received and expenditures made since filing of the initial report. Any campaign financial report which simply displays lump sum funds spent or obligated to campaign consultants, public relations firms or other entities without reasonable itemization of services provided shall be rejected and returned to the treasurer as failing to meet campaign reporting guidelines.
- D. The treasurer of ~~all~~ **A** political committees shall file the committee's report of statement of contributions with the Board according to the times specified in Subsection A of this section.
- E. It shall be unlawful for a treasurer to accept money or any other thing of value for or intended to be used on behalf of the candidate more than 21 days after an election.
- F. After all campaign expenditures have been made and before filing a final campaign finance report, the remaining balance in the account(s) of a campaign finance entity shall be disposed of in accordance with City Code

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§ 6-71D.

- G. A violation of this section shall be punishable in accordance with City Code § 6-33.

§ 6-76. Form of report of expenditures and contributions.

The reports required by this article shall be filed on a form devised and distributed by the City Clerk, without alteration. **THESE REPORTS AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK ELECTRONICALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.**

§ 6-77. Requirements of election reports.

- A. Successful candidates. No person shall enter upon the duties of any public office thereof, or receive any salary or emoluments therefrom, until he shall have filed the statements provided for in § 6-75.
- B. Section mandatory. The provisions of this article, including the provisions of § 6-75 with respect to the time of filing reports, shall be mandatory and not directory, provided that no candidate shall be disqualified for failure to file such statement if such failure is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be with just cause.

§ 6-78. Custody of reports.

The Board shall preserve all statements or accounts filed with it pursuant to any section of this chapter ~~for two years after the election~~ **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY'S RECORDS RETENTION POLICY**. All such statements and accounts shall be open to public inspection.

§ 6-79. Advertising requirements; rates.

- A. It shall ~~not be lawful~~ **UNLAWFUL** for any candidate or treasurer to print, publish, or broadcast any campaign-related communications whatsoever, including electronic communications, unless such matter shall purport on its face to be printed, published or broadcast by the authority of the candidate or treasurer. Any such material which is printed, published, or broadcast shall be marked as an advertisement.
- B. Each candidate or treasurer shall maintain for a period of 120 days following each election a complete file of sample copies of all matter printed, published, or broadcast by his authority.
- C. No person or corporation publishing or distributing a newspaper or other

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periodical within the City shall charge a candidate for public office for political advertising a rate in excess of the regular local rate regularly charged by such person or corporation for commercial advertising, except that when such political advertising is placed with the person or corporation through the medium of an advertising or press agency, then the regular national rate regularly charged by such person or corporation for commercial advertising may be charged.

- D. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor and any person so convicted is subject to the penalties provided in this chapter.

## ARTICLE V

### Council Election Districts

§ 6-80. Geographical boundaries of Districts I, II, III and IV.

- A. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "U.S. Route 301" shall mean southbound U.S. Route 301 unless otherwise noted;
- (2) "City boundary" shall mean the City boundary as it exists as of the effective date of this section, **AS AMENDED ON THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026**; and
- (3) References to the point of intersection of a right-of-way line or property line and a center right- of-way line shall assume, unless otherwise indicated, the continuation of the right-of-way line or property line to the center right-of-way line.

- B. For purposes of municipal elections, the City of Bowie is hereby divided into the following **FOUR** Council election districts, **WHICH ARE GENERALLY DESCRIBED BELOW**:. **THE CITY'S WEBSITE SHALL CONTAIN A MAP THAT ACCURATELY DEPICTS EACH ELECTION DISTRICT.**

- (1) Council District I - includes the neighborhoods of **ADNELL WOODS, OLD CHAPEL, OLD CHAPEL ESTATES**, Bowie Station, Colts Neck, ~~Horsepen Ridge~~, Huntington, Huntington Crest, Northridge, ~~Ray's Wood~~, Rolling Hills, Belair Greens, Belair Town II, Chapel Forge, Heartfields (Assisted Living Facility), Idlewild, Meadowbrook (North and East of Millstream Drive), Overbrook, Rockledge, Saddlebrook East, Saddlebrook West, ~~Sumner Chase~~, Victoria Heights, Whitehall, and Yorktown, ~~and inclusive of the following geographical areas defined as: from the point~~

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~~of beginning where the center of the right-of-way of Millstream Drive intersects the center of the right-of-way line of Maryland Route 197, and running thence southeasterly along said line of Millstream Drive where the center line of Millstream Drive right-of-way line intersects the center line of Annapolis Road (MD 450), thence easterly along the said line of Annapolis Road to the point where the City boundary departs to the northwest at the northeastern plat line of Parcel "A" (aka Cornerstone Assembly of God), thence following said plat line northwest to its intersection with the rear lot line of Lot 9 Plat A-5779, thence generally northeasterly along the City boundary including the entirety of Parcels 48 (aka Public Works Drive), Parcels 25, 47, 70, and Parcel 13 (M-NCPPC); thence generally northwest along the City boundary (contiguous with the eastern limits of Prince Georges County) along the Patuxent River, thence departing in a westward bearing along the northwestern deed line of lands (NF) owned by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Association thence running generally northwesterly along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary crosses Race Track Road (center line station 26+85.14) thence following generally a southwesterly bearing along the northern line of Plat 32 – Saddlebrook West; to a point where the City boundary turns northwest along the N 07° 39'82" W bearing line of plat two "Colts Neck"; thence following the City boundary (inclusive all lands within plats one and two of Colts Neck) to a point where the S 29° 39'36" E (plat two – Colts Neck) bearing line intersects with the northeastern corner of Plat 32 Parcel E – Saddlebrook West; thence running along the City boundary to the point northwestern deed line of Parcel 222 intersects with the eastern right-of-way of Collington Road (MD 197) thence running northwest with the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of Maple Avenue, and running south along Maple Avenue to the point where the right-of-way line of Maple Avenue intersects with the right-of-way line of Duckettown Road, thence west along Duckettown Road to the point where it intersects with the City boundary, and running southwesterly along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of Park Avenue, thence running northwest along Park Avenue to the point where the right-of-way line of Park Avenue intersects with the City boundary, thence southeast along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way of lands (N/F) National Railroad Passenger Corp. (Parcel 98); thence running southwest along said right-of-way to the point where the City right-of-way departs from said right-of-way, thence running south along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of Fletchertown Road, thence running west on Fletchertown Road to the~~

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~~point where the center right-of-way line of Fletchertown Road intersects with the right-of-way line of Hillmeade Road, thence running southeast on Hillmeade Road to the point where the right-of-way line of Hillmeade Road intersects with the City boundary, thence running east, south, east then north along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of Chestnut Avenue, and running north on Chestnut Avenue to the point where the right-of-way line of Chestnut Avenue intersects with the City boundary, thence running easterly along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of 11th Street, thence running east on 11th Street to the point where the right-of-way line of 11th Street intersects with the City boundary parallel to the right-of-way for Route 197, thence running south on this boundary to the point where it departs from the Route 197 right-of-way to the west, thence west, south and east along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of MD 197, thence running south along MD 197 to the point where the right-of-way line of MD 197 intersects with the right-of-way line of Old Chapel Road, thence running west on Old Chapel Road to the point where the right-of-way line of Old Chapel Road intersects with the City boundary, thence running southeast along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of MD 197 to thence running south along MD 197 to the point where the right-of-way line of MD 197 intersects with the right-of-way line of Millstream Drive, back to the point of beginning.~~

- (2) Council District II - includes the neighborhoods of **BELAIR TOWN**, Bowie Forest, Buckingham, Derbyshire, Fairview, Forest Hills, Foxhill, Glenridge, Grady's Walk, Highbridge Park, Kenilworth, Longridge, ~~Maryland Science and Technology Center (Melford), Meadowbrook (south and west of Millstream Drive), Somerset, Somerset Park, Stewart's Landing, and Tulip Grove and inclusive of the following geographical areas defined as: from the point of beginning being where the center line of Millstream Drive intersects with the center line of the Annapolis Road (MD 450), thence running easterly on (MD 450) to the point where the City boundary departs to the south, thence running southeasterly along the City boundary to where the City boundary intersects with the western right-of-way line of Crain Highway (Route 3), and running south along the right-of-way line of Route 3 to the point where the right-of-way line of Route 3 intersects with the City boundary, thence running south along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of Route 3, thence following the Route 3 right-of-way line south to where the~~

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~~right-of-way line of Route 3 intersects with the City boundary thence running east, south, and west along the City of Bowie boundary (aka The Maryland Science and Technology Center Boundary) to the point where it intersects the right-of-way line of Route 3, thence running north to the point where the right-of-way line of Route 3 intersects with the City boundary, thence running west then south to the point where the City boundary intersects the right-of-way line of John Hanson Highway (Rt. 50), thence running west along Route 50 to the point where the right-of-way line of Route 50 intersects with the center of the right-of-way line of Collington Road (MD 197), thence generally north along the center line of the right-of-way line of MD 197 to the point where the right-of-way line of MD 197 intersects with the southern limit of the Longridge Subdivision plat line of Parcel B (L. 03267 F. 175), then generally west along said line, crossing perpendicular to property owned (N/F) Consolidated Rail Corp. - Popes Creek Branch (Parcel 77) to the west side of said right-of-way, then north along the right-of-way line to its intersection with the southern limits of the Old Annapolis Road right-of-way line (northeast corner of Pt. Parcel 62), then generally west along the said right-of-way line to Church Road, then south along Church Road to its intersection with the southern plat line (Plat 1 Parcel B) of the Stewarts Land Subdivision; then generally west, to said subdivision line intersect with the Church Road right-of-way at the corner of Lot 2 Block B, Plat 2 (Stewart's Landing); thence generally north along the western limits of the Stewart's Landing Subdivision plat line to Route 450, then west along Route 450, then generally north along the western limits of the City boundary line, then following the City boundary generally in an easterly direction to the point where the City boundary intersects the right-of-way line of MD 197, then generally north along MD 197 to the point where the right-of-way line of MD 197 intersects with the center line of the right-of-way of Millstream Drive, then generally east and south along Millstream Drive back to the point of beginning.~~

- (3) Council District III - containing two noncontiguous geographical areas inclusive of the following subdivisions: the neighborhoods of Allen Pond, Archstone Apartments (Governor's Green **APARTMENTS**), **ALVISTA BOWIE APARTMENTS**, **BOWEN APARTMENTS**, Bowie Commons, **BOWIE NEW TOWN CENTER CONDOS**, **BROOKDALE WOODWARD ESTATES** (Assisted Living Facility) Covington (north of Excalibur Road), Dixon Crossing, Enfield Chase, Ensleigh, Essington, Evergreen Apartments (Senior Apartments), Evergreen Estates, Heather Hills, Heather Ridge Apartments, Longleaf, **MILL BRANCH CROSSING**, Northview, Oak Pond, Old Stage, Palisades, **PATUXENT OVERLOOK**, Pin Oak Village, Princeton Square, Princeton Square Addition, Spring Meadows, Summerville

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(Assisted Living), Vistas **AT BOWIE**, Westview, The Willows (Senior Apartments), Woodmore Estates, Woodmore Highlands and Woodland Lake **CONDOS** and consisting of two geographic areas:

~~District III - Part One, is geographically defined as: the point of beginning is the common point of southwestern corner of the Stewarts Landing Subdivision (Lot 2 Plat 2 Block B) and the northwestern corner of (Lot 1 Block B Plat 3 Dixon Property aka The Dixon Crossing Subdivision), thence generally east along the northern limits of the Dixon Crossing Subdivision to Church Road, then generally north along Church Road along the northwestern boundary of the Spring Meadows Subdivision then generally east to the intersecting points of the Consolidated Rail Corp. - Popes Creek Branch right-of-way and Old Annapolis Road (northeast corner of Pt. Parcel 62), then generally south along the western limit of the (N/F) Consolidated Rail Corp. - Popes Creek Branch Railroad right-of-way to the point where the right-of-way line intersects with the southeastern most plat line of the Westview Subdivision (Plat 4 Parcel A), thence departing westerly along the southern limits of Plat 3 and Plat 1, then north along the western limits of Plat 1 Block A, and Lot 2 and Lot 1 Block D - Plat Ref. 154001 to the right-of-way line of Church Road, thence running south along the eastern right-of-way line of Church Road to its intersection with the southwestern plat line of the Dixon Crossing Subdivision (Plat 1 Block A Lot 15), then generally following the southern limits of the Dixon Crossing Subdivision (aka the City boundary to the most southerly point of Plat 5 Parcel C), then generally north to the parcel's intersection with the western limits of Parcel A Plat 5 (Church Road right-of-way); thence north along said right-of-way, back to the point of beginning.~~

~~District III - Part Two, is geographically defined as: the point of beginning where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of MD 197 at the southeast corner of Parcel A-1 Plat One (Plat 7117021) - just north of London Lane; thence running south on MD 197 to the point where the right-of-way line of MD 197 intersects with the right-of-way line of John Hanson Highway (Rt. 50), thence running east on John Hanson Highway to the point where the right-of-way line of John Hanson Highway intersects with the right-of-way line of Crain Highway (Rt. 301), thence running south on Crain Highway towards the point where the right-of-way line of Crain Highway intersects with the right-of-way line of Governor Bridge Road, thence running easterly along the center line of Governor Bridge Road to the point where the right-of-way line of Governor Bridge Road intersects with the southwest corner of Plat 8 Parcel R (Plat 179068) of the Longleaf Subdivision, thence north along said subdivision line (aka the City~~

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boundary); then in an easterly direction along the City boundary following the northeastern plat lines of (Plat 8 Parcel R, Plat 7 Parcel Q, Plat 6 Pt. of Parcel K, Plat 17 [Longleaf Re-subdivision aka Patuxent Overlook] Block J Lot 8, Plat 18 Block B Parcel J [aka Patuxent Overlook] to the Patuxent River aka the City boundary limits which is contiguous with the eastern limits of Prince Georges County; then south along the said City boundary aka the eastern plat line of Plat 201002 (Parcel Plat 18 B Block J Longleaf aka Patuxent Overlook); thence south along the City boundary aka the southern plat line of Parcel J Block J (Plat 175046) aka Patuxent Overlook; thence running west along the southern limits of the longleaf subdivision line, thence southeast along the City boundary; thence westerly then north westerly (including the entirety of Parcels C and A Plat 182081) towards the point where the City boundary intersects with the eastern right-of-way line of Crain Highway, thence running north along said right-of-way, then west along the City boundary, then south along the Crain Highway eastern right-of-way to a point located approximately 255 feet north of the southern end of the 358.35 ARC foot plat line of Parcel A "Parcel A Charles Carroll Subdivision," the City boundary departs from said point and crossing the Robert Crain Highway (US 301), following the northeastern parcel lines of Parcel 18 and 19 (L. 10472 F. 47) and Parcel 57 for approximately 1,538 feet; thence the City boundary turns in a southwesterly direction following the eastern parcel limits of Parcel 57 for approximately 1,515 feet, thence the City boundary turns southeast for approximately 1,065 feet following the eastern limits of Parcels 28, 52 and 58; thence the City boundary turns southwest following the common parcel lines of Parcel 58 and Parcel 29 for approximately 1,604 feet to a common intersecting point with the Mill Branch Road right-of-way; thence following the eastern limits of the Mill Branch Road right-of-way in a generally north-western direction approximately 875 feet to its intersection with the truncated right-of-way of (US 301) to the point where the City boundary line intersects the right-of-way line of Crain Highway and the right-of-way line of Excalibur Road, thence running west on Excalibur Road to the point where the right-of-way line of Excalibur Road intersects with the right-of-way line of Mitchellville Road, and running southwest on Mitchellville Road to the point where the right-of-way line on Mitchellville Road intersects with the right-of-way line of Mt. Oak Road, thence running west on Mt. Oak Road to the point where Mt. Oak Road intersects with eastern right-of-way of the (N/F) Consolidated Rail Corp. - Popes Creek Branch; thence running south on (N/F) Consolidated Rail Corp. - Popes Creek Branch to its intersection with the southeastern corner of Plat 4 Parcel 'A' (Plat 158061) Tall Oaks Estates (aka Woodmore Estates); thence westerly along the subdivision line of Tall Oaks

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~~Estates (aka Woodmore Estates) to its intersection with center line of the right-of-way line of Church Road (the City boundary); thence running north, then generally in an easterly bearing along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with Mount Oak road (northeast corner of Lot 2 Plat 5 Plat 158062); thence east along Mount Oak Road where the City boundary departs to the north and follows the western plat line of Parcel 'B' (Plat 158065) to its intersection with the rear lot line of Lot 15 Block C (Mount Oak Manor Subdivision, Plat 153018); thence the City boundary follows a generally easterly bearing along the perimeter of the aforementioned subdivision, thence running north along the (N/F) Consolidated Rail Corp. – Popes Creek Branch to the point where the City boundary departs to the west along the perimeter subdivision boundary of Woodmore Highlands, to its intersection with Church Road right-of-way, then north along said boundary, then easterly along said boundary to its intersection with the southern corner of Lot 3 (Rodenhouser Property Plat 196018), thence northwest, then southeast along the perimeter of Plat 196018 to its intersection with the (N/F) Consolidated Rail Corp. – Popes Creek Branch right-of-way; then running north and then east crossing Route 50 and continuing west along the southwestern plat line of Princeton Square (Plat 121058); thence north along said plat line, then departing to the west along the southern plat line of Olde Stage Knolls (Plat 164027); thence west and then north along the City boundary including Lots 1-7 (Colman Subdivision Plat 212030) easterly crossing Heatherstone Drive, thence north, then easterly along the northern perimeter of Plats 125084, 125085, 125087, 125088, then south along the City boundary where it departs to the east crossing Parcel M. 54-P 22 and intersecting with the north western corner of parcel 9 Princeton Square Addition, (Plat 123066); thence the City boundary follows the exterior plat lines of Princeton Square Addition and Princeton Square back to back to the point of beginning.~~

- (4) Council District IV - includes the neighborhoods of Amber Meadows, Amber Meadows II, Ashleigh, Ashleigh Station, Collington Manor, Collington Ridge, Collington Station, Covington (South of Excalibur Road), Devonshire Estates, Glen Allen, Graystone, Grovehurst, Lake Village Manor, Mitchellville East, Oaktree, Peach Preserve, Pointer Ridge, Ridgeview Estates, **SOUTH LAKE**, Tall Oaks Crossing, Ternberry, **AND THE HAMPTONS AT WOODMORE**, ~~Woodmore at Oak Creek, and Woodson Landing and inclusive of the following geographical areas defined as: from the point of beginning at the southern right-of-way line of Mt. Oak Road with its intersecting with the center line of the right-of-way line of Mitchellville Road, thence~~

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| <del>Double-Strikethrough</del> | : | Indicate matter deleted after introduction.                  |

~~running north on Mitchellville Road towards the point where the right-of-way line of Mitchellville Road intersects with the right-of-way line on Excalibur Road, thence going east on Excalibur Road towards the point where the right-of-way line of Excalibur Road intersects with the right-of-way line of Crain Highway (Rt. 301), thence running south on Crain Highway to the point where the right-of-way line of Crain Highway intersects with the City boundary, and running west then south along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of Mitchellville Road, thence running east on Mitchellville Road towards the point where the right-of-way line of Mitchellville Road intersects with the right-of-way line of Pittsfield Lane, and running south on Pittsfield Lane towards the point where Pittsfield Lane runs towards the City boundary, thence running east along the City boundary to the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way line of Crain Highway, thence running south on Crain Highway towards the point where the right-of-way line of Crain Highway intersects with the City boundary, thence running west, south then east along the City boundary toward the point where the City boundary intersects with the right-of-way of Crain Highway and running south along Crain Highway towards the point where the west right-of-way line of Crain Highway intersects with the City boundary, thence running east, south and then west (inclusive of Parcel A Subdivision Plat 192085-aka The Lowes Property) to the point where it intersects with the west right-of-way line of Crain Highway, running south on Crain Highway towards the point where the right-of-way line of Crain Highway intersects with the right-of-way line of Central Avenue, and running west along Central Avenue to the point where the right-of-way line of Central Avenue intersects with Hall Road (MD Route 978), thence running northwesterly along Hall Road (inclusive of Part 2 Plat A-7852 – aka M-NCPPC) thence going west along Hall Road toward the point where Hall Road intersects with the City boundary, and running north then west along Hall Road (excluding Parcel D Plat 16400) to the point where the City boundary intersects with Devonwood Drive, thence running south along Devonwood Drive towards the point where the right-of-way line of Devonwood Drive intersects the northern right-of-way line of Central Avenue (Rt. 214), thence running east on Central Avenue along its right-of-way to the point where said right-of-way intersects with the northeastern corner of Parcel B (Plat 2 Collington Station), thence the boundary follows a southerly bearing along the southwestern line of Parcel 8 (Consolidated Rail Corp. – Popes Creek Branch right-of-way line), to the southeastern corner of Parcel Z Block A – Collington Station, thence the City boundary follows a westerly bearing to the eastern right-of-way line of Church Road, thence along the said right-of-way line (exclusive of Parcel~~

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~~A Plat A-6899) to the southwestern corner of Parcel D Block A Plat 5 Twelve Oaks; thence east along said plat line to its intersection with Plat 3 Twelve Oaks of the same bearing, thence north thence west along said plat line to its intersection with Plat 2 Twelve Oaks; thence at its intersection with the southeastern corner of Parcel 71 Map Page 62, the City boundary turns in a northwestern bearing along the northwestern line of Parcel 24, being bearing of the western limits of Parcel 70 (Church Road Park), said boundary follows the limits of Parcel 70 northwest, then west to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way line of Church Road; the City boundary following the same courses and distance of said right-of-way till the boundary of Parcel 70 turns to the east; thence the boundary follows the northern limits of Parcel 70, then turns southeast at its intersect with Plat 1 Block A Lot 10 (Ashleigh Plat 184061); then southeast along said plat line then east along said plat line to its intersection with the same bearing line as for Plat 2 (Ashleigh); thence northwest along the common plat line of Plat 2 and Plat 3 (Ashleigh); thence an eastern bearing along Plat 3 (Ashleigh) to its intersection with the same bearing line for Plat 4 (Ashleigh) to the Consolidated Rail Corp. - Popes Creek Branch right-of-way; thence north along said right-of-way to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of Mount Oak road, thence east along said right-of-way back to the point of beginning.~~

**C. A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ELECTION DISTRICTS SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.**

**AND, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE** that, this Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its enactment by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland provided that a fair summary of this Ordinance is published at least once prior to the passage and at least once within ten (10) days after the date of passage in a newspaper having general circulation in the City.

**INTRODUCED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**ATTEST:**

**THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
H.L. Dufour Woolfley  
Acting Mayor

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**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
SUFFICIENCY:**

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Elissa D. Levan  
City Attorney

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## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Amplifying Investment in Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Prince George's County

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

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Councilmember Ndebumadu will brief Council and residents on the findings and recommendations from this report that are relevant to Bowie's economic development strategy, particularly as the County advances these priorities. It is part of Council's broader forward-looking economic alignment discussions.

**ATTACHMEN** 1 20260302 - EXECUTIVE\_SUMMARY\_Amplifying Investment in Innovation \_  
**TS:** . Entrepreneurship in Prince George's County\_FINAL  
2 20260302 -  
. FULL\_REPORT\_Amplifying\_Investment\_in\_Innovation\_&\_Entrepreneurship\_in\_Prince\_George's\_County-FINAL



# **AMPLIFYING INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

Strategic Recommendations & Community Action  
Plan Workgroup on Independent Innovation in  
Prince George's County



**2026**  
February





## Audience

- **Primary** - HB 306 Bill Sponsor Former Delegate Jazz Lewis and the Maryland State Legislature
- **Secondary** - Prince George's County Executive Aisha Braveboy and the Prince George's County Administration

## Aim

This report aims to provide a set of strategic recommendations that foster a collaborative environment, enabling tech and tech-enabled entrepreneurs in Prince George's County to connect with angel investors, spark increased investment opportunities, and strengthen the technology and innovation ecosystem in the county, ultimately driving economic growth. This enhances partnerships between local innovators and investors, stimulating more local early stage capital that flows through the ecosystem.

## Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the following leadership, participants, and contributors.

### Leadership

**Jazz Lewis** - Sponsor, Former Maryland State Delegate, House Majority Whip, District 24  
**Troy LeMaile-Stovall** - Workgroup Co-Chair, CEO, TEDCO  
**Mark Lawrence** - Workgroup Co-Chair, Managing Partner, Inncuvate  
**Malcolm Tyson** - Workgroup Manager, Venture Growth Advisor, Prince George's County, TEDCO

## Workgroup Participants

**Kent Roberson** - Maryland State Delegate, District 25  
**Walakewon Blegay** - District 6 Council Member, Prince George's County Council  
**Roxy Ndebumadu** - District 4 Council Member, Bowie City Council  
**Alexander Austin** - President and CEO, Prince George's Chamber of Commerce  
**William Honablue** - Representative of the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP  
**June Evans** - Executive Director, Bowie Business Innovation Center  
**David Iannucci** - Retired President and CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation  
**Ebony Stocks** - Interim President and CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation  
**Walter Simmons** - Former President and CEO, Employ Prince George's  
**Jeffrey Swilley** - Interim Chief of Staff, Employ Prince George's  
**Mike Binko** - President and CEO, Startup Maryland  
**Stanley Smith** - Director, Venture Investments, University of Maryland, College Park Dingman-Lamone Center for Entrepreneurship  
**Duane McKnight** - Partner, Marathon Fund  
**Aaron Harawa** - Chief of Staff, Congressman Glenn Ivey's Office, Maryland 4th District  
**Beth MacKenzie** - District Director, Congressman Glenn Ivey's Office, Maryland 4th District  
**Vennard Wright** - CIO, Prince George's County Office of Information Technology  
**Mindy Lehman** - Chief Government Program Development, Affairs & Policy Officer, TEDCO  
**Alex Choi** - Executive Director, Government Program Development, Affairs & Research, TEDCO  
**Jean-Luc Park** - Deputy Chief Investment Officer & Senior Director, Social Impact Funds, TEDCO  
**Graham Dodge** - Vice President, Venture Development, TEDCO  
**Justin Ferguson** - Innovation Manager, Venture Development, TEDCO  
**Matthew Gilbert** - Senior Associate Attorney, District Legal Group, PLLC  
**Chike Ukaegbu** - Angel Investor  
**Jainaba Ceesay** - UMD I-Corps Instructor & Program Manager, Mtech, University of Maryland  
**Orin Clay** - Managing Principal, Jbor Group Capital  
**Amanda Stein** - CEO, Quantum Catalyzer  
**Ron Walsworth** - Founder, Quantum Catalyzer & Professor, University of Maryland  
**Michael Akinyele** - CEO, The Maximizer Group  
**Andre Plummer** - Financial Service Program Manager, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation  
**Alicia Moran** - Director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation



# Amplifying Investment in Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Prince George's County



## Executive Summary

### Introduction

In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB 306 (Chapter 677), establishing the Independent Innovation Workgroup for Prince George's County. The mandate: recommend strategies to expand industry opportunities, attract angel investors, and build partnerships to make Prince George's County a better hub for tech entrepreneurs and technology startups.

Prince George's County stands at an historic inflection point as the home to nationally recognized research institutions, federal installations, and growing clusters in technology and life sciences. For the county to be one of the state's leaders in tech and tech-enabled business growth, it needs to address the persistent gaps in early-stage capital, industry-focused accelerators, the maturing of the tech ecosystem, and branding as an innovation hub.

### Alignment with the county's Economic Development Strategy

The recommendations of the HB 306 Independent Innovation Workgroup are intended to further advance "Strategic Priority 1" of the 2022 "Prince George's County Economic Development Strategic Action Plan: Support innovation and entrepreneurship across and within targeted industry clusters." Strategic Priority 1 calls for sustaining and expanding focus on industry clusters, incentivizing startups, advancing pre-accelerator and first-customer programs, and strengthening support for tech and tech-enabled businesses. The recommendations addressed in this report provide the framework to implement this priority.

## Alignment with the County's FY26–28 Technology Strategic Plan

**The Independent Innovation Workgroup's recommendations directly advance Strategic Pillar 1: Empower a Thriving Local Tech Ecosystem of the FY 2026–2028 OIT Technology Strategic Plan.**<sup>1</sup>

Through initiatives such as the industry-focused accelerators, the Prince George's Angel Network and Catalyst Fund, the Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group, and the Tech PGC brand, the Workgroup provides actionable mechanisms to realize the County's Innovation Fund and Tech Prince George's coalition. Together, these efforts align public and private investment, expand early-stage capital, and build a bold innovation identity positioning Prince George's County to pivot from federal dependency to locally driven innovation, inclusive growth, and national recognition as a leading hub for advanced computing, advanced manufacturing, and climate & clean-tech enterprise.

In this way, the HB 306 workgroup's recommendations serve not only to fulfill legislative intent but also to deliver a clear and actionable path to realizing the county's most pressing economic development priority. Prince George's County has a unique opportunity to become Maryland's next technology and entrepreneurship powerhouse. The workgroup on Independent Innovation in Prince George's County developed this Strategic Recommendations & Community Action Plan that lays out steps to bolster the local tech ecosystem. **These recommendations center on four objectives:**

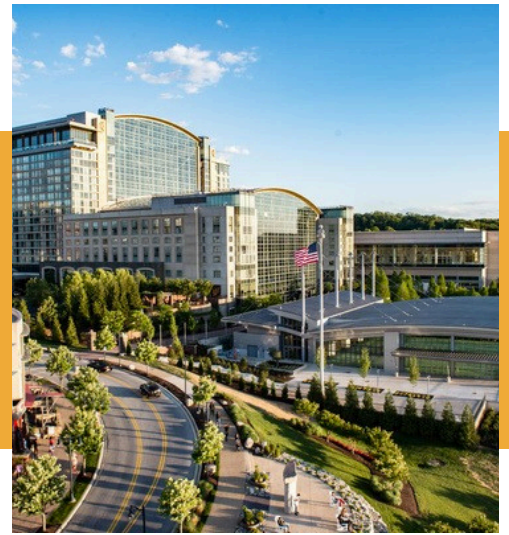
- 1 **Objective 1** - Focus on Emerging Industry Opportunities Unique to Prince George's County
- 2 **Objective 2** - Foster a Bold Prince George's County Tech Identity and Community
- 3 **Objective 3** - Expand Early-stage Funding and Investment
- 4 **Objective 4** - Increase Private Tech Sector Partnerships for Tech Ecosystem Development

These objectives aim to stitch together the county's assets, align with regional and national initiatives, and deliver tangible impact.



# OBJECTIVE 1:

## Focus on Emerging Industry Opportunities



### Recommendation:

Target emerging high-growth sectors aligned with state, federal, and private sector investment plans and launch industry-specific accelerators to create a density of entrepreneurs and investment activity. This recommendation aligns with Maryland's lighthouse sectors (quantum, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and clean tech). This will help create a density of early-stage innovation and private capital attraction utilizing Prince George's County's innovation assets, which we believe to be the following:



**Advanced Computing** – Quantum Computing (leveraging existing traction at the University of Maryland (i.e., Quantum Catalyzer, Quantum Startup Foundry, IonQ), Capitol Technology University, and Bowie State University),

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML),
- Edge Computing
- Data Centers
- Cybersecurity



**Advanced Manufacturing** – Small-batch prototyping, production for aerospace/defense, and bio-manufacturing.

- Aerospace/defense suppliers near NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- Joint Base Andrews, and Army Research Lab (ARL)
- Biotech & bio-manufacturing links to the FDA/NIH, and the USDA
- Local additive manufacturing capacity to support various supply chains





**Climate & Energy Tech** – Grid modernization, energy storage, green infrastructure.

- NASA Goddard's climate data programs and earth sciences
- WSSC infrastructure projects, local energy pilots
- Clean Water Partnership (Corvais)
- Department of Energy programs on grid modernization & storage
- Local utilities and infrastructure projects (Excelon, Pepco, Washington Gas
- WSSC)

Specifically, the launch of an Advanced Computing and Manufacturing Accelerator, alongside expanding the Maryland Energy and Innovation Accelerator to include more county headquartered Climate & Energy Tech companies, provides the density of activity to increase pre-seed/seed investment and support. These accelerators can ensure that Prince George's County can systematically grow and attract firms that can move from invention to market-ready ventures.



## OBJECTIVE 2:

### Foster a Bold Tech Identity and Community



#### Recommendation:

Develop a comprehensive tech ecosystem asset map and launch a unified brand and programming to increase visibility, inspiration, and participation in the tech industry.

This recommendation develops a comprehensive tech ecosystem asset map, expanding on the asset mapping exercise conducted as a part of the working group's activity. This asset map will create a unified, data-driven view of the county's innovation and technology assets—linking research institutions, federal labs, private industry, talent pipelines, funding sources, and physical infrastructure.

They will create an interactive tool to identify gaps, align resources, and guide infrastructure investment. By cataloging and showing a systematic view of the county's diverse assets, the asset map will help strengthen strategic decision-making and positioning of Prince George's County as a vibrant, collaborative hub for technology and innovation.

Targeted and intentional programming builds culture, increases connection, and participation. Programming to solidify a tech identity and advance the tech ecosystem should focus on the following:

- 🔗 **Tech Event/Summit** – An annual flagship convening.
- 🔗 **Tech Pop-Ups** – Grassroots events across the county to increase awareness and build community.
- 🔗 **Storytelling Campaigns** – Spotlights on tech ecosystem development, local tech entrepreneurs, and tech ecosystem successes.

A bold tech brand and regular programming will establish Prince George's County as a recognized technology destination, attract external investors, and engage more residents in shaping the tech ecosystem. This effort attracts external capital and talent while fostering community ownership of the tech ecosystem, increasing equitable participation.



Tech ecosystems succeed when they are visible, connected, and celebrated. A bold tech identity through the launch of the tech ecosystem brand, complemented by impactful programs and events, ties the ecosystem together under one banner. By highlighting local entrepreneurs and celebrating local tech ecosystem wins, Prince George's County can build a legitimate, recognizable technology brand on par with regional peers.



## OBJECTIVE 3:

### Expand Early-Stage Funding and Investment



#### Recommendation:

Launch a Prince George's County Angel Network and Catalyst Fund to identify, educate, and activate angel investors interested in local startups in the target emerging high-growth sectors. This recommendation is focused on the following:

- **Early Stage Investor Development:** Training and education for new angels, co-investment syndicates, and early-stage readiness programs.
- **Angel Network Operation:** Investor roundtables, demo days, and syndication opportunities.
- **A Place-Based Fund:** The formation and operation of a Catalyst Fund focused on co-investing with angel investors to make investments in promising tech ventures that are in the emerging industry accelerators (Objective 1) and/or are interested in locating in the county to be a part of the tech ecosystem.

The Catalyst Fund will emulate TEDCO's Baltimore Innovation Initiative (BII), the State's matching model for the Baltimore Tech Hub. The Catalyst Fund should be designed to accelerate early-stage investment in both higher education and industry innovations, thereby increasing the support available to Prince George's County tech entrepreneurs.

Currently, angel-backed deals represent only 4.4% of the county's activity, with a median deal size of \$320,000. An initial survey of potential angel investors showed strong interest but low activity. The survey participants cited the need for better data, networking opportunities, and co investment structures to commit capital in the County.

Investor development and the angel network create structured pathways for local investors through investor training, increased syndication opportunities, and demo days. The Catalyst Fund provides an instrument to bring additional private partners to bridge the critical early stage \$500,000 – \$2 million capital gap identified nationally. Together, these mechanisms can activate dormant investor interest and increase access to early-stage capital, especially for county-based tech founders.

# OBJECTIVE 4:

## Increase Private Tech Sector Partnerships for Tech Ecosystem Development



### Recommendation:

Formalize a Prince George's County Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group (TEDAG) with representatives from the public and private sectors to align strategies and leverage resources.

- **Private Industry Partners: Example** - Large Private Tech Corporations with substantial business in Prince George's County.
- **Capital Partners: Examples** - TEDCO, Dingman Angels, DMV Angels, Momentum Fund, Climate Tech Fund, and local banks/CDFIs.
- **Tech Industry Associations - Examples** - Maryland Tech Council, Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland, Prince George's County Tech Council, Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance, and Cyber Maryland.
- **Philanthropic Institutions: Examples** - Greater Washington Community Foundation, Meyer Foundation, and the Cafritz Foundation.
- **Education Institutions: Examples** - University of Maryland, College Park, Bowie State University, Prince George's Community College, Capitol Technology University, Prince George's County Public Schools.
- **Government and Public Sector: Examples** - NASA Goddard, Joint Base Andrews, ARL, and UMMS.

This objective ensures Prince George's County is fully integrated into Maryland's broader innovation pipeline. No ecosystem thrives without infrastructure, and no infrastructure thrives without sustained private sector partnerships. By formalizing a TEDAG, the county can effectively connect corporate tech anchors, higher education, federal labs, and capital providers into a shared community and platform. The TEDAG should ensure that tech companies have the resources and partnerships they need to scale locally, decreasing the loss of high-growth tech ventures to neighboring jurisdictions. More importantly, these partnerships bring legitimacy to the tech ecosystem—signaling to investors, corporations, and entrepreneurs that Prince George's county is committed to being a hub of tech innovation in the region.





## How the Recommendations Intersect

Prince George's County is at a historic inflection point to connect its building blocks and become Maryland's next powerhouse for tech innovation and entrepreneurship. The working groups' activities helped to identify persistent tech ecosystem gaps that remained: lack of industry specific accelerators, the absence of a bold, unified tech identity, and fragmented early-stage capital. The Independent Innovation Workgroup established under HB 306 has created these recommendations to address these gaps through four mutually reinforcing objectives.

- Emerging Industry Accelerators (**Objective 1**) provides growth-stage infrastructure for startups once they outgrow pre-seed programs.
- A Bold Tech Identity (**Objective 2**) stitches the ecosystem together, creating visibility, trust, and momentum for all other objectives.
- Investor Education and the Angel Network & Catalyst Fund (**Objective 3**) provide early-stage fuel, closing capital gaps and seeding the pipeline for accelerators.
- Private Tech Sector Partnerships (**Objective 4**) provide the long-term infrastructure and legitimacy needed to retain and grow these firms locally.



## Policy Implications & Funding Requirements

To achieve measurable outcomes from these interconnected objectives, the recommendations must be grounded in a supportive policy and funding framework. This framework should harmonize local, state, and federal initiatives, guaranteeing that the vision for innovation is not only established but also sustainably financed and effectively governed. The subsequent section will detail the necessary policy implications and funding prerequisites for realizing the Workgroup's recommendations.



### Policy and Legislation Alignment:

Federal-level legislation favors investments and incentives through the July 2025 enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill Tax Act (OBBBA), effective January 2026, and expanding many of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) benchmarks for Research & Development (R&D), Clean Energy, and short-term capital investments. State-level legislative support has set the stage for innovation, including the 2023 HB 552 (funding innovation infrastructure) and the Equitech Fund (HB 781/SB 699, inclusive tech programs). County-level support includes the County Council backing an Independent Innovation Agency (PG 401-23) in 2023 and showing willingness to use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for economic development.

**Forward Action:** The county should expand innovation support through local legislation (e.g., CB-62-2022, which established the Prince George's County Small Business Capital and Growth Stimulus Program) and advocate for state bills specific to Prince George's County (e.g., "Prince George's Tech Ecosystem Act" for state grants).

**Continuous Dialogue:** Coordinate policy recommendations for the Workgroup's final report (due January 15, 2026) to translate into county and state actions in the 2026 legislative session.



## Braided Funding Strategies:

Co-create state and local funding packages for major initiatives, blending county, state, federal, and private funds (e.g., for standing up the advanced computing accelerator and advanced manufacturing accelerator). These strategies should leverage recent legislation and other ongoing funded programs.

Leverage the Blue Line Corridor revitalization and other corridors next to underdeveloped education and large anchors to include tech ecosystem infrastructure, aiming to expand the University of Maryland Discovery District (anchored by the University of Maryland, College Park and Advanced Computing) and create "Innovation Corridors" for Advanced Manufacturing and Climate and Energy Tech within the county.

Every initiative should be viewed through a "partnership lens" to prevent siloed efforts.



## Funding Asks:

Funding these strategic recommendations is crucial to realizing their potential and transforming Prince George's County into a national hub for innovation and technology.

- **Objective 1** - Emerging Industry Accelerators (Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate & Energy Tech): \$2 million over four years
- **Objective 2** - Full Ecosystem Asset Mapping \$200,000 one-time FY26 session ask
- **Objective 3** - Catalyst Fund: \$1 million county + \$1 million state match over four years
- **Objective 4** - Private Sector Tech Ecosystem Support: \$400,000 over four years

By strategically combining these legislative supports and funding streams, Prince George's County can significantly advance its innovation agenda through vigilance and collaboration.

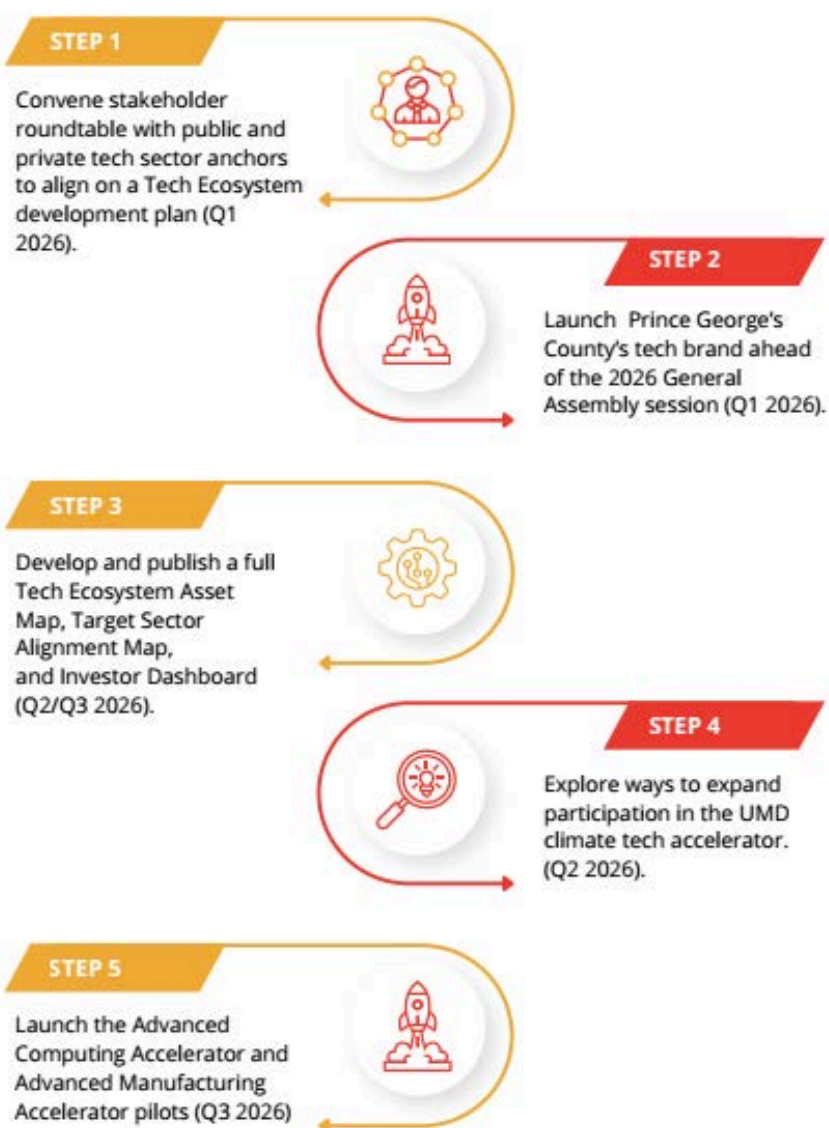


## Community Action Plan & Next Steps

By focusing on emerging industries, early-stage capital, access to private infrastructure, and a bold tech identity, Prince George's County can capture more public and private investment, create thousands of high-quality jobs, and ensure equitable access to opportunity.

The HB 306 Workgroup's recommendations are not isolated actions but an integrated tech ecosystem strategy. Implemented together, they position Prince George's County as Maryland's next great tech and innovation hub, ensuring that tech and entrepreneurship thrive here.

To translate these ambitious goals into actionable progress, the following steps outline a phased approach for the immediate future:



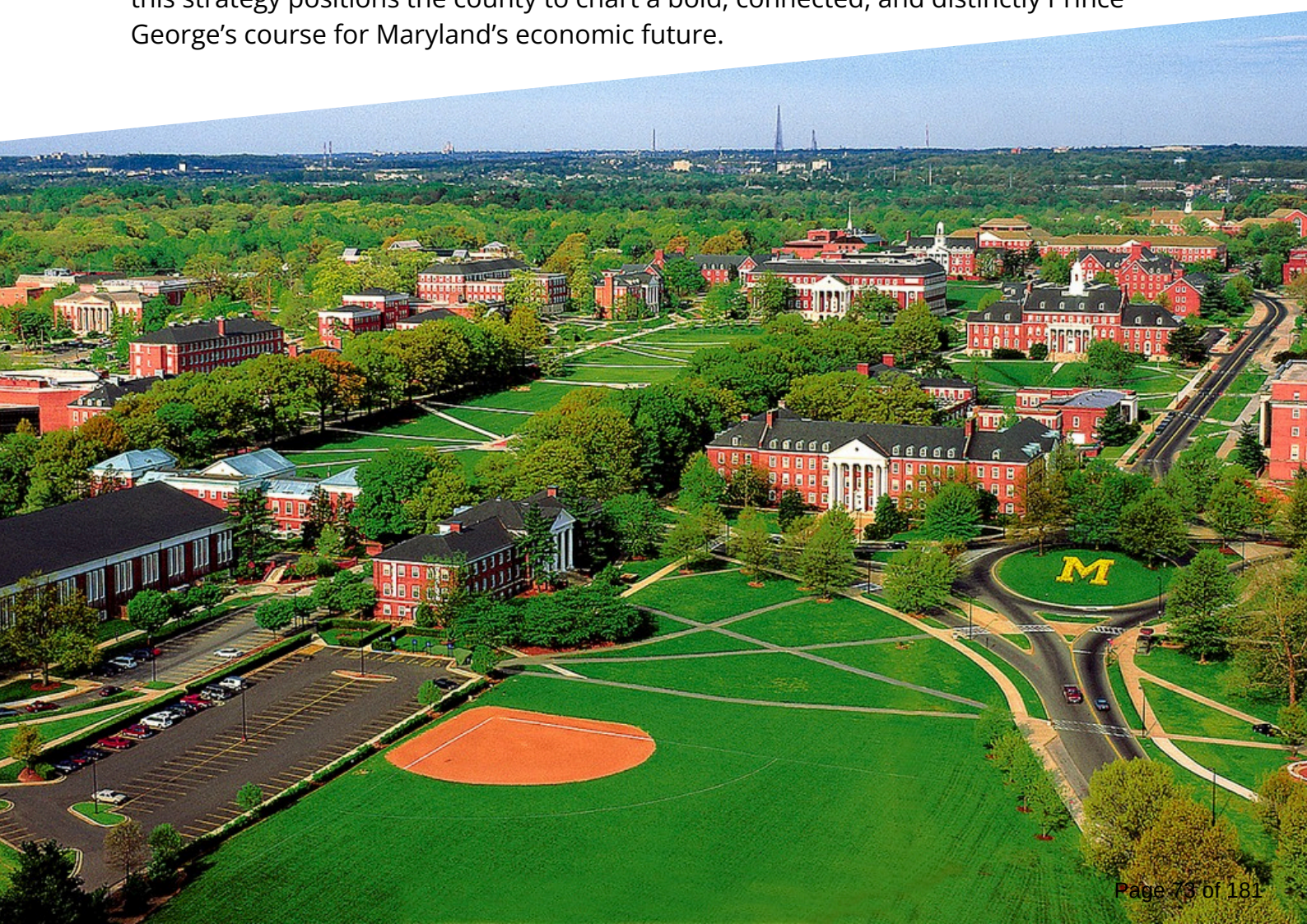
These actions are designed to build upon the established recommendations, fostering collaboration and measurable impact across Prince George's County's innovation ecosystem. Together, these actions amplify investment and entrepreneurship, aligning with both HB 306's legislative intent and Prince George's County's Economic Development Strategic **Priority 1: Support Innovation and Entrepreneurship**. This also advances the "Strategic Pillar 1: Empower a Thriving Local Tech Ecosystem" of the FY 2026–2028 OIT Technology Strategic Plan.



# Conclusion

Prince George's County is uniquely positioned to lead Maryland's next wave of innovation, aligning with state strategies and creating a more equitable tech ecosystem. Realizing this vision requires sustained commitment, cross-sector coordination, and investment in people and infrastructure. The outlined recommendations provide a framework for transitioning from planning to execution, anchored by public-private partnerships, inclusive governance, and measurable impact. Key initiatives include industry-focused accelerators, the Prince George's Angel Network and Catalyst Fund, and the Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group, which will connect innovation assets, funding, and talent.

The county aims to define Maryland's innovation economy by leveraging its diversity, federal research anchors, and academic strengths to create a model ecosystem rooted in equity and excellence. This requires a long term approach, embedding innovation in local policy, incentivizing collaboration, and promoting local entrepreneurs. The continued collaboration of the Innovation Workgroup with TEDCO, the Maryland Department of Commerce, and local institutions is crucial to ensure measurable impact, leading to thriving startups, expanded capital access, research translation, and inclusive economic mobility. Ultimately, this strategy positions the county to chart a bold, connected, and distinctly Prince George's course for Maryland's economic future.



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**TEDCO (Maryland Technology Development Corporation)  
10960 Grantchester Way, Suite 120  
Columbia, MD 21044  
410-740-9442  
Prince George's County Independent Innovation  
Workgroup Report**





# **AMPLIFYING INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

Strategic Recommendations & Community Action  
Plan Workgroup on Independent Innovation in  
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**2026**  
February



## Audience

- **Primary** - HB 306 Bill Sponsor Former Delegate Jazz Lewis and the Maryland State Legislature
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## Aim

This report aims to provide a set of strategic recommendations that foster a collaborative environment, enabling tech-based and tech-enabled entrepreneurs in Prince George's County to drive economic growth by connecting with angel investors, sparking increased investment opportunities, and strengthening the innovation ecosystem across the county. This enhances partnerships between local innovators and investors, stimulating more local early stage capital that flows through the ecosystem.

## Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the following leadership, participants, and contributors.

### Leadership

**Jazz Lewis** - Sponsor, Former Maryland State Delegate, House Majority Whip, District 24

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# 1. Introduction

House Bill 306, enacted in 2024 as Chapter 677, mandated the establishment of the Independent Innovation Workgroup (the Workgroup) for Prince George's County. This workgroup was specifically tasked with developing and recommending a comprehensive set of strategies aimed at fostering innovation and economic growth within the county.

**The core objectives outlined for the Workgroup were threefold:**



## **Supporting unique industry opportunities within Prince George's County:**

This involves identifying, nurturing, and capitalizing on sectors and industries where Prince George's County possesses distinct competitive advantages, whether due to its geographical location, existing infrastructure, human capital, or specific market demands. The strategies created should focus on creating an environment where these unique industries can thrive, attract investment, and generate high-value jobs.



## **Expanding angel and early-stage investment:**

A critical component of a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem is the availability of capital for nascent businesses. The Workgroup was charged with proposing mechanisms and incentives to increase the flow of angel investment and early-stage venture capital into Prince George's County, thereby enabling startups and emerging companies to secure the necessary funding for growth and development.



## **Building strategic partnerships with TEDCO and other key stakeholders to strengthen the County's entrepreneurial ecosystem:**

Collaboration is paramount for fostering a dynamic innovation environment. The Workgroup was directed to outline strategies for forging stronger alliances with organizations like TEDCO (the Maryland Technology Development Corporation), a vital entity in Maryland's innovation landscape, as well as with other relevant governmental agencies, academic institutions, private sector entities, and community organizations. The goal of these partnerships is to create a synergistic network that supports every stage of the entrepreneurial journey, from ideation to commercialization.

This report serves as the culmination of the Workgroup's efforts, presenting its detailed findings, extensive research, and a series of actionable recommendations designed to fulfill the legislative charge while significantly enhancing Prince George's County's position as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

## 2. Background & Legislative Context

This report outlines key considerations and recommendations for fostering innovation within Prince George's County, Maryland, as mandated by House Bill 306. The bill championed by Former Delegate Jazz Lewis, serves as the legislative cornerstone for this initiative. It explicitly requires the submission of comprehensive recommendations to the General Assembly by January 15, 2026. This legislative directive underscores the state's commitment to enhancing innovation ecosystems within its counties and Prince George's County is a focal point for strategic development.

Prince George's County presents a dynamic and increasingly vibrant landscape for innovation. In 2022, the county demonstrated remarkable entrepreneurial vigor, leading Maryland in new business formations with 22,452 new filings, a figure that notably surpassed Montgomery County. This surge in entrepreneurial activity highlights a burgeoning economic energy and a receptive environment for new ventures.

**The county's innovation potential is further amplified by its robust institutional anchors:**



**University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) Discovery District:** This expanding hub is home to cutting-edge research and development, including notable entities like IonQ, a leader in quantum computing, and the venture studio run by Quantum Catalyzer (Q-Cat), a key player in the quantum ecosystem. Its presence acts as a powerful magnet for talent and investment in advanced technologies.



**Federal Laboratories:** Prince George's County benefits from the proximity of several critical federal research institutions, including NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Army Research Laboratory (ARL). These labs represent significant pools of scientific expertise, research infrastructure, and potential for public-private partnerships.



**Strong HBCU Presence:** The county is distinguished by a strong presence of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). These institutions are vital for nurturing diverse talent, fostering community engagement, and driving research and development in various fields, contributing significantly to the intellectual capital of the region.

# Challenges: Obstacles to a Cohesive Innovation Ecosystem

Despite its inherent strengths, Prince George's County faces several significant challenges in fully realizing its innovation potential:



## **Fragmented Innovation and Tech Ecosystem:**

A primary hurdle is the highly fragmented nature of the innovation and technology ecosystem. There is a discernible lack of systemic alignment and coordinated effort between key public and private sector anchors. This fragmentation can lead to missed opportunities, duplication of efforts, and an inability to leverage collective strengths effectively.



## **Limited Access to Capital and Underdeveloped Angel Investment:**

The median deal size for startups in the county stands at a mere \$320,000, suggesting a significant gap in venture capital and growth funding. Furthermore, angel deals constitute only 4.4% of total investment activity since 2019, indicating a nascent or underdeveloped angel investor network. A recent angel investor survey revealed a critical paradox: 100% of surveyed angel investors expressed interest in Prince George's County startups, yet 0% made recent local investments. This highlights a disconnect between interest and actual investment, possibly due to a lack of structured pathways, visibility, or attractive deal flow.



## **Systemic Barriers for Minority- and Women-Owned Firms:**

A recent Disparity Study has identified systemic barriers that disproportionately affect minority- and women owned businesses in accessing opportunities and capital. Addressing these inequities is crucial for fostering an inclusive and equitable innovation ecosystem that utilizes all available talent and entrepreneurial drive.



## **Lack of a Branded Innovation Sector Identity:**

Prince George's County currently lacks a clearly defined and branded innovation sector identity. Without a cohesive narrative and strong public perception, it can be challenging to attract external investment, top talent, and national recognition for its emerging innovation strengths. Developing a compelling identity is essential for effective marketing and strategic positioning.

### 3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The HB 306 recommendations directly support Strategic Priority 1 from the County's Economic Development Strategic Action Plan:

**"Support innovation and entrepreneurship across and within targeted industry clusters."**

#### Strategic Priority 1 Alignment:



**Emerging Industry Opportunities** strengthens the County's cluster approach by advancing three high-growth sectors — Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate & Energy Tech — that align with state, federal, and private sector investment plans.



**Early-Stage Funding** operationalizes the plan's emphasis on pre-accelerators, accelerators, and equitable early-stage business support by establishing a local angel network and catalyst fund.



**Private Sector Partnerships** connect tech industry partners to higher education, federal research labs, and community anchors to expand tech industry, and workforce pathways.



**Innovation Identity** ensures Prince George's County is recognized as a branded technology hub for innovation, helping attract capital, entrepreneurs, and talent to create a cluster-based economy.

- 1 **Objective 1** → progresses cluster development in Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate/Energy.
- 2 **Objective 2** → builds a brand and community identity to elevate the County as an innovation hub.
- 3 **Objective 3** → addresses need for pre-accelerators and equitable access to capital.
- 4 **Objective 4** → strengthens private sector partnerships and commercialization pathways.





## 4. ALIGNMENT WITH THE FY26–28 TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN

The recommendations of the Independent Innovation Workgroup directly operationalize Strategic Pillar 1: Empower a Thriving Local Tech Ecosystem of the Prince George’s County Office of Information Technology (OIT) FY 2026–2028 Technology Strategic Plan.<sup>1</sup> The OIT plan establishes the framework for developing a self-sustaining, innovation-led economy powered by homegrown technology ventures through targeted investment, cross-sector collaboration, and a County Innovation Fund.<sup>2</sup> The Workgroup’s objectives—spanning the creation of advanced industry accelerators, early-stage investment vehicles, private-sector partnerships, and a unified innovation brand—supply the instruments to achieve those aims.

**Objective 1** (Emerging Industry Opportunities) aligns with OIT’s call to establish Technology Zones and R&D partnerships with anchor institutions such as University of Maryland, College Park, Bowie State University, Capitol Technology University, and Prince George’s Community College.<sup>3</sup> The proposed Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator (ACMA) and expanded Climate & Energy Tech pathways translate that policy into industry-specific infrastructure and commercialization capacity.

**Objective 2** directly complements the recommended Prince George’s Innovation Fund, providing the private-sector implementation mechanism through a Prince George’s County Angel Network and Catalyst Fund that mobilizes local and State co-investment to close the early-stage capital gap.<sup>4</sup>

**Objective 3** parallels the Technology Advisory Council and Innovation Officers Network described in the OIT Plan,<sup>5</sup> creating a governance bridge between government, academia, and industry through the proposed Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group (TEDAG) and the County’s Innovation & Technology Asset Map Pilot.

**Objective 4** reinforces the OIT initiative to launch Tech Prince George's County (Tech PGC), transforming it into a public-facing platform under the Tech PGC brand to showcase entrepreneurship, equity, and community engagement. Together, these elements ensure a unified narrative that positions Prince George's County as a nationally recognized hub for advanced computing, advanced manufacturing, and climate & clean tech innovation.

Collectively, the Workgroup's recommendations give Strategic Pillar 1 tangible structure—linking the Innovation Fund, accelerator infrastructure, and branding initiatives into a coordinated ecosystem. This alignment allows the County to pivot decisively from federal dependency toward locally driven innovation and inclusive prosperity, advancing the goal of building a thriving, future-ready tech economy.<sup>6</sup>







## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS: DERIVATION AND RATIONALE

The recommendations put forth by the Workgroup are a culmination of both the legislative directives of HB 306 (Maryland General Assembly, 2024) and a meticulous diagnostic procedure. This process encompassed stakeholder and subject matter expert engagement, ecosystem mapping, comprehensive data collection, and rigorous comparative analysis. Each recommendation is substantiated by thorough research and empirical evidence, which served to illuminate both promising opportunities and inherent structural deficiencies within Prince George's County's innovation economy. The recommendations put forth by the Independent Innovation Workgroup are not merely arbitrary suggestions but are the culmination of a meticulously structured process, deeply rooted in legislative directives and an exhaustive analytical framework. Specifically, these recommendations directly respond to the mandates outlined in HB 306, enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2024, which called for a thorough examination and strategic development of the region's innovation capabilities.

To achieve this, the Workgroup employed a multi-faceted diagnostic methodology. This commenced with comprehensive ecosystem mapping, a critical first step that involved identifying and charting all key players, institutions, resources, and interconnections within Prince George's County's innovation landscape. This mapping provided a foundational understanding of the existing infrastructure and network.

Following this, extensive data collection was undertaken, gathering both quantitative and qualitative information related to research and development expenditures, startup creation rates, venture capital investments, workforce skills, patent filings, and other relevant economic indicators. This data was then rigorously analyzed to identify patterns, trends, and areas of both strength and weakness.

Crucially, the process incorporated proactive stakeholder engagement. This involved reaching out to and collaborating with a diverse group of participants, including entrepreneurs, academic researchers, industry leaders, government officials, community organizations, and investors. Through workshops, interviews, and public forums, the workgroup gathered valuable insights, perspectives, and feedback. During the process it was ensured that the recommendations were not developed in isolation but were informed by the real-world experiences as well as the needs of those directly involved in the innovation economy.

Finally, a rigorous comparative analysis was performed. This involved benchmarking Prince George's County against other successful innovation hubs and regions, both nationally and internationally. By examining best practices, successful policies, and effective strategies implemented elsewhere, the Workgroup was able to identify actionable insights and innovative solutions that could be adapted to the local context.

Consequently, each recommendation presented by the Workgroup is not speculative but is predicated upon thorough research and empirical data. This robust evidentiary base was instrumental in enabling the Workgroup to delineate both promising opportunities and intrinsic structural deficiencies within Prince George's County's innovation economy. The opportunities highlighted represent areas ripe for investment and growth, while the identified deficiencies point to systemic issues that require targeted interventions to unlock the county's full innovative potential.





# Methodological Approach

The Workgroup utilized a multi-step methodology to ensure that recommendations were data-driven and aligned with national best practices.

**1 Work Group Meetings** – Since September 2024, the Workgroup held five full meetings and two targeted subgroup sessions to co-develop recommendations grounded in local insight and aligned with national best practices. Following the drafting phase, four standing review sessions were convened to ensure the executive summary, full report, and presentation deck reflected a broad range of perspectives and addressed key gaps.

**2 Ecosystem Mapping** – The Workgroup developed the Prince George’s County Innovation & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Map, grounded in the Prince George’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Action Plan Update and the Maryland Tech Council’s Access to Capital and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Barriers Assessment.

**3 Diagnostic Assessment** – We applied the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Diagnostic Toolkit, evaluating nine domains (finance, culture, human capital, markets, infrastructure, policy, supports, networks, and leadership). This analysis identified structural weaknesses, including the absence of sector-specific accelerators, insufficient early-stage capital, and fragmented partnerships.

**4 Primary and Secondary Research** – The group conducted targeted surveys and leveraged national research. The Prince George’s Angel Investor Survey (2025) captured local investor sentiment and barriers, while KPMG’s Ecosystem Partnership Study (2024) provided insight into how organizations nationally are leveraging partnerships for growth in areas such as generative AI, cloud computing, and AI/ML.

**5 Comparative Case Studies** – We also benchmarked against national models (e.g., St. Louis Cortex Innovation District, Baltimore Angels, National Science Foundation Engines hubs) to identify strategies that have successfully bridged invention-to-market and capital access gaps.

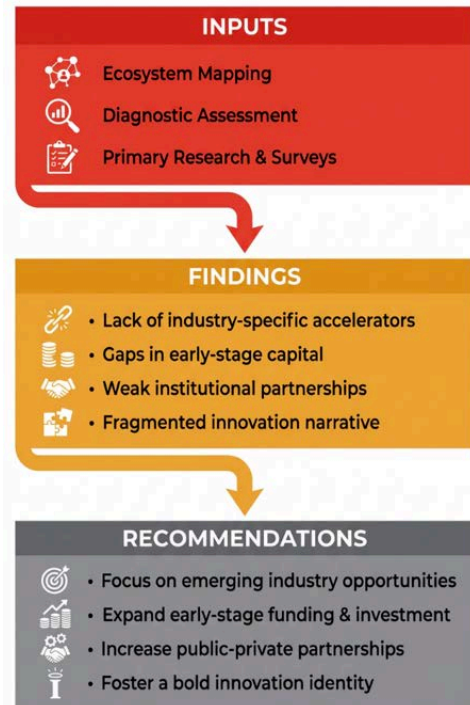


Figure1 - Derivation of Strategic Recommendations”

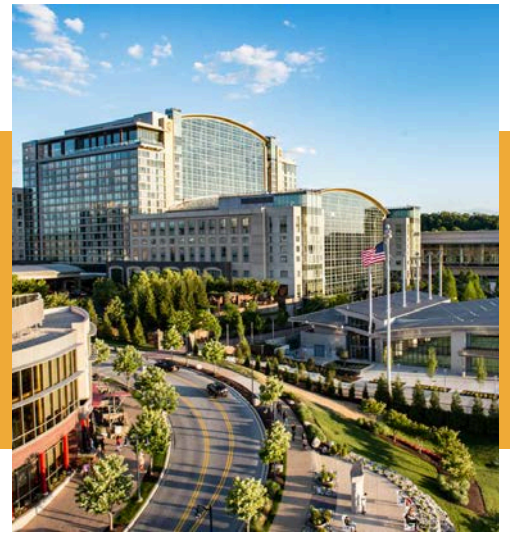
In addition to the methodological approach, strategic recommendations were derived by juxtaposing the data-driven and alignment with national best practices methodology with current innovation and entrepreneurial momentum in the county and state. This approach ensures the strategic recommendations are inclusive of projects that are laying the groundwork for the burgeoning innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem while also looking ahead from a solution-based perspective that can facilitate the scaled vision of the county that the workgroup shares. Building upon this robust methodological framework, strategic recommendations were meticulously formulated through a comprehensive process. This involved a critical juxtaposition of data-driven insights and alignment with national best practices, alongside a thorough assessment of the current innovation and entrepreneurial momentum within the county and state. This dual-pronged approach ensures that the resulting strategic recommendations are not only grounded in empirical evidence and established successful models but also deeply responsive to the unique and dynamic landscape of Prince George's County.

Furthermore, this nuanced strategy guarantees the inclusivity of projects that are fundamentally laying the groundwork for the burgeoning innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem. These foundational initiatives are crucial for cultivating a fertile environment where new ideas can germinate and grow. Simultaneously, the recommendations look ahead from a solution-based perspective, anticipating future needs and challenges. This forward-thinking approach is designed to facilitate the scaled vision of the county, a shared aspiration within the workgroup that envisions a vibrant and thriving innovation hub. By strategically integrating both foundational and future-oriented solutions, the recommendations aim to create a sustainable and impactful trajectory for innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.



# OBJECTIVE 1:

## Focus on Emerging Industry Opportunities



### Recommendation:

Target high-growth sectors aligned with state, federal, and private investment plans and launch industry-specific accelerators to build density.

### Justification:

Prince George's County is positioned to lead in advanced tech sectors but needs formal accelerators and commercialization infrastructure to close the invention-to-market gap.

### Derivation:

Prince George's County's economic development momentum is strongest where it intersects with national and state investment priorities. The county is home to the University of Maryland's Discovery District (including: IonQ, the Quantum Startup Foundry, and the Joint Quantum Institute), multiple federal research assets (NASA Goddard, USDA Beltsville, FDA, ARL), and strong HBCUs (Bowie State University, Capitol Technology University).

The county's innovation edge comes from a dense set of anchors and corridors—UMD's Discovery District, NASA Goddard (Greenbelt), USDA Beltsville, FDA White Oak, Andrews/ARL-Adelphi—suggesting place-based cluster strategies around those nodes and corridors. Despite these advantages, the area lacks sector-specific accelerators to connect research, startups, and capital. National research (Brookings, 2023) shows that innovation districts succeed when they build critical mass around industry clusters tied to anchor institutions.

HB 306 empowers Prince George's County to address this gap by targeting three emerging sectors that align with Maryland's "Winning the Decade" lighthouse strategy and federal spending priorities.



## Emerging Sectors

The selection of Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate & Energy Technology as key industry sectors and innovation focus areas is a deliberate decision, underpinned by strong alignment with existing strategic frameworks and regional strengths. This focused approach aims to maximize impact and leverage synergistic opportunities across various levels of government and industry. The selection of these emerging sectors not only seeks to fill critical gaps in the innovation ecosystem and venture life cycles, but also attempts to build upon the entrepreneurial energy and activity current within the county.



### Advanced Computing

#### Strengths:

- University of Maryland, College Park and the Discovery District, IonQ, Quantum Startup Foundry, Joint Quantum Institute
- Capitol Tech University's cybersecurity programs, AI and workforce pipelines, and ties with ARL and NSA
- Federal anchors present with NSA, ARL, and NIST collaborations

**National Trend:** The U.S. CHIPS and Science Act prioritizes quantum and AI hubs



### Advanced Manufacturing

#### Strengths:

- Aerospace and defense suppliers located near Joint Base Andrews and ARL
- Biotechnology and bio-manufacturing connections to FDA and NIH
- Growing local manufacturing capacity

**National Trend:** Federal investments in reshoring, prototyping, and defense manufacturing



### Climate & Energy Technology

#### Strengths:

- NASA Goddard's climate data and earth sciences programs
- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) infrastructure projects, local energy pilots
- Department of Energy programs on grid modernization & storage
- Local utilities and infrastructure projects (i.e., Pepco, WSSC)

**National Trend:** Department of Energy Grid Modernization Initiative and Inflation Reduction Act funding streams

## Choice Rationale:

This recommendation expands on the innovation foundation already established in Prince George's County by organizations like the Quantum Catalyzer (Q-Cat) by further supporting a broader suite of technologies—AI/ML, quantum, edge computing—and their applied uses across high-impact sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, environment, and defense.

The Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator (ACMA) will serve startups and scale-ups from Seed to Series A, while also providing physical spaces for co-working, prototyping, and next-gen technology demonstration. Further, it builds on this momentum by:

- **Expanding Technology Scope:** Supporting not only quantum, but also AI/ML, edge computing, and their convergence.
- **Graduating Venture Studio Startups:** Offering scale-stage support for startups emerging from the Q-Cat pipeline, as well as those graduating from climate and energy accelerators.
- **Hosting Dual-Track Programs:** For both software-based and hardware-intensive ventures.
- **Integrating Venture Partners:** Leveraging TEDCO, DMV Angels, SparkPGC Fund, and Series-level co-investors.
- **Bridging R&D to Commercialization:** With the support of University of Maryland College Park, Capitol Technology University, Bowie State University, USDA, and other federal and institutional anchors.

Prince George's County is uniquely positioned to launch a comprehensive seed-to-series level Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator because of its strategic alignment with state, federal, and county priorities. At the state level, the County's focus areas mirror Maryland's "Winning the Decade" lighthouse strategy, ensuring direct relevance to statewide economic growth objectives in quantum, computational biology, and positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT). Federally, assets intersect with major national initiatives—including the CHIPS and Science Act, U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Modernization Initiative, and defense reshoring investments— opening pathways to sustained funding, partnerships, and commercialization opportunities. Locally, Prince George's County hosts unparalleled anchors such as IonQ, the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), NASA Goddard, the Army Research Lab, and the FDA, all of which provide the intellectual capital, infrastructure, and market demand needed to accelerate high-growth firms. This convergence of priorities and proximity makes the County an ideal location to close the invention-to-market gap and build a nationally recognized hub for advanced computing and manufacturing innovation.

## Methodological Approach

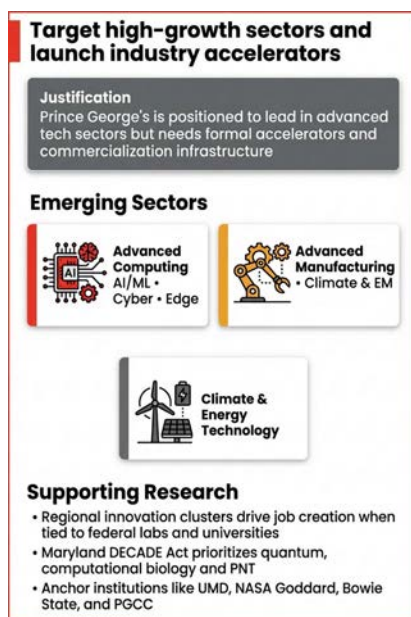


Figure 2 - Recommendation 1 Summary

In light of this strong strategic alignment and the identified potential, the Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator (ACMA) has been specifically recommended. ACMA is envisioned as a vital mechanism designed to address a critical challenge: closing the "invention-to-market gap." This gap represents the often-difficult transition of groundbreaking research and innovative ideas from laboratory settings to commercially viable products and services.

The ACMA, in addition to expanding the current Climate & Energy Tech Accelerator, offers the essential infrastructure for transitioning tech entrepreneurs at scale from pre-seed support to scalable growth. These accelerators are strategically aligned with federal and state investment priorities, focusing on quantum/AI, advanced manufacturing, and clean energy, thereby enabling Prince George's County firms to progress from invention to market readiness.

Furthermore, ACMA's core objective is to create density in high-growth clusters within the advanced computing and manufacturing sectors. By fostering a concentrated environment of talent, resources, and businesses, ACMA aims to accelerate the growth of these industries, attract further investment, and establish Prince George's County as a leading hub for technological innovation. This density will facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the rapid scaling of new ventures, ultimately driving economic prosperity and technological advancement in the region.

The ACMA is designed to transform Prince George's County's innovation potential into tangible economic growth by closing the gap between early invention and market-ready commercialization. Derived from the ecosystem mapping and diagnostic analysis, this recommendation responds to the region's clear strengths in quantum technology, AI, advanced manufacturing, and climate technologies— fields aligned with Maryland's "Winning the Decade" lighthouse priorities and major federal initiatives such as the CHIPS Act and Department of Energy's Grid Modernization Initiative.

The ACMA's core objective is to create density in these high-growth sectors by providing specialized infrastructure and programming that link research institutions, startups, and capital. Its implementation strategy reflects this ambition (see table 2- Implementation Strategy): piloting at anchor locations like the UMD Discovery District and Bowie State Innovation Hub, fostering sector partnerships with leading industry, academic, and federal players, and securing a layered funding model drawing from county, state, and federal resources. Together, these steps position ACMA to be a catalytic platform for scaling companies, building a skilled workforce, and ensuring equitable participation in the county's innovation economy.

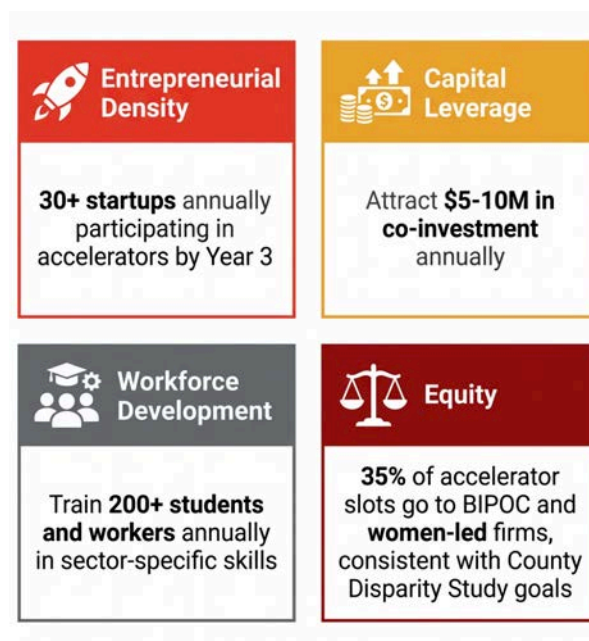


Figure 3 - ACMA Expected Outcomes

With the implementation strategy firmly grounded in pilot sites, sector partnerships, and a layered funding model, the ACMA is designed not only to activate the county's unique assets but also to deliver measurable results. The following expected impacts outline how ACMA will translate strategy into outcomes— building entrepreneurial density, attracting significant co-investment, strengthening the workforce pipeline, and ensuring equity in participation.

These metrics establish clear benchmarks for success and demonstrate how Prince George's County can replicate national best practices. With an implementation strategy firmly grounded in pilot sites, strategic sector partnerships, and a layered funding model, the ACMA is meticulously designed to activate Prince George's County's unique assets while delivering tangible, measurable results. The following expected impacts outline precisely how ACMA will translate strategic vision into concrete outcomes—building entrepreneurial density, attracting significant co-investment, strengthening the workforce pipeline, and ensuring broad equity in participation across all initiatives.



These metrics are not merely aspirational; they establish clear, quantifiable benchmarks for success and demonstrate how Prince George's County can effectively replicate, and even surpass, national best practices. A prime example of such success is the St. Louis Cortex Innovation District, where targeted sector accelerators were instrumental in driving substantial job growth and economic diversification over a decade. ACMA aims to emulate this success, adapting the model to the specific economic landscape and opportunities present within Prince George's County.

At its core, ACMA is designed to foster density in high-growth clusters, ensuring that talent, research, capital, and industry partnerships converge in a way that accelerates company growth, attracts outside investment, and promotes equitable participation. Its implementation strategy—anchored in pilot sites at the UMD Discovery District and Bowie State Innovation Hub, strengthened by cross-sector partnerships, and underpinned by a layered funding model—sets the foundation for measurable outcomes. These outcomes include growing the number of startups, increasing capital flows, developing a skilled workforce, and embedding equity into the heart of innovation.

In this way, ACMA is not just a single initiative but a catalytic platform that positions Prince George's County as a nationally recognized hub for advanced computing and manufacturing. The following section details how this recommendation was derived, highlighting the ecosystem analysis, stakeholder input, and strategic alignment that informed its selection and design.

## Supporting Research

- **Brookings (2023):** regional innovation clusters drive job creation when tied to federal labs and universities.
- **Brookings Institute Information Technology Innovation Foundation:** regional cluster accelerators yield higher job creation and startup density.
- **Maryland DECADE Act:** prioritizes quantum, computational biology, and positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) — all areas the county can anchor.
- The county has a “very high capacity for innovation” according to the U.S. Innovation Index, but faces gaps in moving from invention → commercialization.
- Anchor institutions like UMD, NASA Goddard, Bowie State, and Prince George's Community College are identified as critical “eds and meds” partners for building innovation districts and industry clusters.
- Programs such as Innovation Station and Tech Prince George's already provide IT focused acceleration and STEAM pipelines, which could be scaled or adapted for advanced computing and manufacturing.
- The county has underutilized potential. There exists a College Park–Greenbelt Lanham innovation corridor which has existing high-growth firms but lags in competitiveness compared to peers.
- **Innovation Momentum:** The Prince George's County 2024 Economic Development Achievement Report reaffirms efforts in job creation and innovation support tied to the 2022 Strategic Action Plan focused on “Growth Opportunities, Human Capital, and Strong Places”.
- **Commercialization Hub:** Business Insider confirmed that Prince George's County was selected for the new FBI HQ—expected to generate over \$4 billion in economic activity and solidify the county as a key cyber-tech center.
- **Clean Technology & Biotech Investment:** Two county-based firms—HighT-Tech and Medcura—received nearly \$1.34 million in state grants in June 2025 to build infrastructure toward clean-tech and biotech manufacturing.





### Advanced Computing (quantum • AI/ML • cyber • edge):

- The region doubled down on quantum leadership: UMD's "Capital of Quantum" assets and industry partnerships continue to expand; IonQ and Quantum Catalyzer remain College Park anchors, while Connected DMV's Potomac Quantum Innovation Center matured pathways and convenings (e.g., Quantum World Congress), building a cross-jurisdictional market for quantum talent, startups, and corporate pilots.
- NASA's 2024–2025 economic impact and Earth information initiatives underscore a scalable "earth data + AI" opportunity that aligns with County assets.



### Advanced Manufacturing (prototyping • defense/aero • bio-manufacturing):

- Maryland's Manufacturing 4.0 grants (FY24–FY25 cycles; \$25,000–\$500,000 per award) incentivize Industry 4.0 adoption—exactly the digital/robotics upgrades that county subject matter experts need to plug into federal, aerospace, and medical supply chains.
- ARL–Adelphi's Open Campus model as well as University of Maryland, College Park advanced manufacturing labs provide nearby testbeds, talent, and tech transfer channels for small-batch and defense-adjacent manufacturing.



### Climate & Energy Tech (grid • storage • green infrastructure):

- Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act requires a 60% Green House Gas reduction by 2031 and net-zero by 2045, with 2024–2025 agency plans funding electrification, grid upgrades, and building decarbonization—prime demand signals for storage, controls, sensors, and analytics startups.
- Utility-led Capital Grid Project (Pepco/Exelon) and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Water's capital program create local pilot venues for grid resilience, Distributed Energy Resources integration, leak detection, and water-energy nexus tech.

**Important 2025 headwinds to factor:** US Department of Agriculture plans to vacate parts of Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC); FBI HQ relocation to Greenbelt was reversed in July 2025—so the county should emphasize NASA, UMD, and ARL-led corridors and pursue adaptive reuse/innovation campus options as federal site dynamics change.

# Implementation Strategies

## 1. Launch Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator (ACMA):

- Pilot at Discovery District and Bowie State Innovation Hub
- Offer quantum/AI sprints, prototyping labs, and mentorship from federal scientists

## 2. Develop Sector Partnerships:

**Industry:** Northrop Grumman, Kaiser, Lockheed Martin

**Federal Labs:** NASA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, ARL

**Academia:** University of Maryland, College Park, Bowie State University, Capitol Tech University, Prince George's Community College

## 3. Secure Funding:

**County:** \$2 million initial allocation

**State:** Matching from TEDCO Equitech Growth Funds and Climate Tech Funds

**Federal:** National Science Foundation Engines, CHIPS Act, DOE Energy Earthshot program

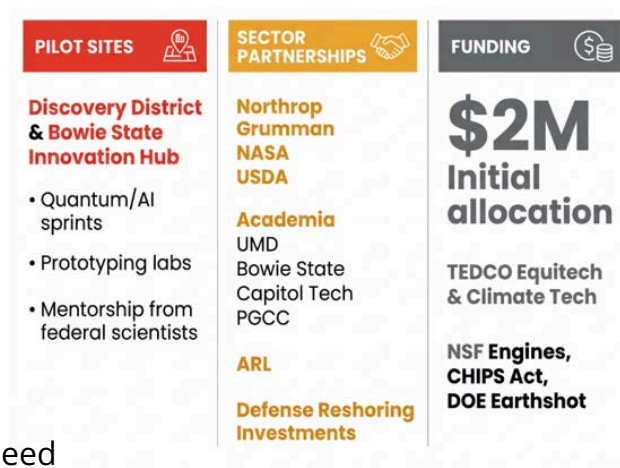


Figure 4 - ACMA Implementation Strategy

## Expected Impacts

- **Entrepreneurial Density:** 30+ startups annually participating in accelerators by Year 3
- **Capital Leverage:** Attract \$5–10M in co-investment annually
- **Workforce Development:** Train 200+ students and workers annually in sector-specific skills
- **Equity:** Ensure 35% of accelerator slots go to BIPOC and women-led firms, consistent with County Disparity Study goals

## Case Example

St. Louis Cortex Innovation District grew biotech jobs 60% in 10 years with sector accelerators.

## OBJECTIVE 2:

### Foundational: Foster a Bold Innovation Identity & Community



#### Recommendation:

Launch a unified Tech PGC brand and event series to increase visibility, inspiration, and grassroots participation.

#### Justification:

A unified innovation identity and high-visibility events are necessary to translate latent innovation into community-wide pride, investor confidence, and equitable participation.

#### Derivation:

The innovation landscape within Prince George's County is currently characterized by a significant challenge: a fragmented narrative. This fragmentation implies that despite the noteworthy presence of nationally recognized research institutions and established innovation anchors throughout the county, there is a pronounced absence of a cohesive and unified identity. This lack of a shared narrative poses a substantial impediment to the county's capacity to effectively attract crucial resources, including vital venture capital, promising entrepreneurial ventures, and top-tier talent across various sectors.

Instead of operating as integral components of a synergistic whole, the diverse innovative elements within the county largely exist in isolation. This isolated existence makes it exceedingly difficult to present a compelling and unified vision of Prince George's County as a truly dynamic and integrated hub for innovation.

However, a strategic initiative, the Tech PGC brand and community platform, aims to address this very challenge. Its core objectives revolve around enhancing visibility, fostering inspiration, and cultivating broad grassroots participation within the innovation ecosystem. Evidence from successful tech entrepreneurial events has vividly demonstrated the energy and enthusiasm that exists among the local communities when they are provided with access to dedicated innovation spaces.



Crucially, this identity is not being built from scratch. It strategically leverages established platforms like SparkPGC and ConnecTech, which are poised to serve as ready to-scale vehicles for brand activation, widespread public engagement, and the development of distributed innovation nodes throughout the county. SparkPGC, in particular, is envisioned to play a pivotal role, with its proposed function as the "heartbeat of the innovation ecosystem," a strong and resonant brand language that underscores its central importance. Similarly, the ConnecTech speaker series is actively contributing to this unification by "uniting the technology ecosystem across Prince George's County," thereby bridging gaps and fostering collaboration among disparate technology-focused entities.

## Bold Innovation Identity & Community

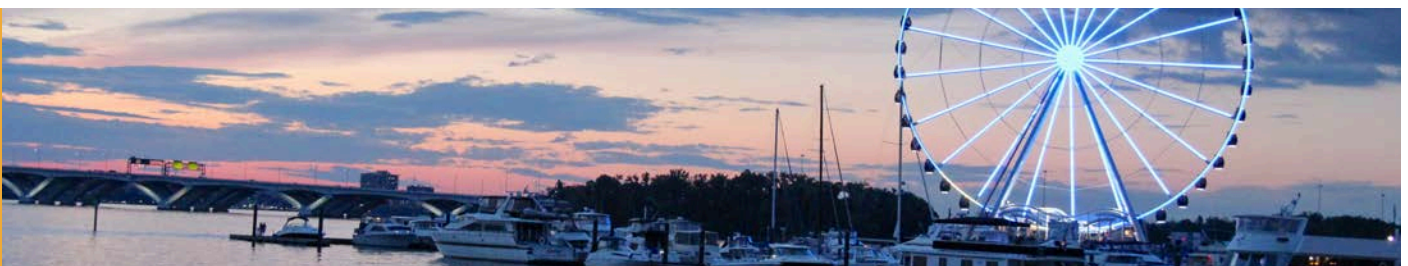


**Choice Rationale:** The proposed launch of the Tech PGC brand and community platform represents a pivotal moment for Prince George's County, laying the groundwork for a dynamic and self-sustaining innovation ecosystem. This strategic endeavor is designed to achieve three overarching goals, each contributing to the county's long-term economic vitality and social well-being.

Firstly, the initiative aims to elevate and celebrate local innovation successes in a way that has not been done before. Imagine a vibrant online hub, teeming with stories of groundbreaking achievements from Prince George's County's own innovators, entrepreneurs, and businesses. This dedicated brand and platform will serve as a beacon, shining a spotlight on their ingenuity and hard work, transforming individual accomplishments into sources of collective pride. By showcasing success stories, project spotlights, and the tangible positive impact of local innovation on the economic and social fabric, the platform will not only inspire future generations of innovators but also attract crucial investment, fostering a virtuous cycle of growth and recognition.

Secondly, the "Tech PGC" brand will become the bedrock for democratizing access to entrepreneurship through key events, extending opportunities to all residents. The flagship of these efforts will be the annual Innovation Summit, a prestigious gathering that will unite thought leaders, investors, mentors, and aspiring entrepreneurs. Other parts of our area have had success building a culture of innovation around these events. For instance, D.C. Tech & Startup Week, founded in 2016, brings together those interested in startups from around the world. The event leverages the unique position of Washington, D.C., while also highlights technology and startups of the region.

For the Innovation Summit, we imagine a bustling convention center, alive with energy, where workshops, intense pitch competitions, invaluable networking sessions, and insightful presentations on emerging technologies and market trends converge. Complementing this grand event, a series of agile, grassroots pop-up events will blossom across the county, reaching into diverse communities. These smaller, more localized gatherings will directly deliver practical insights, mentorship, and resources to individuals who might otherwise lack access to traditional entrepreneurial support systems. This two-pronged approach will effectively dismantle barriers to entry, cultivating a more inclusive and pervasive entrepreneurial spirit throughout Prince George's County.



Finally, and perhaps most crucially, the establishment of a distinct "Tech PGC" brand will decisively strengthen the county's competitive position among regional and national peers. Currently, neighboring jurisdictions such as Baltimore, Montgomery County, and Northern Virginia boast well-established and recognized innovation brands, such as StationDC and the Maryland Innovation Center in Columbia, MD. These hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship successfully attract talent, investment, and new companies. Tech PGC will add to the county's strength in the quantum ecosystem mirroring what other states have done to create innovation platforms around their quantum efforts. In Illinois the "Chicago Quantum Exchange" combines academic efforts with public private partnerships and a startup accelerator. In Colorado and New Mexico, the "Elevate Quantum Tech Hub" funded by the National Science Foundation, encompasses K-12 education in quantum, and investment by both states.

By forging its own strong brand and community platform, Prince George's County will be empowered to effectively articulate its unique strengths, abundant resources, and myriad opportunities to a broader audience. This strategic move will visibly demonstrate the county's unwavering commitment to fostering innovation, making it an undeniably attractive destination for entrepreneurs, burgeoning startups, and established businesses seeking to expand or relocate. This proactive competitive positioning is not merely about attracting new ventures; it is an indispensable element for ensuring the long-term economic growth and prosperity of Prince George's County.

To translate this vision into practice, the Tech PGC initiative requires a set of intentional implementation strategies that bring the brand and community platform to life. These strategies are designed to ensure that the brand is not only aspirational but also highly visible, actionable, and inclusive. By combining a clear storytelling framework, signature events that convene stakeholders at both flagship and grassroots levels, and a bold equity commitment, the initiative will embed innovation into the identity of Prince George's County. Together, these approaches will solidify the county's presence on the regional innovation map while ensuring that the benefits of growth extend to underrepresented founders and communities. The following strategies, expected impacts, and case example illustrate how Tech PGC will deliver on its promise to unify, elevate, and democratize innovation across the county.





## Implementation Strategies

To truly ignite the spirit of innovation in Prince George's County, we must embark on a multi pronged strategy that not only showcases our burgeoning talent but also fosters an inclusive environment for growth.

First, we will redefine and amplify the "Tech PGC" brand. This isn't just about a logo; it's about codifying our unique style, articulating our unwavering promise to innovators, and providing tangible proof-points of our success. A key component of this will be the introduction of quarterly "Innovation Spotlights," a series dedicated to celebrating the groundbreaking work of local startups and research labs. These spotlights will be disseminated through various channels, painting a vivid picture of the ingenuity thriving within our borders. Complementing this, a dynamic digital portal will serve as the central hub for our innovation ecosystem, providing a comprehensive, interactive showcase of our resources, success stories, and opportunities.

Second, we will establish a series of flagship events that serve as beacons of our innovative spirit. The centerpiece will be the annual Prince George's Innovation Summit, a large-scale gathering designed to connect, inspire, and drive collaboration across all sectors.

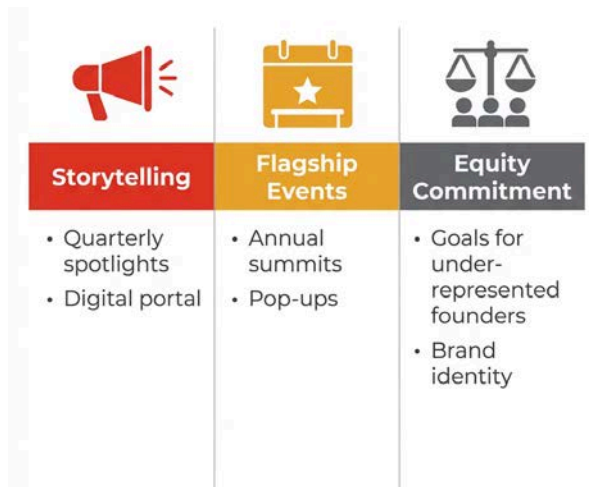


Figure 5 - Bold Identity Implementation Strategies

This summit will feature sector-specific tracks, ensuring relevance and depth for a diverse audience. To maintain consistent engagement and bring innovation directly to our communities, we will also host "Innovation Pop-Ups" in key areas such as Bowie, Largo, Hyattsville, and College Park. These smaller, more localized events will provide accessible platforms for networking, showcasing new ideas, and fostering local connections. Further enhancing this visibility, a quarterly corporate-startup challenge, facilitated through our Greater Washington Partnership partners, will keep the momentum visible and create valuable collaboration opportunities.

Finally, our commitment to equity will be woven into the fabric of every initiative. We are dedicated to ensuring that the benefits of our innovation ecosystem are shared by all. To this end, we will set a clear, measurable target: by Year 3, at least 30% of all ecosystem investment will be dedicated to supporting underrepresented founders. This commitment is not merely a goal; it is a foundational principle that will guide our resource allocation, program development, and partnership strategies, ensuring that Prince George's County's innovation narrative is one of inclusive growth and opportunity for everyone.

## Expected Impacts

The strategic initiatives undertaken are poised to significantly elevate Prince George's County's standing on the regional and national stage. Through concerted efforts and a unified vision, the aim is to foster a vibrant ecosystem that not only champions but also prominently showcases the county as a burgeoning innovation hub. This increased visibility is anticipated to draw attention from a diverse array of stakeholders, establishing Prince George's County as a compelling destination for cutting-edge development and groundbreaking ideas.

A direct corollary of this heightened profile is the projected influx of external investment and the forging of robust corporate partnerships. As the county solidifies its reputation as a fertile ground for innovation, it becomes inherently more attractive to investors seeking to capitalize on emerging opportunities and corporations looking to collaborate with dynamic and forward thinking entities. These partnerships and investments are crucial for fueling economic growth, creating new jobs, and fostering a sustainable environment for innovation to flourish.

Beyond the economic implications, a core objective is to cultivate widespread community engagement in the innovation growth process. This extends beyond merely professional and academic circles to encompass a broad spectrum of residents, businesses, and local organizations. By fostering a culture of active participation and shared ownership, the goal is to ensure that the benefits of innovation are broadly distributed, empowering individuals and communities to contribute to and benefit from the county's evolving landscape. This collective effort is essential for building a resilient and inclusive innovation ecosystem that truly reflects the diverse strengths and aspirations of Prince George's County.

## Case Example

“Innovate Birmingham” branding campaign doubled accelerator applications in two years.



## OBJECTIVE 3:

### Expand Early-Stage Funding & Investment



#### Recommendation:

Launch a Prince George's County Angel Network and Catalyst Fund to increase identification, education, and activation of angel investors interested in local startups.

#### Justification:

Without a localized angel/catalyst fund, local firms will continue missing out on regional capital flows, reinforcing equity gaps. Recent analysis of Prince George's County venture activity revealed a significant opportunity gap. Between 2019 and 2024, Prince George's County recorded 225 venture deals compared with 2,345 deals across the rest of Maryland. While the county's companies raised about \$1.46 billion in total, Maryland's other counties raised more than \$20 billion. Prince George's County therefore captured only ~6.7% of the state's venture capital.

**Prince George's County deals are smaller:** The median deal size is about \$320,000 versus \$800,000 in the rest of Maryland. Median post-money valuations for Prince George's County startups (~\$14 million) trail those elsewhere in the state (~\$19 million). Investment activity skews toward grants and accelerators, with limited early-stage venture capital.

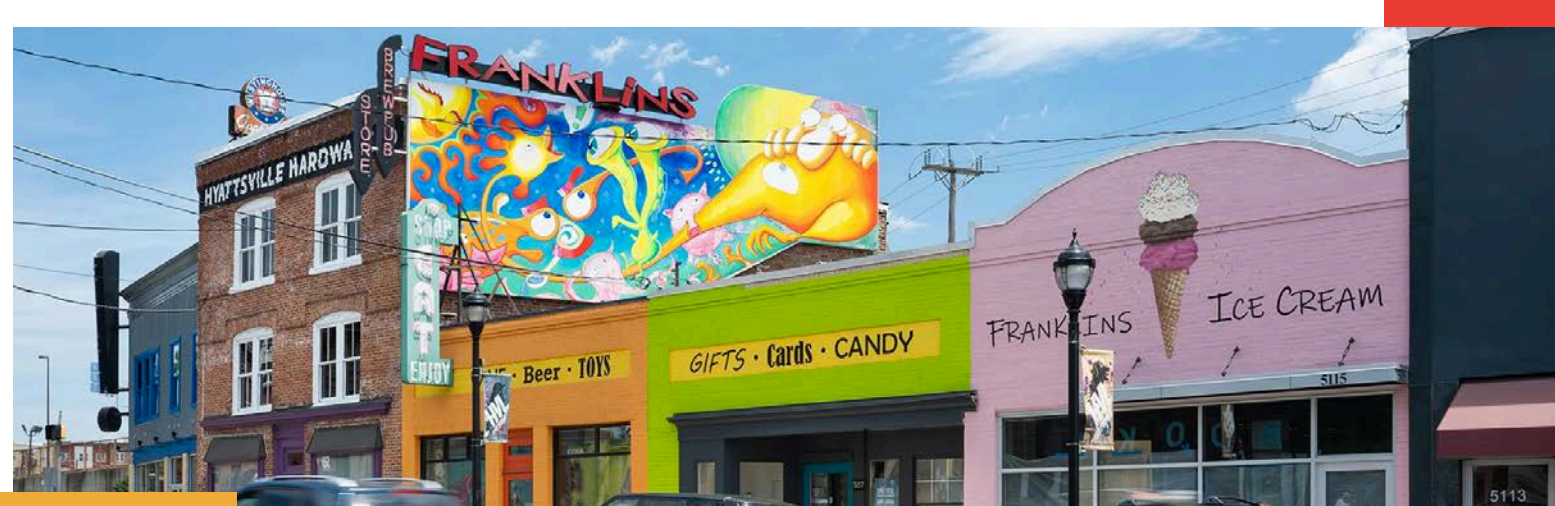
#### Derivation:

Survey data from the **Prince George's Angel Investor Survey (2025)** revealed critical gaps in the local investment ecosystem, highlighting significant challenges for startups and early-stage companies seeking capital within Prince George's County. The survey identified a scarcity of active angel investors, a lack of awareness among potential investors regarding local opportunities, and a perceived disconnect between the needs of entrepreneurs and the available funding mechanisms.



Figure 6 - Angel Investor Survey Key Findings





The PGC Pitch Book Analysis (2025) provides compelling quantitative evidence of the funding disparity faced by early-stage companies in Prince George's County. Between 2019 and 2024, the county recorded 225 venture deals totaling approximately \$1.46 billion, while the rest of Maryland accounted for more than 2,300 deals and over \$20 billion in investment, meaning Prince George's County captured only 6.7% of statewide venture capital. Moreover, the median deal size in the county was \$320,000, less than half of the Maryland average of \$800,000, and post-money valuations averaged \$14 million compared to \$19 million elsewhere. These disparities underscore how the absence of an organized angel investor base and formalized matching mechanisms restricts local startups from reaching scalable seed-stage rounds. The data further reveal that only 4.4% of deal flow involves angel-backed investments, confirming the urgent need to cultivate a structured angel network supported by a county-seeded Catalyst Fund that de-risks participation and leverages co-investment from State and private partners. Such an initiative would ensure that promising early-stage ventures not only survive but have the financial depth to progress from concept to commercialization within Prince George's County's own innovation ecosystem.

Additionally, the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) diagnostic underscored a critical gap in the financial ecosystem, specifically at the nascent pre-seed and seed stages of funding. This deficiency has tangible consequences for county firms, which frequently find themselves raising smaller capital rounds compared to their counterparts in other regions. A significant contributing factor to this challenge is the difficulty in attracting active participation from angel investors, who are crucial for providing early-stage capital and mentorship. The absence of a robust financial infrastructure at these foundational stages hinders the ability of promising local businesses to scale and innovate, ultimately impacting the overall economic dynamism of the county.

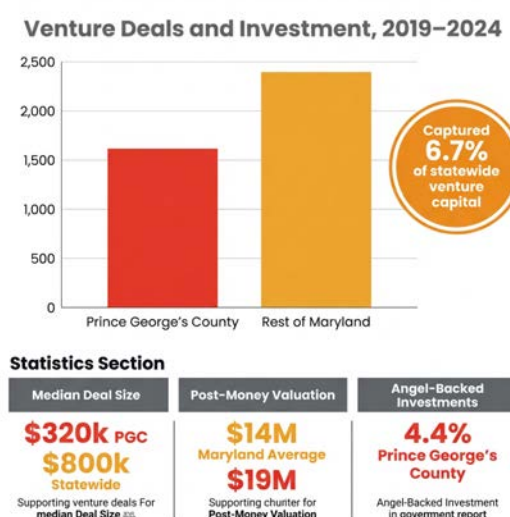
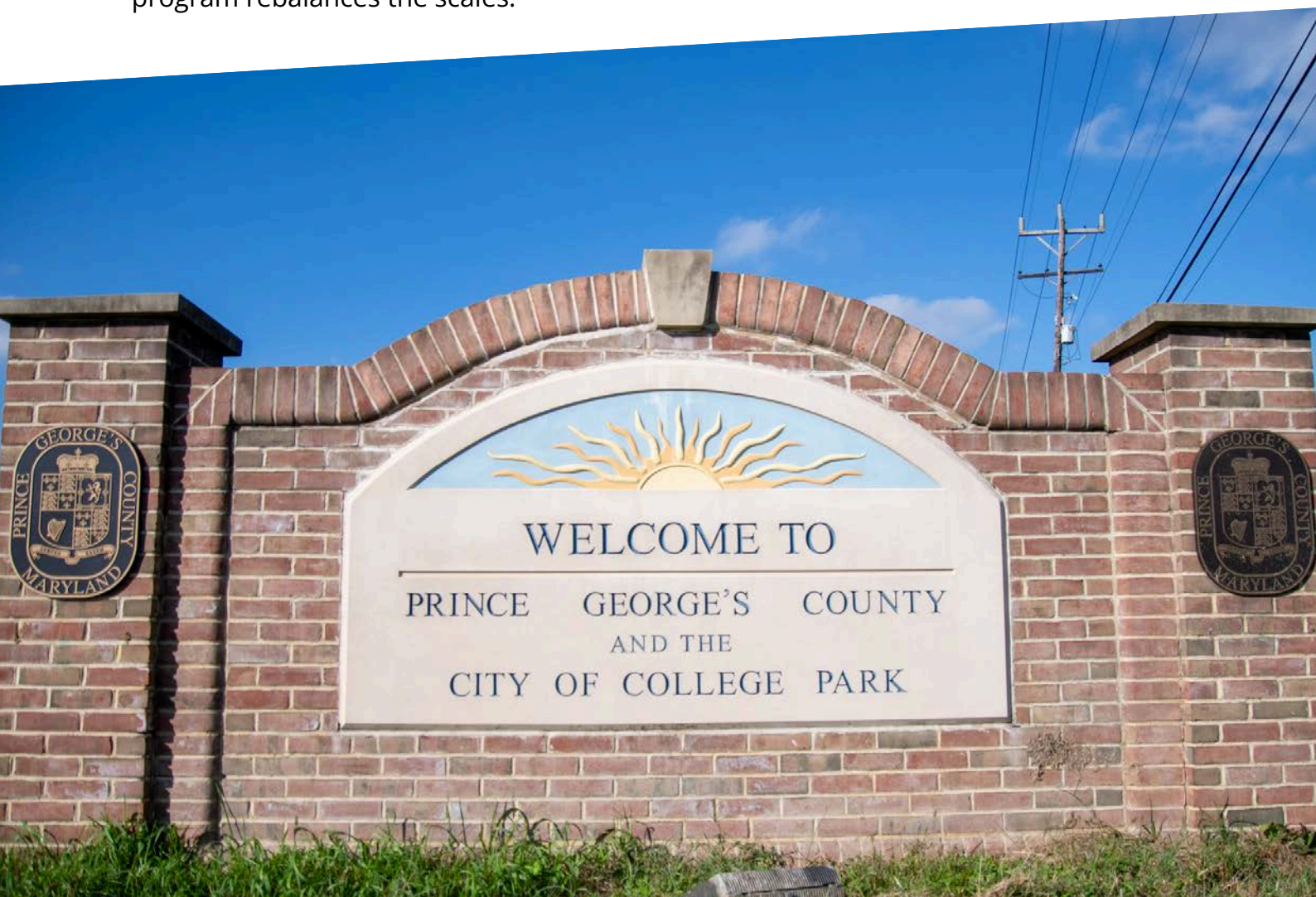


Figure 7 - Prince George's County Venture Statistics 2019-2024

**Choice Rationale:** The recommendation to create a Prince George's County Angel Network and Catalyst Fund directly responds to these findings. The initiative builds upon the momentum created by the SparkZone initiative, DMV Angels, and Dingman Center Angels (DCA), with the DMV Angels platform already establishing the largest and most diverse angel investment group in the Mid-Atlantic by leveraging DCA's extensive 200+ deal history and robust syndicate network. The Prince George's County Angel Investor Survey reinforced the significant untapped interest, confirming a "latent investor demand—investors want to engage, but they need trusted networks, shared diligence, and regular deal flow." While 100% of respondents are not currently investing in Prince George's County startups, all expressed interest in lighthouse industries (quantum, IT, life sciences), and 86% indicated a need for co-investment opportunities, investor education, and demo days to facilitate participation. The Angel Network and Catalyst Fund directly supports SparkZone's inclusive mission by enabling new wealth builders (including local angels and professionals of color), funding founders aligned with critical sectors (tech-for-good, defense, health equity, climate, and advanced computing), and closing structural gaps in early-stage capital access. As stated, "Prince George's County has the region's richest talent, but the least investment activity. This capital program rebalances the scales."





## Implementation Strategies

Building on the rationale for expanding early stage funding and investment, the next step is to translate this vision into practical action. The proposed implementation strategies are designed to directly address the structural barriers identified through the Angel Investor Survey and ecosystem analysis—namely, the absence of organized investor pathways, limited risk-sharing mechanisms, and insufficient education and incentives for new angels. By establishing a structured network and fund, Prince George’s County will create the foundational infrastructure needed to unlock latent investor interest and channel more capital into local startups.

The strategies outlined here center on three pillars: (1) launching a Prince George’s Angel Network to provide ongoing engagement through pitch/demo days, investor bootcamps, and regional syndication opportunities; (2) seeding a Catalyst Fund to de-risk participation and leverage state, federal, and private co-investment; and (3) advancing investor education and incentives to build investor confidence while advocating for targeted policy tools such as tax credits.

The comprehensive strategy was each designed to foster a robust and self-sustaining innovation ecosystem within Prince George's County. The first pillar involves launching a Prince George’s Angel Network. This initiative aims to cultivate a vibrant community of local and regional investors dedicated to supporting emerging businesses and startups through regular Pitch/Demo Days, Investor Bootcamps, and Regional Syndication Opportunities. The second pillar focuses on seeding a Catalyst Fund, a strategic fund designed to significantly de-risk early-stage investment for private entities and attract substantial co-investment from diverse sources and leveraging state, federal, and private co-investment.

Finally, the third pillar centers on advancing investor education and incentives. This involves building investor confidence through targeted workshops, seminars, and networking events, as well as advocating for policy tools like tax credits, and engaging with legislative bodies and policymakers.

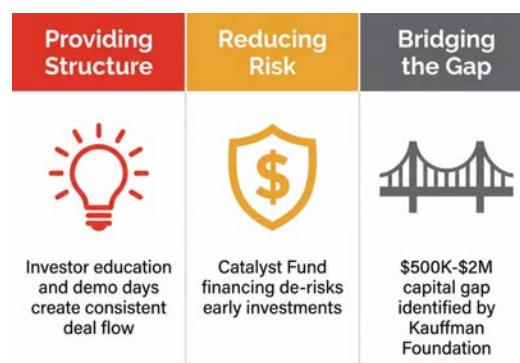


Figure 8 - Expanding Early-Stage Funding Justification

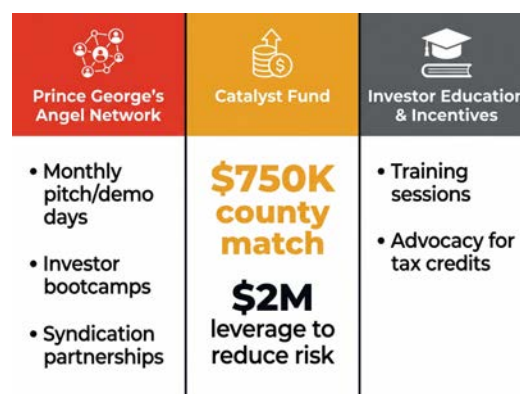


Figure 9 - Expanding Early-Stage Funding Implementation Strategies





## Expected Impacts

These efforts are expected to deliver measurable impacts within three years, including the activation of more than 50 new local angel investors, a significant increase in annual angel backed deal flow, and the creation of sustainable, equitable funding pathways for underrepresented founders. Together, these outcomes will not only close the early-stage capital gap but also strengthen the county's reputation as a place where innovation and investment grow side by side. These ambitious efforts are projected to yield tangible and measurable impacts within a concise three-year timeframe. Key among these anticipated outcomes is the vital activation of over 50 new local angel investors, injecting fresh capital and expertise into the regional ecosystem. Concurrently, a significant surge in annual angel-backed deal flow is expected, indicating a healthier and more robust investment landscape. These initiatives are designed to foster the creation of sustainable and equitable funding pathways, specifically tailored to empower underrepresented founders who have historically faced significant barriers to accessing capital.

Collectively, the realization of these outcomes will serve a dual purpose: not only will they effectively bridge the existing early-stage capital gap, but they will also substantially elevate and reinforce the county's reputation as a dynamic hub where groundbreaking innovation and strategic investment flourish in tandem. This synergistic growth will position Prince George's County as a premier destination for entrepreneurial talent and investment capital, driving long-term economic prosperity and inclusive development.

The recommendation to expand early-stage funding and investment through the creation of a Prince George's County Angel Network and Catalyst Fund addresses one of the most critical structural barriers in the innovation ecosystem: the lack of accessible, organized early-stage capital. Survey data and ecosystem analysis confirm that while investor interest exists, it remains largely untapped due to limited syndication opportunities, insufficient education and incentives, and the absence of trusted networks to connect investors with local startups. This disconnect has left promising companies underfunded, raising smaller rounds than their peers in other regions, and stalling their growth potential.

By providing structure through an Angel Network, reducing risk via a Catalyst Fund, and building confidence through education and incentives, this strategy lays the foundation for unlocking latent investor demand and channeling new capital into county-based ventures. The goal is not only to catalyze early-stage activity but also to rebalance the flow of investment so that Prince George's County's diverse entrepreneurial talent—long recognized but underfunded—can thrive.

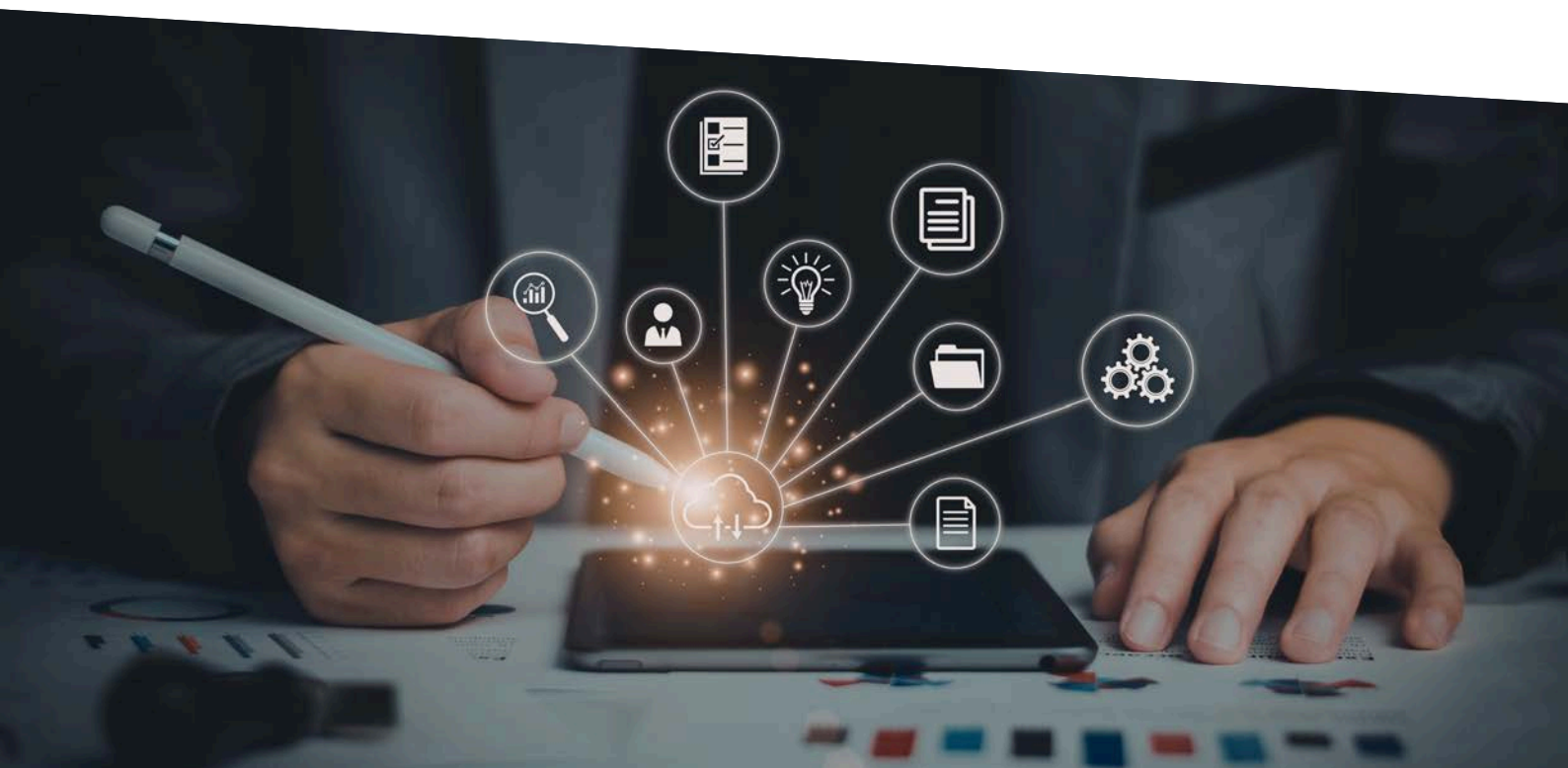


Figure 10 - Expanding Early Stage Funding Expected Outcomes

Over the next three years, these efforts are projected to activate 50+ new angel investors, expand angel-backed deal flow to more than 15% of annual activity, and establish sustainable, equitable pathways for underrepresented founders. Together, these outcomes will help close the early stage capital gap and cement the county's standing as a dynamic hub where innovation and investment reinforce one another, driving long-term economic vitality and inclusive growth.

## Case Example

Tennessee's InvestTN program shows how a state-level innovation fund, about the same size as our proposed Catalyst Fund, can effectively distribute capital to early-stage companies



## OBJECTIVE 4:

### Increase Private Tech Sector Partnerships for Tech Ecosystem Development



#### Recommendation:

Formalize a Prince George's County Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group (TEDAG) with representatives from the private sector to align strategies and leverage resources.

#### Justification:

Technology sector partnerships are fragmented and transactional. Formal governance and alignment between county and state innovation priorities is needed to maximize impact and attract more private and early stage investment. The proposed establishment of a TEDAG is a critical strategic approach designed to foster a robust and interconnected innovation ecosystem. This advisory group will serve as a central governance body, ensuring seamless coordination and strategic alignment among key stakeholders, including higher education institutions, federal laboratories, corporate anchors, and capital providers.

#### Key Industry Partners and Anchors for the Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group

To strategically develop Prince George's County's tech ecosystem, the TEDAG will actively manage partnerships with established and emerging companies across our focused industries: Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate and Energy Technologies. These partners will not only serve on the advisory group, providing invaluable guidance and expertise, but will also be encouraged to make direct, tangible investments in the local tech ecosystem. These investments can take various forms, including the initiation of pilot projects, engagement in local procurement processes, and dedicated talent development programs, all designed to foster growth and innovation within the county.

#### Innovation and Technology Asset Map

One such pilot project will be to develop the Prince George's County Innovation & Technology Asset Map. The objective of this project would be to conduct a comprehensive mapping of all innovation and technology assets within Prince George's County, building upon the foundational work of the Independent Innovation Workgroup's ecosystem map.

This initiative will identify, categorize, and interconnect key resources, institutions, and stakeholders to enhance strategic planning and resource allocation.

**Rationale:** A fully realized and interconnected innovation ecosystem is essential for Prince George's County to achieve its economic development goals. The current landscape, while rich in individual assets, suffers from fragmentation. This asset map will provide the TEDAG with a unified, data-driven overview, enabling it to "connect the dots" between research institutions, federal labs, private industry, talent pipelines, and capital sources. This will facilitate more effective partnerships, targeted investment, and the retention and growth of tech ventures within the county.

### Key Components: The project will involve cataloging:

- **Research & Academic Institutions:** Detailed capabilities, specialized labs, and faculty expertise.
- **Federal Installations:** Research focus areas, potential for tech transfer, and procurement opportunities.
- **Private Sector Companies:** Tech focus areas, growth stage, and partnership interests.
- **Talent Pipelines:** Workforce development programs, educational offerings, and skill sets available.
- **Funding Sources:** Active investors, grant opportunities, and capital deployment mechanisms.
- **Physical Infrastructure:** Available lab space, co-working facilities, and advanced manufacturing capabilities.

### Expected Outcome:

A dynamic, interactive asset map that serves as a living document for TEDAG, policymakers, investors, and entrepreneurs. This map will inform strategic decisions, identify critical gaps, and illuminate opportunities for collaboration, ultimately strengthening Prince George's County's position as a vibrant innovation hub.

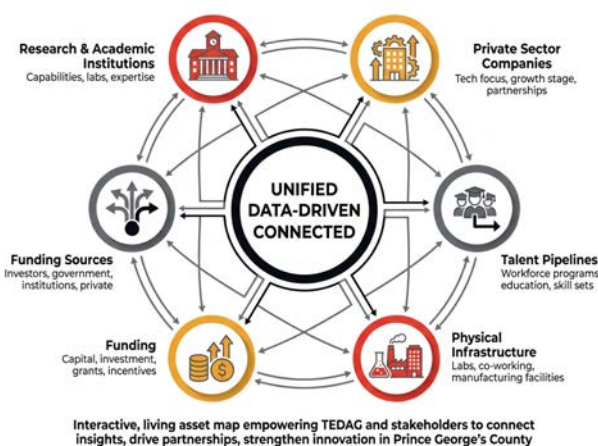


Figure 11 - Innovation and Technology Asset Map Pilot Structure and Expected Outcomes



To illustrate the depth and diversity of engagement envisioned, the following overview highlights key traditional, emerging, and research anchors across each of the county's priority industry sectors—Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate and Energy Technologies.



### Advanced Computing:

- **Traditional Anchors:** These include industry giants such as Northrop Grumman, Leidos, and Lockheed Martin. Their significant presence and extensive expertise in defense and government IT solutions provide a strong foundational base for the advanced computing sector within the county.
- **Emerging Anchors:** This category encompasses innovative and rapidly growing companies like IonQ, a leader in trapped-ion quantum computing; Amazon Web Services (AWS), a leader in cloud infrastructure and AI solutions with a strong regional presence; Google for its advancements in AI/ML and data analytics; and Microsoft with its robust cloud services, enterprise software, and AI initiatives.
- **Government/Research Anchors:** Essential governmental and research institutions include NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, critical for high-performance computing, data science, and AI applications. The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) also plays a vital role, focusing on advanced computing in defense applications.



### Advanced Manufacturing:

- **Traditional Anchors:** Established manufacturing leaders such as Boeing, with its extensive aerospace manufacturing needs and supply chain, are crucial. BAE Systems contributes with its expertise in advanced defense manufacturing, and General Dynamics brings specialized manufacturing and engineering capabilities.
- **Emerging Players:** This group features companies at the forefront of manufacturing innovation, including Protolabs for rapid prototyping and on-demand manufacturing solutions; Siemens offers cutting-edge industrial automation and digital factory technologies; and GE Additive provides specialized additive manufacturing expertise.



- **Academic/Research Anchors:** The University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), is a key academic partner, renowned for its materials science and advanced fabrication research. ARL further strengthens this sector with its focus on advanced materials and manufacturing for defense applications.



### Climate and Energy Technologies:

- **Traditional Anchors:** This segment includes major utility providers like Exelon/Pepco, vital for energy distribution, grid modernization, and clean energy initiatives. Washington Gas contributes through its gas infrastructure and emerging clean energy solutions, while Dominion Energy is a significant player in renewable energy projects and infrastructure development.
- **Emerging Players:** This category highlights innovative companies driving the future of clean energy. Ørsted, a leading offshore wind developer, has made significant investments in the region. ChargePoint is at the forefront of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and Bloom Energy specializes in fuel cell technology and distributed generation.
- **Government/Research Anchors:** Key governmental and research institutions include the Department of Energy (DOE), which drives climate research and clean energy initiatives. NASA Goddard contributes through its earth observation and climate science programs, and the UMD provides extensive research in environmental engineering and renewable energy.

These strategic partners, representing both established industry leaders with deep roots and innovative new ventures pushing the boundaries of technology, will bring critical expertise, diverse resources, and substantial investment to the Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group. This collaborative effort is designed to accelerate the growth and amplify the impact of Prince George's County's burgeoning tech ecosystem, fostering a dynamic environment for innovation and economic development.

## Derivation:

An extensive evaluation of Prince George's County's innovation ecosystem revealed significant deficiencies hindering the retention of companies, particularly those in Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate and Energy Technology. These deficiencies include inadequate connectivity of fundamental infrastructure, such as high-speed internet and transportation networks, which struggle to meet the demands of a growing tech and innovation sector. Furthermore, a critical shortage of appropriate lab, prototyping, and tech spaces was identified, encompassing specialized facilities crucial for advanced computing research, manufacturing prototypes, and climate/energy technology development, as well as flexible collaborative environments for related technology companies. This lack of physical infrastructure directly impedes the ability of innovative companies in these sectors to expand and remain within the county.

Compounding these challenges are a heavy reliance on the federal government and a lack of tech procurement anchors. This refers to the absence of strong, established institutions (e.g., large corporations, universities with substantial research budgets, or government agencies with significant procurement needs) that can consistently offer business opportunities and provide a stable demand base for local innovation companies, particularly those specializing in Advanced Computing, Advanced Manufacturing, and Climate and Energy Technology. Without these anchors, startups and small businesses in these high-growth sectors face difficulties securing early contracts and building a sustainable client base, leading to higher rates of company attrition.

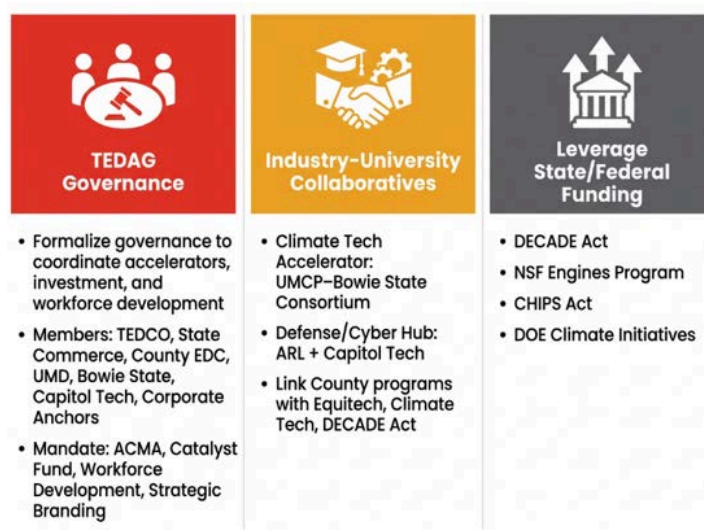


Figure 12 - TEDAG Implementation Strategies

## Implementation Strategies

- Formalize governance to coordinate accelerators, investment, and workforce development.
- Link programs with state-level funds (Equitech, Climate Tech, DECADE Act).
- Pilot joint industry-university accelerators (e.g., University of Maryland, College Park–Bowie State University consortium for climate tech).

The TEDAG will draw its membership from key institutions including TEDCO, the State Commerce Department, the County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), Bowie State University, Capitol Technology University, and various corporate anchors. Its core mandate will be to oversee critical initiatives such as the Advanced Computing and Manufacturing Accelerator (ACMA) program, the Catalyst Fund, workforce development efforts, and the strategic branding of innovation within the region.

Furthermore, fostering robust collaboration between industry and academia will be a cornerstone of this strategy. Specific examples include the development of a climate tech accelerator, a joint venture between the UMD and Bowie State University. Additionally, the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) will partner with Capitol Technology University to create a defense/cybersecurity venture hub, leveraging their respective strengths to drive advancements in these critical sectors.

Finally, a proactive approach will be taken to leverage available state and federal funding opportunities. This will involve aligning regional innovation efforts with significant legislative acts and initiatives, such as the DECADE Act, the National Science Foundation (NSF) Engines program, the CHIPS Act, and various climate initiatives spearheaded by the Department of Energy (DOE). By strategically tapping into these funding streams, the region can significantly amplify its innovation capabilities and achieve its long-term goals.







## Expected Impacts

The establishment of the Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group (TEDAG) is designed to generate measurable outcomes that extend far beyond coordination and governance. Its central role will be to translate Prince George's County's extraordinary research and institutional assets into tangible economic, workforce, and equity gains through deliberate public-private partnership activity.



Figure 13 - TEDAG Expected Outcomes

At its foundation, the TEDAG will improve commercialization pathways for federal R&D, ensuring that the breakthroughs emerging from NASA Goddard, the ARL, the FDA, and the UMD are systematically connected to private sector demand, startup acceleration, and investment pipelines. This alignment will provide a clear bridge between invention and market application, closing one of the County's most persistent ecosystem gaps.

Equally important, the TEDAG will create better alignment between county programs and Maryland's "Winning the Decade" lighthouse priorities. By anchoring its strategies to statewide economic development objectives in areas such as quantum computing, computational biology, and positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT), the Advisory Group will ensure that Prince George's County is fully integrated into statewide innovation pathways and positioned to capture state-level resources.

Through its governance structure, the TEDAG will establish clear oversight for the implementation of HB 306 strategic recommendations, providing a single decision-making hub for initiatives such as the Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator, the Catalyst Fund, and new workforce development programs. This governance capacity will not only streamline coordination but also create accountability and transparency across ecosystem actors.

**Beyond these structural outcomes, the TEDAG will catalyze several focused, high-impact results:**

- The advisory group will drive the expansion of lab and innovation space, co-designed with industry and universities, to ensure that entrepreneurs have access to the physical infrastructure necessary for prototyping, testing, and scaling technologies in sectors like climate tech and defense.
- By embedding startups into procurement pipelines, the TEDAG will foster procurement driven startup growth, enabling local firms to win contracts with federal labs, state agencies, and corporate anchors. This will anchor commercialization activity in the county while creating predictable revenue streams for early-stage firms.
- In collaboration with TEDCO, state funds, and federal initiatives such as the NSF Engines and CHIPS Act programs, the advisory group will build streamlined funding access, creating structured pipelines for startups to secure co-investment and layered capital. This will ensure that entrepreneurs can scale competitively within national markets.
- Through industry-academic partnerships, the TEDAG will establish talent development pipelines that prepare students and professionals for high-growth careers. Apprenticeships, credential programs, and dual-degree initiatives will link residents directly to emerging employment opportunities in advanced computing, advanced manufacturing, and climate technology.
- The advisory group will lead cross-sector pilot projects, launching joint demonstration initiatives such as NASA earth-data and AI platforms, ARL edge-computing testbeds for defense applications, and climate resilience pilots with regional utilities. These projects will not only validate cutting-edge technologies but also showcase the county's leadership in national priority sectors.
- By coordinating partnerships and investments, the TEDAG will bolster regional competitiveness, positioning Prince George's County as a central hub within the broader DMV innovation ecosystem. Its visibility will be reinforced through inclusion in regional innovation reports, rankings, and investor convenings.
- Finally, equity will be a guiding principle. The TEDAG will ensure increased equity in PPP benefits, guaranteeing that BIPOC- and women-led firms are systematically included in accelerator slots, pilot projects, procurement campaigns, and funding opportunities—aligning with the County's Disparity Study goals.



## **Additional impactful outcomes projected for the TEDAG roadmap include:**

- **Facilitate Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Break down traditional silos between academia, government research, industry, and funding sources, encouraging interdisciplinary projects and shared knowledge transfer.
- **Streamline Resource Allocation:** Optimize the deployment of financial, intellectual, and human capital by identifying shared priorities and avoiding redundant efforts.
- **Accelerate Technology Transfer and Commercialization:** Bridge the gap between research breakthroughs and market-ready solutions, translating innovation into economic growth and societal benefit.
- **Develop a Unified Innovation Roadmap:** Establish common goals and metrics for regional and national innovation initiatives, ensuring all parties are working towards a shared vision.
- **Attract and Retain Talent:** Cultivate an environment that draws top researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors, bolstering the region's competitive edge in the global innovation landscape.
- **Identify and Address Critical Gaps:** Proactively pinpoint areas where support or resources are lacking within the innovation pipeline and develop targeted interventions.
- **Promote Best Practices and Knowledge Sharing:** Encourage the dissemination of successful strategies and lessons learned across all participating organizations.
- **Enhance Policy and Regulatory Frameworks:** Advocate for and influence policies that support innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Collectively, these impacts establish the TEDAG as more than a governance body—it will be the engine that ties together innovation, investment, and inclusion, ensuring that Prince George's County not only participates in but leads Maryland's next era of technological and entrepreneurial growth.

## **Case Example**

North Carolina's Council for Entrepreneurial Development coordinates across universities, industry, and capital markets.

## Key Partners

- **Private Industry Partners:** Large Private Tech Corporations with substantial business in Prince George's County (Microsoft, IBM, Verizon, Northrop Grumman)
- **Capital Partners:** TEDCO, Dingman Angels, DMV Angels, Momentum Fund, Climate Tech Fund, and local banks and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)
- **Tech Industry Associations:** Cyber Maryland, Maryland Tech Council, Prince George's County Tech Council
- **Philanthropic Institutions:** Greater Washington Community Foundation, Meyer Foundation
- **Education Institutions:** University of Maryland, Bowie State University, Prince George's Community College, Capitol Technology University, Prince George's County Public Schools
- **Government and Public Sector:** (i.e. NASA Goddard, Joint Base Andrews, Army Research Lab, University of Maryland Medical System)



## Supporting Research

- Brookings Institute ITIF studies: cross-sector councils accelerate commercialization, especially where federal labs are present.
- Partnerships with UMD, Prince George's Community College, Bowie State University, University of Maryland Global Campus, and Capital Region Health as the backbone of an equitable innovation ecosystem.
- These partnerships must go beyond R&D to include workforce development, procurement, and real estate development that directly benefit local residents.
- Highlight the efficacy of existing partnerships such as Education Innovation Initiative (EI2) and Office of Information Technology Summer Youth programs as examples of how cross-sector collaboration is already creating STEAM pipelines.
- The 2024 Achievement Report emphasizes collaborations across the County's core priorities (Growth, Human Capital, Strong Places), which reflect public-private coordination to implement development strategy.
- Rising federal investment (FBI HQ relocation) opens pathways for cross-sector partnerships in commercialization and workforce training.
- The Greater Washington Partnership (GWP) features leaders from Dominion Energy, Capital One, DXC Technology, and others, indicating high-caliber institutional willingness to collaborate regionally.
- GWP Board/Investors include Amazon, Northrop Grumman, Capital One, Dominion Energy, Exelon/Pepco, Washington Gas, JBG SMITH, Inova, MedStar, Boeing, Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, Virginia Tech, Deloitte, EY, KPMG, McKinsey, and more—an onramp to corporate pilots, procurement, and sponsorships.
- Connected DMV's Potomac Quantum Innovation Center and regional quantum/AI convenings offer an immediate template for cross-jurisdiction R&D-to-market collaborations tied to UMD or IonQ.
- Federal site dynamics (USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center changes; FBI HQ reversal) argue for (1) defending/repurposing federal campuses as innovation assets, and (2) doubling down on programs anchored by NASA, ARL, UMD, where missions and funding remain strong.



## Policy Implications & Funding Requirements

To realize these recommendations, a coordinated policy framework between Prince George's County and the State of Maryland is essential. Both levels of government have roles to play, and alignment will maximize impact. We suggest the following to ensure effective collaboration:



### Policy and Legislation Alignment:

Coordination also means making sure county and state policies complement each other. In the past three years, several legislative moves have set the stage for HB 306 which commissioned this report, including: the state funded innovation infrastructure via the 2023 HB 552 (Chapter 430) ([mgaleg.maryland.gov](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov)), and launched inclusive tech programs via the Equitech Growth Fund (HB 781/SB 699 in 2023) ([tedcomd.com/funding/equitech-growth-fund](https://tedcomd.com/funding/equitech-growth-fund)), and others. At the county level, the Prince George's House Delegation and County Council have been supportive – in 2023, the Council backed the idea of an **Independent Innovation Agency (PG 401-23)** to promote innovation, and more recently the Council has shown willingness to use tools like Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for economic development projects. Going forward, the county should consider local legislation or resolutions to institutionalize support for innovation – for example, establishing a dedicated Innovation Investment Fund in the county budget or a requirement that a certain portion of any business incentive funding goes to tech sector development. Simultaneously, the state delegation can champion state bills that specifically benefit Prince George's County: a hypothetical **"Prince George's Tech Ecosystem Act"** could be envisioned to create state grants earmarked for the county's accelerators and startup fund (much like how the 2024 Pava LaPere Act targeted Baltimore's ecosystem). By communicating these needs early, the county can get them included in the state's legislative priorities. Continuous dialogue is key – for instance, coordinating policy recommendations focused on the implementation of the **Workgroup's final report due on January 15, 2026**, so that its recommendations translate into both county policy changes and state-level actions in the 2026 legislative session.





## Joint Funding Strategies:

Coordinated implementation will greatly benefit from braided funding – blending county, state, federal, and private dollars in strategic ways. We recommend that Prince George’s County and Maryland Department of Commerce co-create funding packages for big initiatives. For example, to stand up the Life Sciences Accelerator, the package could include: county funds for operations and lease (perhaps through the Economic Development Incentive Fund), state capital grants for build-out (via Build Our Future or MEDCO financing), a federal EDA grant for equipment, and a university contribution of staff or programming. By planning these collectively, each dollar leverages another.

Additionally, when pitching major projects (i.e., large biotech company to anchor in Prince George’s County), the county and state should present a unified incentive offer – this might combine state tax credits (like the More Jobs for Marylanders manufacturing incentive or R&D tax credits) with county property tax breaks or workforce training support. A recent example of state-county coordination is Maryland’s use of the Sunny Day Fund (Economic Development Opportunities Fund) to attract big investments; Prince George’s County should ensure it has shovel-ready projects and sites to propose when such opportunities arise. The ongoing **Blue Line Corridor revitalization** – a major development initiative – can also be leveraged to include innovation facilities (e.g. co-working spaces or tech training centers in new developments). By syncing that with state support, it could become an **Innovation Corridor** in practice, tying into the state’s concept of fostering innovation along transit-oriented developments.

In short, every initiative in the innovation plan should be viewed through a **partnership lens**: ask “what can the county do, and what complementary piece can the State do?” This prevents siloed efforts and makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.





# Leveraging Recent Legislation and Funding Sources

Fortunately, the policy environment over the last few years has become increasingly favorable for the kind of tech ecosystem development Prince George's County envisions. A brief overview of relevant legislation (2022–2025) and funding sources illustrates opportunities to seize:



## Maryland State Initiatives:

- Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023 (HB 552, Ch. 430) – Created the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program under the Department of Commerce. This program provides grants for infrastructure projects in “eligible technology sectors” and requires matching funds. It essentially helps finance incubators, research parks, and other facilities. Prince George's County should ensure it submits strong proposals to this program – for example, a joint application with UMD for a quantum tech lab, or with a hospital for a health-tech accelerator. This pilot program runs through 2026 with a report due on its economic impact, so demonstrating a successful Prince George's project could influence lawmakers to renew or expand it.
- TEDCO Equitech Growth Fund & Commission (HB 781/SB 699, 2023) – Created a fund and commission dedicated to growing an inclusive tech ecosystem (the term “Equitech” emphasizes equity in tech). This is very relevant to Prince George's given its diverse population. The fund can back initiatives that increase participation of underrepresented groups in entrepreneurship. For instance, it might fund a coding bootcamp at Prince George's Community College or an accelerator focused on minority founders. The county should maintain close ties with the Equitech Commission to channel programs into Prince George's County and possibly get representation on it.
- Climate Technology Founder's Fund (SB 960, 2024) – Established a fund under the Maryland Clean Energy Center to invest in early-stage climate tech startups. While statewide, this fund is a chance for Prince George's County to stake a claim in the growing clean energy sector. County economic development officials could partner with the Clean Energy Center to host info sessions so that local entrepreneurs apply. Moreover, if county-based incubators start emphasizing climate tech, they could become feeders for this fund. It's both a funding source and a sign that “green innovation” is a priority area (which the county can align with, as discussed).

- Pava LaPere Legacy Innovation Act (SB 473/HB 582, 2024) – Created the Innovation Acceleration Grant Program for startups founded by university students in the Baltimore metro area, and a Baltimore Innovation Initiative under the Maryland Innovation Initiative. While this legislation is metro-specific, its passage sets a precedent for regional innovation support. It shows that the General Assembly is willing to target resources geographically for ecosystem building. Prince George’s County should advocate for a similar program for the D.C. metro/Prince George’s-Montgomery area – perhaps via a new bill or an amendment to expand the current program statewide. In the meantime, local universities (like Bowie State University or UMD) could replicate the concept with county backing (e.g. a mini-grant for student startups in the county).
- Other Ongoing Programs: Maryland’s longstanding programs shouldn’t be forgotten – the **Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF)** offers loans and grants that could be tapped for large projects; the **Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS)** program provides funding for companies teaming with university researchers (great for fostering innovation with UMD); and tax credit programs (R&D Tax Credit, Biotechnology Investor Credit, etc.) continue to attract companies and investors. **The Sunny Day Fund (“Economic Development Opportunities Fund”)** got a \$25 million infusion in 2025 – those dollars could help tip a major employer or lab expansion into Prince George’s County if used strategically. Also, Governor Moore’s FY2026 budget emphasizes workforce and key industries with \$128.5 million in targeted investments – staying attuned to how those are allocated (quantum, advanced manufacturing, etc.) will help the county steer some of that for local benefit.



## Prince George's County Actions:

The county has already taken steps to support innovation:

- **Legislative Support for Innovation Agency (2023):** The County Council's General Assembly Committee (the Council) in January 2023 voted to support (with amendments) the creation of an "Independent Innovation Agency" (PG 401-23). Although that specific proposal evolved into the state-led Workgroup, the Council's support signaled local political will to prioritize tech-led economic development. Moving forward, the Council can pass a resolution to adopt the Workgroup's recommendations formally and commit to funding key pieces (such as including accelerator funding in the county budget). Council Member Jolene Ivey and others already showed interest by co-sponsoring innovation topics; maintaining bipartisan support will be important.
- **Economic Development Strategic Plan (2022):** The County's Economic Development Strategic Action Plan (March 2022) identified target industries and the need to improve the business climate for growth. While not law, this plan complements the innovation strategy – both aim to diversify the economy and reduce the county's historical reliance on government jobs. It provides a foundation (e.g. focusing on transit-oriented development like the Blue Line Corridor and improving permitting processes) that will make the county more attractive to tech firms and talent. Ensuring consistency between that plan's implementation and the new innovation initiatives will avoid duplication and conflict.
- **Financial Tools:** Prince George's County has used instruments like Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and revenue bonds to spur development (e.g. the Mill Branch Crossing project in Bowie). Similar tools could be considered for innovation projects – for instance, creating a TIF district around an emerging innovation hub to finance infrastructure (fiber optic broadband, incubator facilities, etc.), or using PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements to help a major tech employer set up in the county. The County's Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund, a revolving loan fund established years ago, might be oriented more toward retail and commercial projects currently, but dedicating a portion of it to tech startups or scale-ups (through low-interest loans or grants) could be a game-changer. Additionally, partnering with neighboring jurisdictions on regional initiatives (such as the Gateway Arts District which spans Prince George's County and D.C.) can unlock Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) grants or other regional support.



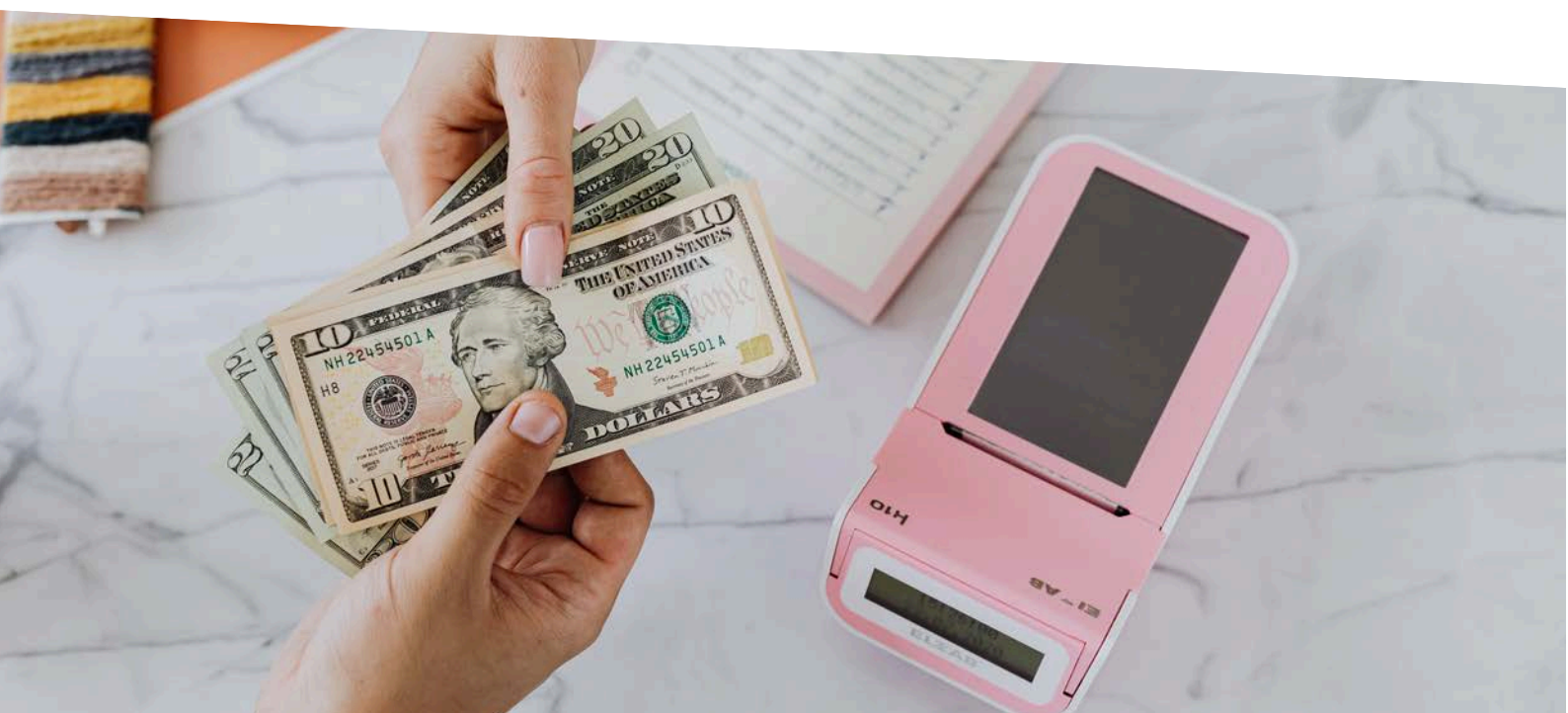
## Federal and Private Funding:

While not legislation, it's worth noting other sources that a coordinated state-county strategy should pursue.

The U.S. CHIPS and Science Act and related federal tech initiatives are channeling billions into regional innovation hubs (especially in semiconductors, wireless, AI). Maryland is actively seeking some of this funding; Prince George's County, with its proximity to federal labs, could partake in federal tech hub designations or manufacturing institutes.

As mentioned, engaging the philanthropic sector (e.g. the Cafritz Foundation, Meyer Foundation, etc.) could bring funds for entrepreneurship training in disadvantaged communities. Corporations with a Maryland presence (like Northrop Grumman, Google, Marriott, etc.) might have interest in sponsoring innovation initiatives as part of their community engagement. A coordinated ask – perhaps led by the County Executive – could invite major employers to underwrite parts of the innovation ecosystem (e.g. a corporate-sponsored tech incubator or an annual startup award).

By knitting together these legislative supports and funding streams, Prince George's County can accelerate the implementation of its innovation agenda. Each piece of legislation or program becomes a building block: state grants build facilities, county policies create a supportive environment, and outside funds add fuel to the fire. It is a complex but achievable puzzle – one that requires vigilance (to spot opportunities) and collaboration (to bring partners together).





## 6. Next Steps Community Action Plan

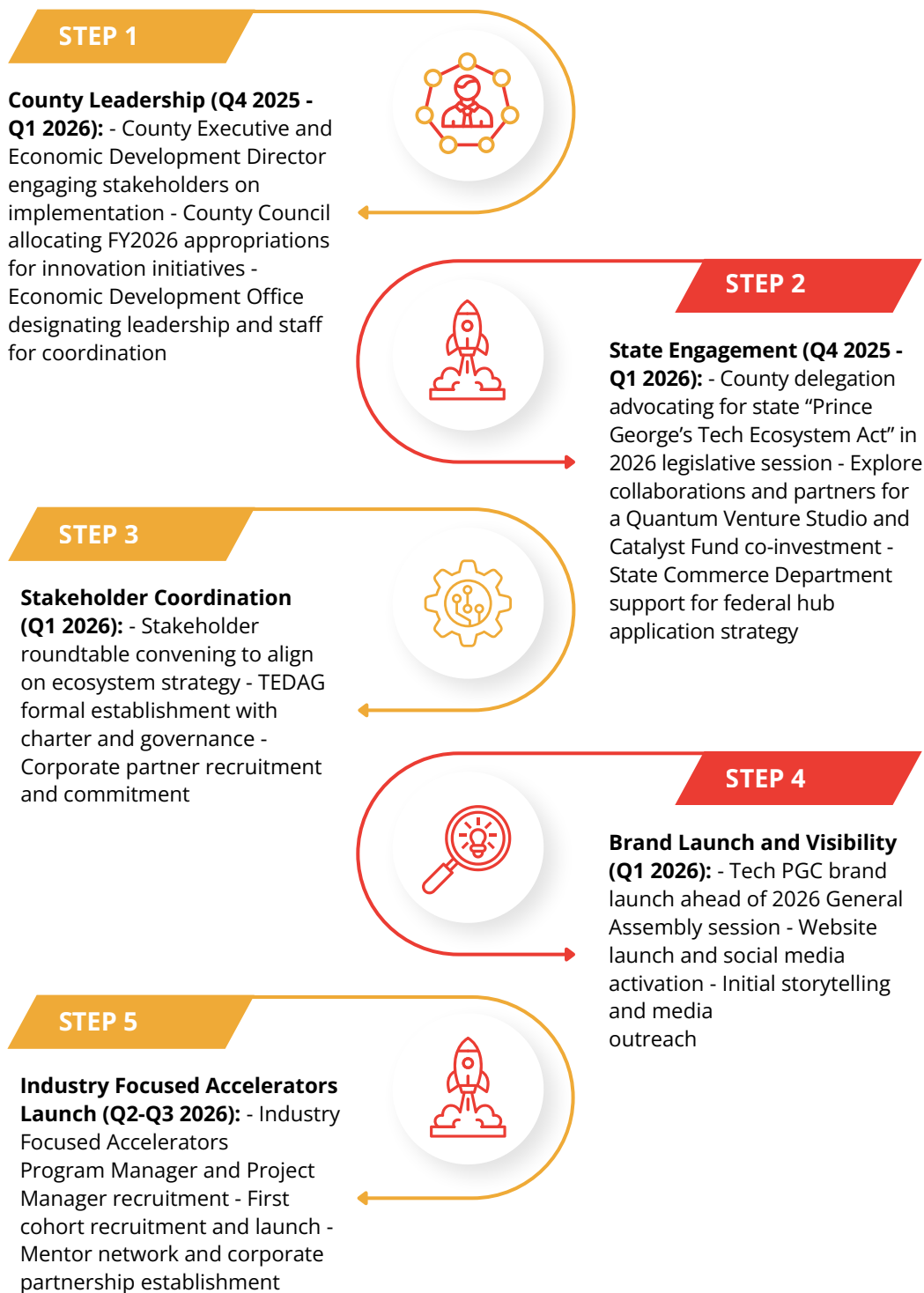
Building on the momentum established through the Innovation Workgroup's recommendations, the next phase of this effort focuses on translating strategy into coordinated, high-impact action. Implementation will require deliberate collaboration across public, private, academic, and community partners to ensure that the innovation ecosystem grows in both scale and inclusivity. Immediate priorities include formalizing a Deal Committee to operationalize the expansion of early-stage funding and investment through the Angel Network and Catalyst Fund, engaging Experience Prince George's to lead the branding and storytelling components of the Tech PGC initiative, and activating ecosystem convenings that align regional assets with state and federal innovation priorities. These actions, paired with tangible deliverables such as the publication of an Ecosystem Asset Map, Target Sector Alignment Map, and Investor Dashboard, will provide transparency, coordination, and visibility to the county's innovation infrastructure. By launching the Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator (ACMA) pilot and expanding participation in the UMD Climate Tech Accelerator, Prince George's County will take critical steps toward establishing itself as Maryland's next innovation hub—one that is connected, equitable, and future-ready.





This report is submitted to the Maryland General Assembly in fulfillment of HB 306's legislative mandate. But it is not an end—it is a beginning.

## The immediate path forward requires:



These immediate steps (Q4 2025 - Q3 2026) establish the foundation and generate early momentum. Sustained implementation over the following 3-4 years creates the mature ecosystem enabling the vision.

## 7. Conclusion

Prince George's County is positioned to lead Maryland's next wave of innovation. By advancing the four objectives—emerging industries, early-stage investment, partnerships, and identity—the county can deliver on HB 306's legislative intent, align with state strategies, and create a more equitable, prosperous innovation ecosystem.

However, realizing this vision will require sustained commitment, cross-sector coordination, and continued investment in both people and infrastructure. The recommendations outlined in this report establish a clear framework for how Prince George's County can transition from planning to execution—anchored by public-private partnerships, guided by inclusive governance, and driven by measurable impact. Central to this effort will be the activation of flagship initiatives such as the Advanced Computing & Manufacturing Accelerator (ACMA), the Prince George's Angel Network and Catalyst Fund, and the Tech Ecosystem Development Advisory Group. Together, these programs form the connective tissue that links innovation assets, funding mechanisms, and entrepreneurial talent into a unified system of growth.

The opportunity is not merely to participate in Maryland's innovation economy but to define it—by leveraging its unparalleled diversity, federal research anchors, and academic strengths to create a model ecosystem rooted in equity and excellence. This requires a long term approach: one that embeds innovation into local policy, incentivizes collaboration between universities and industry, and amplifies the stories of homegrown entrepreneurs through the Tech PGC brand.

As these recommendations move toward implementation, the continued leadership of the Innovation Workgroup, in collaboration with TEDCO, the State Department of Commerce, and local institutions, will be critical. Their collaboration will ensure that innovation in Prince George's County is not an abstract ideal but a measurable, lived reality—manifested in thriving startups, expanded capital access, cutting-edge research translation, and inclusive economic mobility.

In short, this strategy positions Prince George's County to not only meet the challenges of today's innovation landscape but to chart a new, sustainable course for Maryland's economic future—one that is bold, connected, and distinctly Prince George's County.

## Call to Action

Realizing this vision requires commitment and partnership across multiple stakeholders:

**County Government** must commit resources, implement supportive policy, and coordinate implementation. County Executive support and County Council appropriations are essential.

**State Government and Legislature** must pass supporting legislation (“Prince George’s Tech Ecosystem Act”), appropriate state matching funds for Catalyst Fund, and coordinate TEDCO collaboration.

**Federal Agencies** should advance regional tech hub and clean energy hub applications, provide research funding and support, and coordinate federal procurement pathways.

**Corporate Anchors** must participate in TEDAG, provide pilot projects and partnerships for ventures, contribute mentorship and resources, and signal commitment to ecosystem development.

**Capital Providers** must activate angel networks, participate in Catalyst Fund co-investment, deploy capital to county ventures, and share deal flow and investment intelligence.

**Educational Institutions** must contribute faculty mentorship, provide research partnerships, develop workforce programs, and support student entrepreneurs. Community Members must participate in programming, support local entrepreneurs, engage with ecosystem development, and champion the vision locally and regionally. Each stakeholder plays an essential role. The ecosystem succeeds only through collective commitment and contribution.

## The Transformation Ahead

The transformation of Prince George's County into Maryland's next great tech and entrepreneurship hub is neither impossible nor distant. It is achievable within 3-5 years with sustained commitment and strategic execution.

By 2027-2028, Prince George's County can be:

- Recognized regionally as premier technology innovation destination
- Attracting venture capital and corporate investment at scale
- Creating thousands of jobs and meaningful economic opportunity
- Advancing research from laboratory to market
- Building equity by ensuring opportunity accessible to all
- Establishing Maryland's most inclusive, excellent innovation ecosystem

By 2030, the county can achieve:

- Federal regional tech hub designation and \$100M+ in federal support
- \$50-100M+ annual venture investment activity
- 1000+ jobs created from ecosystem initiatives
- National recognition in quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, climate technology
- Model for innovation ecosystems combining excellence with equity

This is not utopian vision—it is realistic, grounded in proven models, achievable with committed execution.

## The Distinctly Prince George's Future

The recommendations outlined in this report are not about copying other regions. They are about leveraging Prince George's County's distinctive assets—federal research leadership, quantum computing excellence, diversity, federal procurement opportunities, academic strength—to create a **distinctly Prince George's County** innovation ecosystem.

This ecosystem will be:

- **Grounded in federal research strength**, using government laboratories as catalysts for venture development
- **Anchored in academic excellence**, leveraging university research and diverse talent pipelines
- **Rooted in equity**, ensuring opportunity accessible to founders from all communities
- **Focused on measurable impact**, creating jobs, deploying capital, building wealth locally
- **Sustained by partnership**, connecting public and private sector toward shared vision
- **Celebrated with pride**, establishing innovation culture visible and celebrated county-wide

This distinctly Prince George's County approach will serve as a model for other communities seeking to develop innovation ecosystems combining excellence with equity, federal strength with entrepreneurial dynamism, research depth with commercial viability.

## Continued Collaboration is Crucial

This report represents the culmination of the HB 306 Workgroup's efforts. But its true value lies in implementation—translating recommendations into action, strategy into outcomes, vision into reality.

Realizing this vision requires continued collaboration among the Workgroup members, TEDCO, Maryland Department of Commerce, county government, corporate partners, universities, capital providers, and community members.

The Independent Innovation Workgroup should:

- Monitor implementation progress against Community Action Plan
- Provide continued guidance and course-correction as needed
- Serve as accountability mechanism ensuring sustained focus
- Engage stakeholders in continuous improvement
- Report regularly on progress toward goals

This continued collaboration ensures the recommendations move from planning to execution, generating thriving startups, expanded capital access, research translation, and inclusive economic mobility—fulfilling HB 306's legislative intent and the county's economic development priorities.

## Final Statement

Prince George's County is uniquely positioned to lead Maryland's next wave of innovation. The county possesses the assets, the partners, the opportunity, and now—with these recommendations—the strategy.

What is required now is **action**. Bold, committed, sustained action rooted in partnership and guided by measurement. Action that positions the county to capture its rightful share of innovation investment. Action that creates pathways for all residents to participate in the innovation economy. Action that builds wealth and opportunity locally, retaining high-growth ventures and talent within the county.

By implementing these recommendations with commitment and partnership, Prince George's County will chart a **bold and connected course** for Maryland's economic future.

The time for action is now. The opportunity is real. The vision is clear. The path is mapped.

Let's build Maryland's next innovation powerhouse in Prince George's County.



# APPENDIX A - Potential Private Sector Partners for the PGC Tech Ecosystem

## Supporting Details

### General

- **Verizon** (longstanding telecom anchor in Prince George's County)
- **DXC Technology**
- **Under Armour** (Maryland-based consumer tech and athletics)

### Advanced Computing & Dual-use / A&D

- **Amazon (AWS)** — cloud credits, AI/ML programs, public-sector practice; HQ2 proximity aids talent pipelines.
- **Northrop Grumman** — defense/space supply chains, advanced manufacturing collaborations; talent & supplier development.
- **Boeing** — aerospace R&D, supplier inclusion, flight systems; potential prototyping pilots with ARL/UMD.
- **Capital One** — regional data/AI expertise, fintech sandboxes, workforce upskilling partnerships.

### Climate & Energy / Infrastructure

**Exelon / Pepco** — Capital Grid modernization, beneficial electrification pilots, Distributed Energy Resources integration; direct fit for grid tech demos.

**Washington Gas (AltaGas)** — pipeline integrity, hydrogen pilots; workforce and safety tech.

**Dominion Energy** — large-scale renewables/storage know-how; regional R&D ties.

**WSSC Water** — biosolids/energy recovery, leak detection; innovation procurement models (regional anchor).

## Health/Computational Bio & Cross-Sector

**MedStar Health • Inova** — clinical data/AI pilots; procurement as first-customer partners.

**Under Armour** — performance materials/IoT wearables; brand reach for county innovation identity (regional anchor).

## Place & Platform Enablers

**JBG SMITH** — innovation space, testbed real estate (edge/5G); event sponsorship.

**Clark Construction** — design-build for labs/accelerators (e.g., UMD IDEA Factory precedent); Environmental, Social, and Governance supplier diversity.

**Deloitte • EY • KPMG • McKinsey** — pro-bono/paid advisory, venture design, procurement pathways; sponsor demo days.

**Lockheed Martin, Boeing, General Dynamics, RTX, Leidos, SAIC, Booz Allen, CACI** (defense/tech giants with regional operations).

## Quantum & Regional Orgs

Connected DMV's Potomac Quantum Innovation Center — quantum convenings, talent pathways, corporate coalitioning, event coordination (Quantum World Congress)

## APPENDIX B - Objective 3 – Expand Early-Stage Funding & Investment Supporting Details

**Recommendation:** Launch a Prince George’s County Angel Network and Catalyst Fund to increase identification, education, and activation of angel investors interested in local startups.

**Justification:** Without a localized angel/catalyst fund, local firms will continue missing out on regional capital flows, reinforcing equity gaps.

### Context & Rationale

Early-stage capital is fragmented. County founders face small round sizes and low angel activity—hence the need for a structured angel on-ramp and pooled vehicles. Capital access is the most cited barrier for entrepreneurs in the county. While \$1.46 billion has been raised since 2019, angel deals make up only 4.4% of activity, with a median size of \$320,000.

#### The 2025 Angel Investor Survey confirmed the problem:

- 100% of respondents were interested in investing locally.
- 0% had made investments in Prince George’s County startups in the last three years.
- **Barriers cited:** lack of data, limited syndication opportunities, need for tax incentives.
- Angel-backed deals in Prince George’s County remain rare (4.4% of deal flow).
- **Survey data:** investors want co-investment syndicates, data access, and tax incentives.
- Kauffman Foundation: angel groups fill critical \$500K–\$2M funding gap.

### Supporting Research

- **Angel Capital Association:** structured angel networks increase investment volume 3–5x over informal angels.
- **Kauffman Foundation:** Angel groups are key in bridging the \$500,000 – \$2 million “capital gap.”

- **Baltimore Angels:** Demonstrates how a regional group, combined with TEDCO programs, can build deal flow.
- TEDCO's Pre-Seed Builder Fund demonstrates impact of small, equity-aligned funding to diverse founders.
- Venture capital is highly concentrated in the DC metro region (\$6 billion over 2011–2015), yet Prince George's County startups received very little of this flow.
- Rising stresses that "venture capital, angel investment, and public financing are integral to the creation and growth of the small companies that are the bedrock of innovation clusters."
- The report also underscores the need for targeted support for entrepreneurs of color and low-income founders, who face persistent barriers to capital.
- While county-specific data on angel networks wasn't found in recent sources, the grant awards to HighT-Tech and Medcura suggest growing institutional confidence in local startups, implying opportunity for matched early-stage programs like a Catalyst Fund.
- National data emphasize that organized angel groups and hybrid models (member checks and sidecar funds) mobilize larger annual investment than informal networks; Angel Capital Association's Angel Funders work underscores structures, diversification, and data discipline.
- Kauffman's recent capital access work points to building market infrastructure (investor education, syndication platforms, data) as essential to closing early-stage gaps for underrepresented founders—highly relevant to Prince George's County equity goals.
- The long-standing Baltimore Angels network (currently paused for new deals) illustrates both the historic appetite and the current gap—strengthening the case for a Prince George's County-centered group linked to Dingman Center Angels, DMV-wide syndicates, and TEDCO co-investment.

## APPENDIX C - Objective 2 – Foundational: Foster a Bold Innovation Identity & Community Supporting Details

**Recommendation:** Launch a unified Tech PGC brand and event series to increase visibility, inspiration, and grassroots participation.

**Justification:** A unified innovation identity and high-visibility events are necessary to translate latent innovation into community-wide pride, investor confidence, and equitable participation.

### Context & Rationale

While Prince George's County has strong innovation assets, it lacks a unified identity that resonates regionally and nationally. Ecosystem perception affects whether investors, entrepreneurs, and talent see an area as a place to grow. Place-based identity around corridors and anchors is the glue that turns assets into a visible, investable ecosystem.

### Actions

- **Prince George's Innovation Summit** – annual convening of investors, startups, and anchors.
- **Innovation Pop-Ups** – grassroots events across the county to democratize innovation access.
- **Storytelling & Spotlights** – quarterly success features on local startups, labs, and investment wins.
- **Equity Benchmark:** channel at least 30% of investments to underrepresented founders by Year 3.

### Supporting Research

- Ecosystem identity is critical for talent attraction (Startup Genome, 2022).
- **Startup Genome (2022):** Cities with a clear ecosystem identity attract more venture capital.
- The Disparity Study also highlights the importance of ensuring equity in participation and access.



- Prince George’s Rising Report warns of the “gap between capacity and visibility” — the county produces research and invention but lacks the commercialization and narrative strength of peer regions.
- Branding and visibility efforts should highlight unique county strengths (e.g., “Home of Quantum Computing Breakthroughs” at UMD, or “Where Space and Earth Science Innovators Unite” at NASA Goddard).
- Community engagement programs like Tech Prince George’s and STEAM enrichment efforts show how grassroots identity-building can be expanded.
- Federal/state agendas (NASA earth science, MD climate targets, MD Manufacturing 4.0) and regional quantum leadership give Prince George’s County a distinct positioning: “Where Earth data, advanced computing, and resilient infrastructure converge.”
- Utility and water-infrastructure investments provide ongoing demo days in the wild— co-branded pilots that make the brand tangible.

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All Rights Reserved.**

**TEDCO (Maryland Technology Development Corporation)  
10960 Grantchester Way, Suite 120  
Columbia, MD 21044  
410-740-9442  
Prince George's County Independent Innovation  
Workgroup Report**



## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Anacostia Trails Heritage Area: PGC250

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

---

Members of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) will discuss the organization's mission, goals, current projects and upcoming events with an emphasis on the upcoming PGC250 commemoration.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 20260302 - Bowie - Heritage Area Pres - 3-26
2. 20260302 - PGC250



# Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

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Presentation to the City of Bowie  
March 2, 2026

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**Founded in 1998**

**Non-profit 501c3**

**Two full-time staff**

**State Service Corps Members**

**Work countywide & beyond**

**Grantmakers**

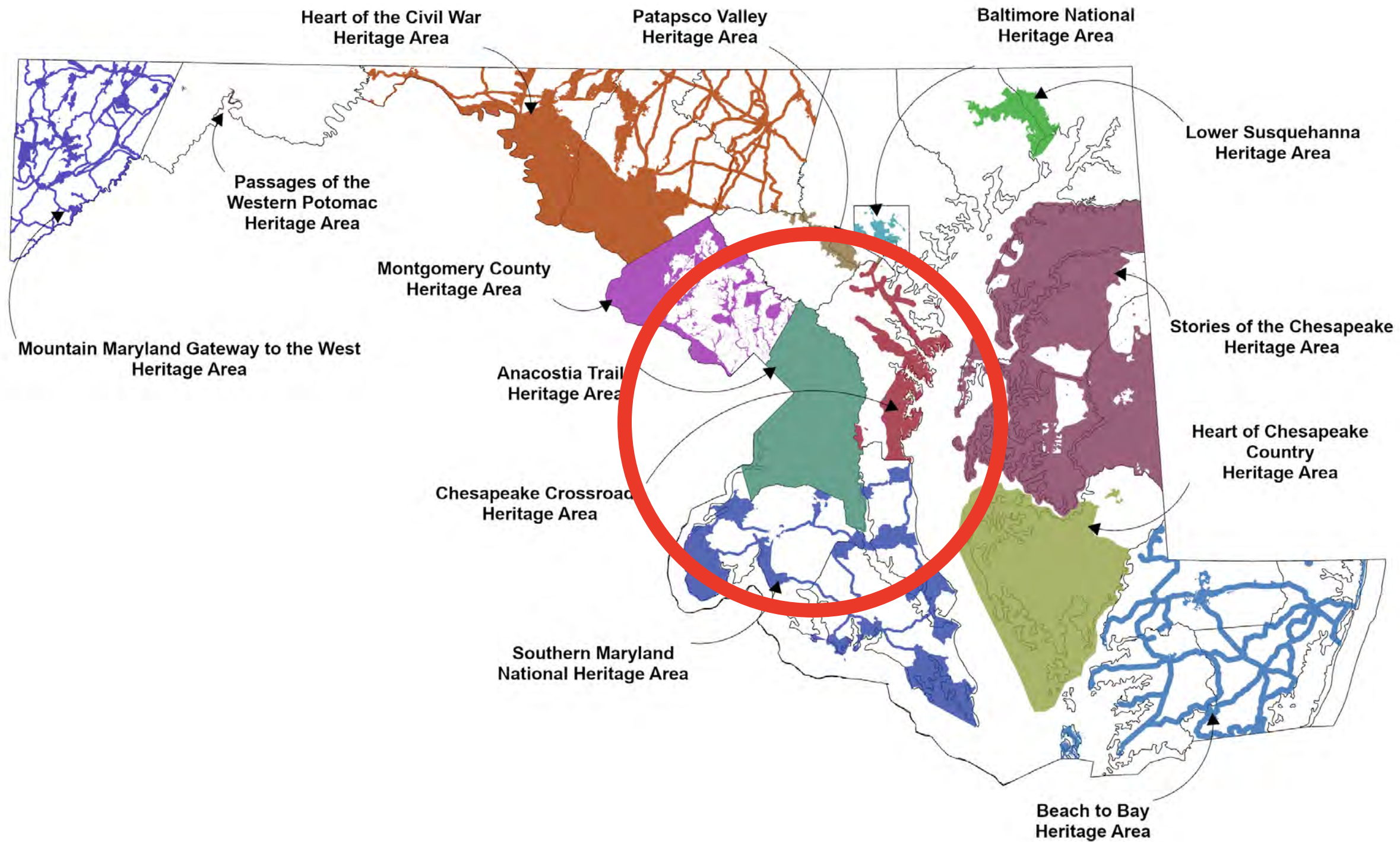
**Annual & special events**

**Project partnerships**





# MARYLAND STATE HERITAGE AREAS





# Community Tourism

Community-based tourism is owned, run and benefits the community in which it sits.

## // RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

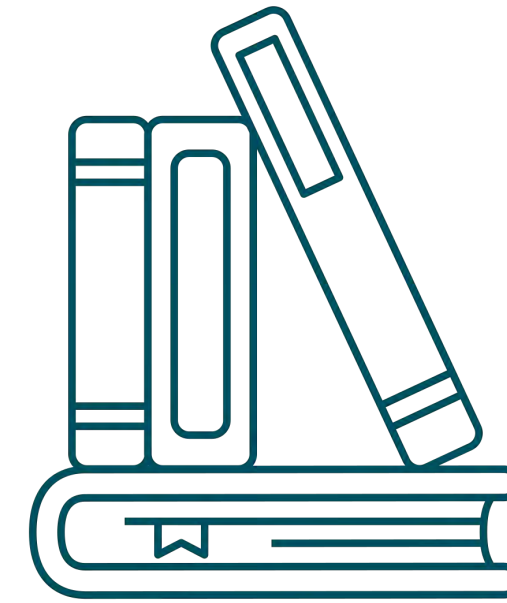
Community tourism refers to travel experiences owned, led and run by communities – non-profits, cooperatives, social enterprises.

## // PLANTERRA





# Example Heritage Area Projects & Programs



## **PUBLIC HISTORY**

**Civil Rights Movement**

Women's Suffrage

War of 1812



# CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

1960

## BELAIR-AT-BOWIE HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

In October 1960, real estate firm Levitt & Sons opened Belair-at-Bowie to prospective buyers.

William J. Levitt was one of the most successful developers in the country. His mass-produced suburban communities enabled many Americans after World War II to achieve the dream of homeownership. However, Levitt enforced a strict **WHITES ONLY** policy shutting Black homebuyers out of this dream.

Belair-at-Bowie was no different. By 1963, over 2,000 homes were occupied, but Black homebuyers were turned away. In 1962, the Kennedy administration through executive order banned segregation in federally funded housing, but Levitt stood by his policy. That year, Karl D. Gregory, an economist working for the Kennedy Administration and an activist with the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE), put the policy to the test

by filing a complaint with the Federal Housing Administration after being turned away at Levitt's sales office. However, Levitt found a loophole that exempted him from desegregation because the development was funded prior to the executive order's enactment.

CORE organized a summer-long protest. At its peak, **150 PROTESTERS** picketed Levitt's sales office. In the end, Levitt didn't budge. It was the latest protest in a long campaign to desegregate Levitt's developments with limited success. It wasn't until 1968, following Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, that Levitt gave up his policy, citing his decision as a tribute to the civil rights leader. By this point, Levitt had sold his company, and President Johnson would soon sign the Civil Rights Act banning housing discrimination outright.

The Prince George's County Civil Rights Trail is a public history project focused on regional sites and stories of the national Civil Rights Movement (1954-1964). Each sign details the experiences of Black Marylanders as they fought against segregation and for equality. We recognize that this struggle continues and believe that by illuminating these moments in history, we can increase cultural understanding and inspire acts of reconciliation.



Protest at Levitt & Sons sales office.  
(AP Photo/William J. Smith)



Counter-protests occurred along Sussex Lane where the largest model home was also the sales office.  
(Reprinted with permission of the DC Public Library, Star Collection (c) Washington Post)



Karl D. Gregory meets with agents of the Belair-at-Bowie development.  
(Reprinted with permission of the DC Public Library, Star Collection (c) Washington Post)



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL  
BY VISITING [PGCCIVILRIGHTS.ORG](https://pgccivilrights.org)

This project was completed by Anacostia Trails Heritage Area/Maryland Milestones in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Black History Program and the Prince George's County History Consortium with funding from the National Park Service and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Research and writing by Alexander Brinkley, Nathan Dennis, and Leigh Walters. Special thanks to Carl War Trails, Duzell E. Brooks Elementary School, Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, The Griffin Estate, Hyattsville CDC, Laurel Historical Society, Laurel History Bays, Openlands, Prince George's County Historical Society, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Town of Upper Marlboro Historic Committee.



# Example Heritage Area Projects & Programs

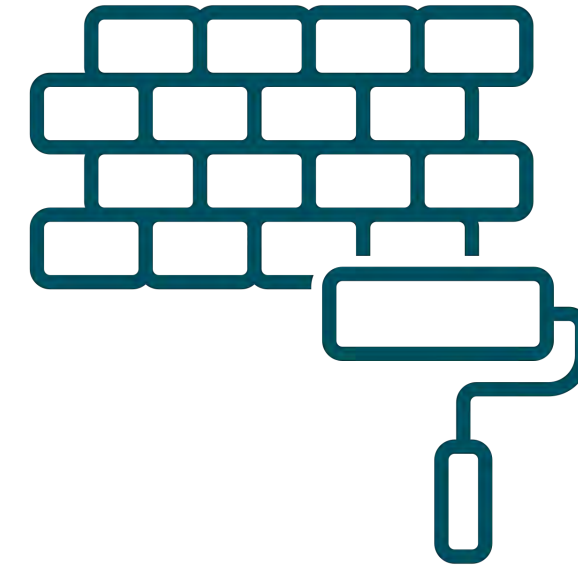


## TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

**Bowie Heritage Trail**  
Trolley Trail Extension  
Duelling Creek Trail  
Greenbelt East Trail



# Example Heritage Area Projects & Programs



## **PUBLIC ART**

Murals & Sculptures  
Monuments  
Placemaking

# Example Heritage Area Projects & Programs

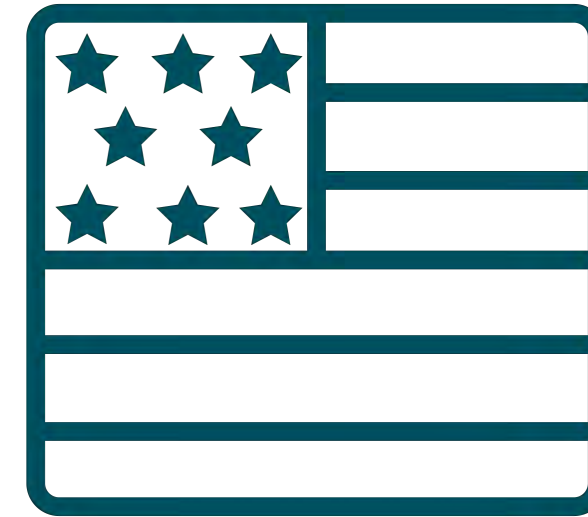


## **REDEVELOPMENT**

Historic Preservation  
Property Research  
Grant Partnerships



## Example Heritage Area Projects & Programs



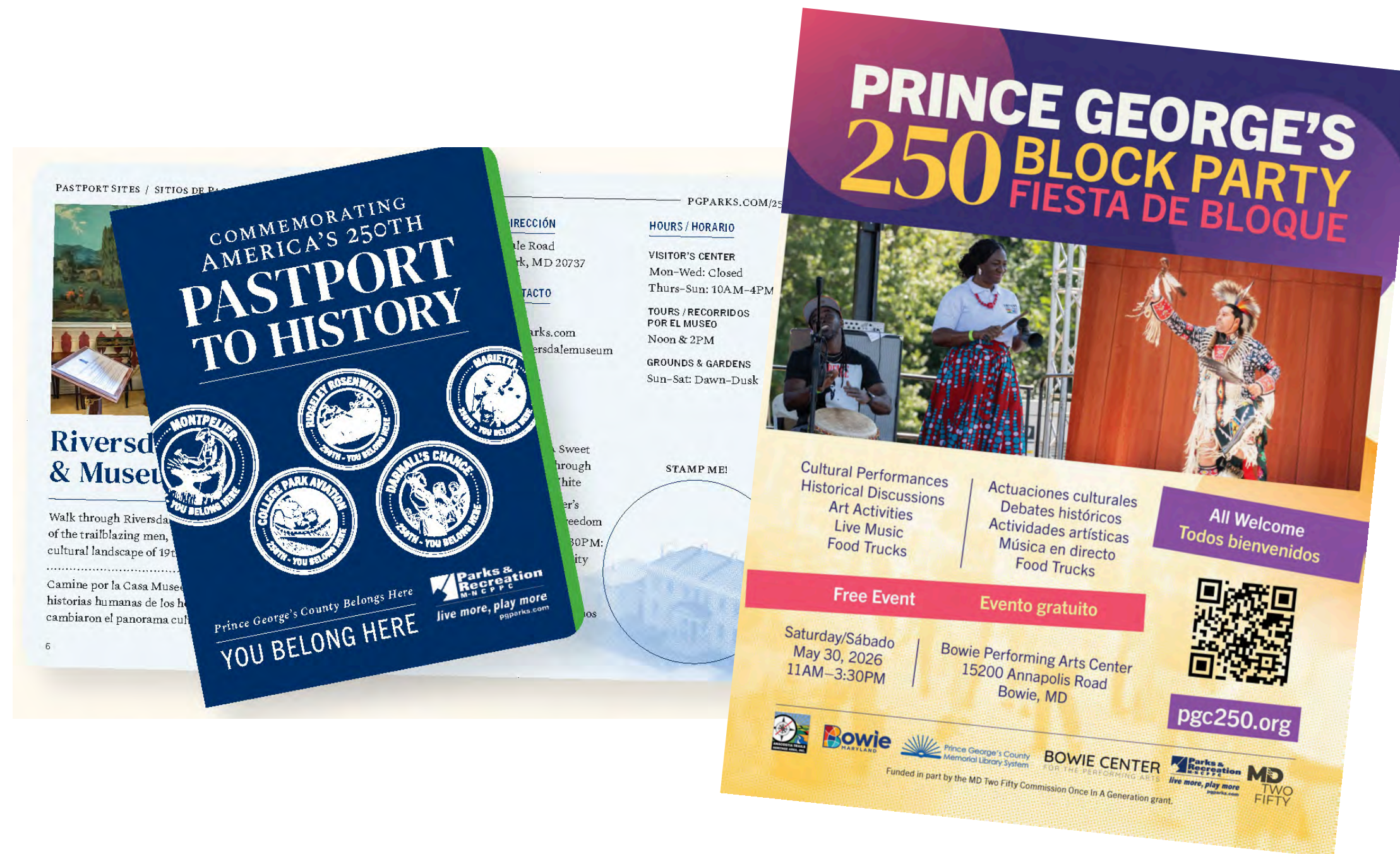
### **SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL**

Genealogy Workshops  
Bike Rides & Boat Tours  
Public Block Party



# WORKSHOPS, EVENTS & PASTPORT

## WWW.PGC250.ORG







# Grants

## **STATE GRANTS FROM HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY**

- Capital \$100k & Non-cap \$50k
  - Old Greenbelt Theatre
  - Historic Cemeteries

## **ROCKET GRANTS FROM ATHA**

- Non-capital up to \$5k
  - Bike to Work Day
  - Greenbelt Online
  - Friends of Greenbelt East
  - Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program





# Working Together

Member of City Council, a City employee, and/or up to two resident volunteers are invited to our Board as a member of the Municipal Advisory Committee

Non-voting  
Meets 2x annually  
Timely resource sharing

**MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**





**Thank you!**

Meagan Baco, Executive Director  
Anacostia Trails Heritage Area  
[meagan@anacostiatrails.org](mailto:meagan@anacostiatrails.org)

**[anacostiatrails.org](http://anacostiatrails.org)**







## COMMEMORATING AMERICA 250 IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY 2026 MEETING DATES AND TIMES

The United States Semiquincentennial is the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence which will occur on July 4, 2026. In 2023, Gov. Moore authorized the Maryland 250 Commission and charged it with developing, encouraging, and executing an inclusive observance of the 250th Anniversary that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness before, during, and after the Revolution, *and identified three themes - history, civics, and service.*

In Prince George's County, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), the non-profit management entity of the county's state-certified cultural tourism district, and the Department of Parks and Recreation of Prince George's County of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission created the PGC250 initiative to spark ideas and partnerships to creatively illustrate and interpret our County's contributions to American history. The theme for Prince George's commemoration is "We the People" – recognizing all people's experiences in Prince George's County. **Learn more, join, and share the effort** <https://www.pgc250.org/>

### MEETING DATES:

Friday, January 16 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, February 20 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, March 20 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, May 15 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Friday, August 21 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, September 18 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, October 16 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, November 20 at 10:30 a.m.  
Friday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m.

All meetings to be held at the Bowie Branch Library, 15210 Annapolis Rd Bowie, MD 20715

### By ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88622583289?pwd=I9iM7wNw93wu4NAey9wOWN5hbae2Ze.1>

Meeting ID: 886 2258 3289

Passcode: 543045

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,88622583289#,,, \*543045# US (Washington DC)



Dear Community Partner,

**PGC250 is hosting a We the People block party on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to commemorate Prince George's County's history, arts, culture and more. We are inviting you and your organization! We hope you will be able to provide engaging activities for community members to commemorate and observe the United States' Semiquincentennial. Prince George's County's history is American history.**

The United States Semiquincentennial is the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence which will occur on July 4, 2026. In 2023, Gov. Moore authorized the Maryland 250 Commission and charged it with developing, encouraging, and executing an inclusive observance of the 250th Anniversary that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness before, during, and after the Revolution, and identified three themes - history, civics, and service.

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**WHAT: We the People – Prince George's 250 Block Party**

**WHEN: Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**WHERE: The Bowie Center for Performing Arts and the Bowie Branch Library, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715 and 15210 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715**

**Events/activations we are looking to include:**

- Exhibits – Info/Activities
- Community Arts Project
- Cultural Performances
- PGCPH History Day Reports and Youth Events
- Panel Discussion
- Cultural Vendors

**Please send your proposals by visiting <https://www.pgc250.org/events/blockparty> or contact Valerie Woodall at [valerie@anacostiatrills.org](mailto:valerie@anacostiatrills.org).**

Brochures and materials will list all "participating organizations and businesses." To be recognized on materials, please submit your program information by January 31, 2026.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cabrera  
Assistant Division Chief  
M-NCPPC

Meagan Baco  
Executive Director  
Anacostia Trails Heritage Area



**Offered Virtually:**

January 15

February 4

February 19

**In-Person Bus Tour:**

March 7



*We the People*

## **Genealogy For All Workshop Series & Resource Bus Tour**

**Attend one or all. Free.**

**Hosted by Prince George's 250, coordinated by Anacostia Trails Heritage Area**

**Register: <https://www.pgc250.org/events/genealogy-series>**

**MD TWO FIFTY**  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

The United States Semiquincentennial is the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence which will occur on July 4, 2026. In 2023, Gov. Moore authorized the Maryland 250 Commission and charged it with developing, encouraging, and executing an inclusive observance of the 250th Anniversary that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness before, during, and after the Revolution, and identified three themes - history, civics, and service. The theme for Prince George's Commemoration is "We the People."

As part of PGC250, ATHA, together with Prince George's Genealogical Society and the Prince George's Chapter of the African American Historical and Genealogical Society will host a four-part series to explore the world of ancestry. This series is perfect for people who are new to genealogical research, seeking comradery in their research or are interested in learning different perspectives to historical narratives. Learn more: <https://www.pgc250.org/events/genealogy-series>

### **Made You Look: Genealogy Research 101 [RSVP HERE](#)**

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 7PM-8:30PM, Presented on Zoom

Lead by Heather Olsen, Vice President, [Prince George's Genealogical Society](#)

### **Finding Family Veterans: Genealogy 201 [RSVP HERE](#)**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 7PM-8:30PM, Presented on Zoom

Lead by Craig R. Scott, MA, CG, FUGA, President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc.

### **Researching Your Roots: Genealogical Research 201 [RSVP HERE](#)**

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7PM-8:30PM, Presented on Zoom

Lead by Pat Neal, President, [Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Prince George's County Maryland Chapter](#)

### **In-Person: Genealogy Research Bus Tour [REGISTER HERE](#)**

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 10AM-3PM, Start and end at Hyattsville Library

Free, optional donations welcome

Attend one or all of the sessions! All sessions are free. Contact Grace Harness, Program Coordinator, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area at [grace@anacostiatrials.org](mailto:grace@anacostiatrials.org) for more information.

**MD TWO FIFTY**  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY





## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Washington Gas Operational Briefing: Infrastructure Updates and Incident Review

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

---

Representatives from Washington Gas will attend the upcoming City Council meeting to provide a comprehensive briefing on their operations within the City. The briefing is designed to ensure transparency regarding a recent utility incident, provide status updates on local infrastructure projects, ensure the continuation of clear communications between the City and Wash Gas, and continue to foster a strong partnership.

### Key Agenda Items

#### 1. Incident Review: Woodmore Highlands Gas Leak

The Council will receive a post-incident analysis regarding the major gas leak on Dunwood Crossing Drive.

#### 2. Operational & Infrastructure Updates

Washington Gas will present an overview of current and upcoming maintenance plans within city limits. This includes:

- Status reports on active infrastructure projects.
- Timelines for planned pipeline replacements or upgrades.
- Restoration schedules for areas currently impacted by utility work.

#### 3. Council Q&A

The briefing will conclude with a direct dialogue between Council members and Washington Gas representatives. This Q&A can cover:

- Public safety protocols and emergency response efficiency.
- Participation in energy efficiency and subsidy programs.
- Alignment with the City's long-term energy and sustainability goals.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. 20260302 - Washington Gas Bowie City Council Presentation - FINAL



# Bowie City Council Presentation

March 2, 2026



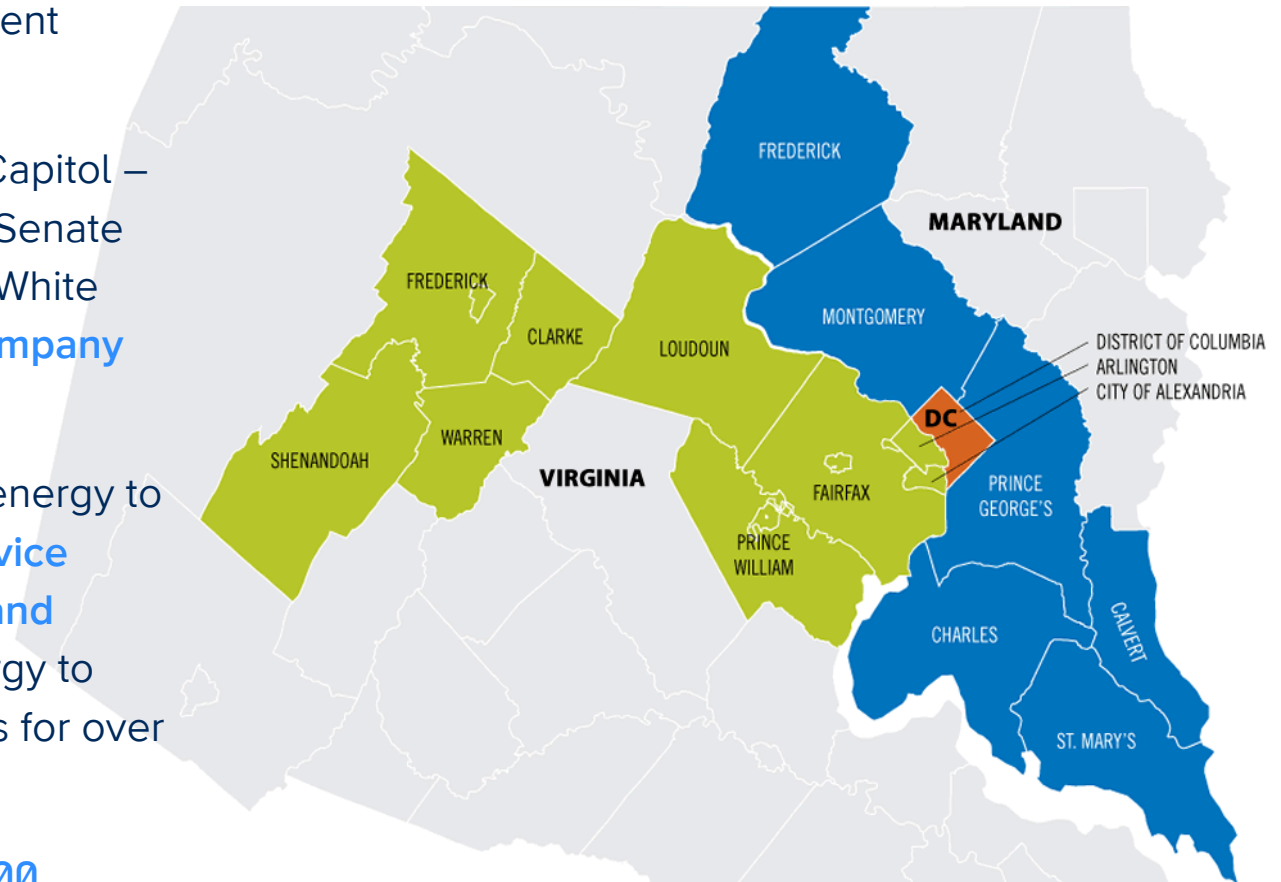
# Company Overview

Washington Gas was founded in 1848, through a Congressional charter signed into law by President James K. Polk.

The new company's first customer was the US Capitol – where we installed gas lights in the House and Senate chambers. Gas lights were later installed at the White House and along Pennsylvania Avenue. The company celebrated its 175th Anniversary, July 2023.

Today, Washington Gas provides safe, reliable energy to more than 1.2 million customers across our service territory in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. The company has been providing energy to residential, commercial and industrial customers for over 170 years.

Washington Gas provides energy to over 500,000 residential and business customers across the state of Maryland.





# Safety & Leak Response



- Leak Line - 844-WASHGAS
- Leak Response
- Leak Assessment
- Leak Repair
- Call before you dig - 811





# Safety is Our **#1** Priority

- Natural Gas is non-toxic, colorless, odorless and combustible
- Mercaptan is added as an unpleasant odorant to help detect leaking natural gas
- You are an important part of our safety program
- Remember the 3 R's:

**Recognize, React, and Respond!**

Washington Gas reminds customers and the general public that if they smell natural gas, or if they have an emergency involving natural gas, to leave the area immediately and **call 911** or the **Washington Gas Leak Line** at: **844-WASHGAS (844-927-4427)**



# Leak Response, Assessment, & Repair

## What does Washington Gas do when responding to a gas odor complaint?

Regulations and standards state whether our crews repairs the leak immediately or follow up with the repair at a later time.

Here's a look at the typical process:

### 1. Determine if there is a leak

- Through the use of natural gas detection equipment, a technician will check the area to investigate for indications of natural gas.

### 2. Locate and assess

- If gas is detected, the technician will continue their investigation in order to locate the area of the leak and where gas may be present. Using this information and other factors, the technician will determine if the leak poses a hazard. The technician will not leave until the areas have been determined to be safe.

### 3. Respond

- **Safety is our top priority.** If a leak poses a potential hazard, the technician will make sure the area is safe, and Washington Gas will conduct immediate repairs. Leaks determined to be non-hazardous will be scheduled for repairs at a later date.



# Leak Response, Assessment, & Repair

## How is a natural gas leak assessed?

Because safety is our number one priority, every odor complain is treated by Washington Gas with urgency.

Strictly adhering to federal guidelines, Washington Gas thoroughly evaluates, investigates, and assesses all reported gas leaks, which typically fit into the following categories: **non-hazardous and hazardous**

### Non-Hazardous

- After evaluation, a leak that is determined to be non-hazardous will be monitored according to an appropriate schedule defined by Washington Gas until repaired. In between scheduled monitoring, the leak will be subject to reassessment pursuant to any additional complaints.

### Hazardous

- After evaluation, a leak that is determined to be an immediate hazard to persons or property will be immediately repaired or continuously monitored by highly trained onsite personnel until it can be repaired.

Federal requirements mandate that some non-hazardous leaks must be rechecked within six months and fixed within a year, but Washington Gas routinely completes these repairs more quickly.



# Leak Response, Assessment, & Repair

## Does Washington Gas have to shut off the gas to repair a leak?

Many leaks are repaired safely without shutting off the gas. If required to maintain safety to the public and our employees, Washington Gas will shut off the gas. When safety permits, Washington Gas plans any shut-off to minimize disruption to our customers. The most common gas shut-off methods are through using the many valves we have in the system, or in some cases simply squeezing off the pipe.

Techniques include

### 1. Valve

- Use of a series of valves to isolate the section of pipe being repaired.

### 2. Squeeze-Off

- Using a squeeze-off tool to shut off gas by “pinching” or squeezing the polyethylene pipelines until gas flow stops. Many times this is done in conjunction with a valve to limit the amount of pipe and customers affected by the shutdown.

Washington Gas permanently repairs all leaks. If a permanent repair is not required immediately, a temporary repair is made until a permanent repair – or replacement – is scheduled. If repairs require the interruption of gas service, that service is only turned back on when the repair is complete. After restoration of service, customers’ appliances are relit by Washington Gas personnel or one of its contractors.

**Repair procedures are in compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements and industry standards.**



# Call Before You Dig - 811

## What are common causes of damage to natural gas pipelines that lead to gas leaks or emergencies?

One of the leading causes of gas leak emergencies are damages to the underground gas lines by individuals and contractors performing excavation work, including digging, boring and directional drilling. We often refer to this kind of damage as a **“third-party strike.”**

The majority of these incidents are the result of not following the proper damage prevention protocols as established by the “Call Before You Dig” program, 811. **Anyone digging should call 811 at least two full working days — excluding weekends and holidays — before they are scheduled to begin any type of digging** to report where they are planning to dig and what type of work they will be doing. Utility companies who may have facilities in the area of the dig site will be notified about the potential excavation. Each affected utility company will **send a locator to mark the approximate location of the nearby underground utility lines.**

**This service is free.**



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

Using the 811 service properly helps to significantly reduce the risk of damage to underground utility infrastructure. Pipelines can be damaged in a number of ways, including:



Excavation  
Equipment



Gardening  
Tools



Augers &  
Drilling  
Equipment





# System Reliability



- Reliability Structure & Resources
- STRIDE & APRP
- Construction Overview



# Reliability Structure & Resources

- **Emergency response** on a 24/7 basis to investigate and make safe all odor complaints.
- **Periodic Leak Survey** (every 3 years) –100% check of all facilities for leakage.
- **Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP)** – enhance safety by identifying and reducing gas distribution pipeline integrity risks
- **Annual Replacement Programs** – proactive replacements based on system analysis of leak and maintenance history as well as other factors
- All **maintenance work** is scheduled in accordance with industry standards depending on the nature of the leak and are based on hazards to persons, life, or property.
- These **repair standards** are in place to serve the safety of our communities.



# STRIDE & APRP

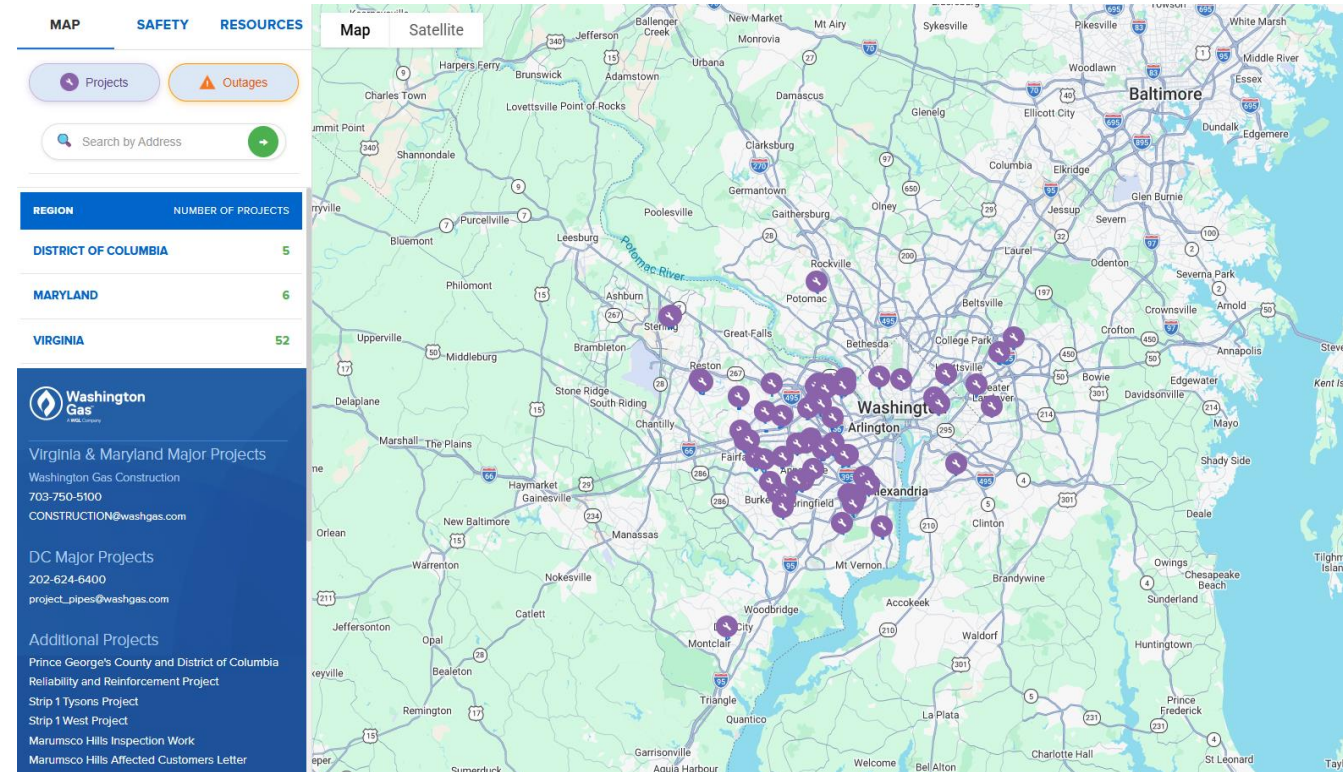
Throughout the country, utilities are seeking accelerated replacement of aging infrastructure.

Maryland has joined the majority of states with accelerated replacement programs by enacting a law, the **Maryland Strategic Infrastructure Development & Enhancement Act (STRIDE)**, which allows for proactive accelerated replacement of aging infrastructure.

Through STRIDE, Washington Gas is proactively replacing its aging infrastructure in accordance with the **Accelerated Pipe Replacement Program (APRP)** in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/safety/pipe-replacement-projects/md-stride>



**Washington Gas – Interactive Project Activity Map**



# Construction Overview

## Construction Method

- Project involves replacing associated services.

## Construction Process

- Temporarily shut off gas during replacement of services.
- Inside meters will be moved outside.
- Relighting of gas appliances will be done after the service replacement is completed.

## Restoration

- Private property and yards will be restored as close to their original state as possible.
- Road restoration will occur in sections as construction is completed.
- Temporary restoration (cold patch or hot mix).
- Permanent restoration.







# Construction Overview







# Energy Efficiency



- Maryland Residential Programs
- Maryland Commercial Programs
- Demand Response
- Income Qualified



# Why Energy Efficiency Matters

## Energy Efficiency Benefits for Bowie Residents and Businesses

### Comfort, Savings & Community Support

- Washington Gas offers a wide portfolio of EmPOWER-funded efficiency programs for Maryland homes and businesses—**most residents and small businesses are eligible today.**
- These programs help customers **lower monthly energy costs, improve comfort, and reduce overall energy use** through rebates, assessments, and incentives.
- Much of this **support is low- or no-cost**, including free Home Energy Conservation Kits, assessments, and income-qualified upgrades.
- Washington Gas and the City of Bowie can partner to help **amplify access** by sharing the website, newsletters, and outreach events.





# Residential Offerings

## Rebates, Kits & Home Comfort

### Key Benefits for Customers

- **High-Efficiency Heating:** Rebates up to **\$900** for qualifying ENERGY STAR® furnaces and boilers help residents cut energy costs while upgrading aging systems.
- **Water Heater Rebates:** Up to **\$450** for efficient models—one of the most popular customer rebate categories.
- **Home Energy Conservation Kits:** Residents can request a free kit with conservation tools like faucet aerators and insulation materials.
- **Home Energy Assessments:** Simple, no-cost walkthroughs that identify energy savings opportunities and provide an energy profile.
- **Fireplace Tune-Ups & Clothes Dryer Rebates:** Additional targeted incentives that improve comfort and efficiency.



**Many homes in Bowie's older subdivisions (built in 1960s – 1980s) often contain aging gas equipment – making them prime candidates for rebates and tune-ups.**





# Commercial Offerings

## Local Business & City Facility Opportunities

### Key Program Areas

- **Prescriptive Rebates for Existing and New Buildings:** Incentives for boilers, commercial water heating, space heating, and food-service equipment.
- Program covers **retrofits, major renovations, and new construction**, with the same rebate levels across both categories.
- All projects require pre-approval, ensuring City facilities and local businesses **lock in their incentives early in planning**.
- Participating Service Providers: Bowie businesses can use our **“Find a Contractor”** tool to access licensed EmPOWER contractors and streamline applications.



**Bowie’s vibrant small business corridor—Route 197, Bowie Town Center, Old Town Bowie—includes restaurants, offices, and service businesses that are strong candidates for rebates on HVAC, water heating, and commercial kitchen equipment.**



# Demand Response & Income-Qualified Programs

## Savings for Every Household

### Smart Energy Rewards

- Residents with qualifying Wi-Fi thermostats can enroll in Smart Energy Rewards and earn a \$20 gift card, plus annual \$10 incentives for ongoing participation.
- Helps **reduce peak demand** while maintaining comfort; participation is optional and event-based.

### Income-Qualified Programs

- Maryland DHCD administers income-qualified programs statewide, offering **no-cost energy efficiency upgrades for eligible households**. These can include weatherization, equipment replacement, and other whole-home improvements.
- Washington Gas **supports and promotes DHCD's offerings** to ensure Bowie residents who qualify are aware of and can access these free services.
- DHCD's income-qualified offerings work alongside EmPOWER utility programs, ensuring that all households—especially low- and moderate-income residents—**can benefit from comfort, safety, and lower bills**.







# How to Reach Us



- Community Outreach
- Operations
- Construction
- Permits & Paving
- Energy Efficiency



# Company Contacts

- **Daminique Branch** - Community Outreach  
[dbranch@washgas.com](mailto:dbranch@washgas.com)
- **Greg Stroh** - Sr Director, Regional Leader  
[greg.stroh@washgas.com](mailto:greg.stroh@washgas.com)
- **Tamara Neal** - Director, Sr Station Leader,  
[tneal@washgas.com](mailto:tneal@washgas.com)
- **Jeff Vogt** - Director, Construction  
[Jeffrey.Vogt@washgas.com](mailto:Jeffrey.Vogt@washgas.com)
- **Andrew Hutchinson** - Manager, Construction - STRIDE  
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[BAdams@washgas.com](mailto:BAdams@washgas.com)
- **Mike King** - Manager, Construction – New Business  
[Mking@washgas.com](mailto:Mking@washgas.com)
- **Ijaz Mahboob** - Manager, Permits & Public Space  
[IMahboob@washgas.com](mailto:IMahboob@washgas.com)
- **Kevin Bates** - Manager, Paving [KBates@washgas.com](mailto:KBates@washgas.com)
- **Josh McClelland** - Director, Energy Efficiency  
[JMcClelland@washgas.com](mailto:JMcClelland@washgas.com)





**Thank You**