
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

**July 22, 2026
10:10 a.m.**

PRESENT

HONORABLE WES MOORE

Governor

HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS

Treasurer

JOHN GONTRUM

Secretary, Board of Public Works

ATIF CHAUDHRY

Secretary, Department of General Services

EMILY WILSON

Director of Legislative and Constituent Services,
Department of Natural Resources

THOMAS HICKEY

Director of Procurement and Real Property Initiatives,
University System of Maryland

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

LISA GRIGSBY

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Good morning, please take a seat everybody. Good morning.

(Chorus of Good Morning.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Welcome everybody to today's edition of the Board of Public Works. As you see, we've got a lot of elbow room today. The Comptroller, unfortunately, will not be able to join us today because she's taking her daughter to camp this morning, so it'll just be us this morning. So this will be fine.

TREASURER DAVIS: She told me I got it.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: (Indiscernible).

GOVERNOR MOORE: With that, we will start with the business of the day. Mr. Secretary, good morning.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning to you, Governor. And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer.

There are 21 items and 1 report of an emergency procurement contract award on the agenda this morning. With the request of Baltimore City Community College, I'm withdrawing Item 4. At the request of St. Mary's College, I'm withdrawing Item 19, leaving 19 total items for your consideration this morning and the emergency procurement report. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much. And I understand we have a few speaker requests that are taking place this morning. So in the interest of time, we'll just ask that the speakers limit their remarks to three

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minutes. And Mr. Secretary, I'd ask that you would serve as timekeeper.

First, we have a speaker request for Item 6, which is a request to award a \$100,000 grant to the Lakeland Community Heritage Project. And I would like to recognize Maxine Gross, who signed up to support virtually this morning.

So Ms. Gross can you hear us?

MS. GROSS: Yes, I can, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful, good morning.

MS. GROSS: Good morning.

Good morning from Lakeland, the historic African American community of College Park. I'm Maxine Gross. I'm Chairperson of the Lakeland Community Heritage Project. Our primary work over the last two decades has been the creation, expansion, and utilization of the Lakeland Digital Archive. Material from that archive has been used very broadly, including for books, scholarly research, documentaries, and exhibitions, including Reclaiming Lakeland, which you can see today at the College Park Aviation Museum. It's also been a prominent source in the reparations process that we've been undergoing with the City of College Park.

Currently, we're working to level up our capacity and our offerings through a community benefits agreement related to a former urban renewal site. For the first time, we'll have a physical space. The Lakeland Legacy Center will open in the fall of 2027, and there we will continue our work and open the center as a gateway to Lakeland and our local region. This funding will allow appropriate preparations for the success of this next stage in the evolution of the Lakeland Community Heritage Project as we preserve and share the stories of Maryland and its people.

Thank you, Governor. Thank you so much for your time.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Well, and thank you so much for your leadership on this. This work is vital and important. And we're grateful for the leadership that you show, so thank you so much. And thanks so much for joining us this morning as well.

I would also like to take a moment to highlight Item 5. That is a request to award a \$8 million grant to Baltimore City to replace the City's computer-aided dispatch system -- or as many of us know it as the CAD System. The CAD System is imperative. It's imperative because it really does serve as the hub for all of our emergency communication systems that exist within the City. Where every 911 call that happens, it begins with CAD. Every 911 call when a person's calling for aid or assistance, that's the system that it will go into. And so whether you're talking about police, fire, EMS, they're the first ones to be able to process that. It is absolutely critical that this is something that is supported. Particularly, because the CAD system in Baltimore City alone handles over two million calls a year.

And so right now, we have a CAD system in Baltimore City that's relying on software that is over 20 years old. And we know that for our first responders and the people whose job it is to make sure that every time someone calls in who needs support, that they have an up-to-date and reliable systems that can make sure that the people who need the help can get it quickly. And so having this and supporting this, we feel like is something that's not just important, but what it's also going to do is that when you're looking at the CAD systems, it will do things like have an expanded 911 diversion, faster emergency response, and enhanced security and monitoring.

So I just wanted to publicly acknowledge this and also say thank you to Mayor Scott. Thank you to City Council President Cohen, and the members of the Baltimore City Council for upping this and supporting this

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incredibly important work to make sure that our folks are not just working together, but also that for all of our systems, that our people are then able to get the supports that they need and that they deserve.

With that, are there any other questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Great.

If not, may I have a motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: I will be the second, and the Secretary's Agenda advances. Thank you.

We will proceed with the Department of Natural Resources Agenda. Good morning, Ms. Wilson. How are you?

MS. WILSON: Good morning, Governor and Mr. Treasurer. Emily Wilson, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We have 12 items on our DNR Real Property Agenda today for your consideration. Happy to try to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any discussion on the DNR Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. May I have a motion to approve the DNR Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful, and I will second and approve. Thank you so much, Ms. Wilson.

We'll proceed with the University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning.

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MR. HICKEY: Governor and Mr. Treasurer. Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland. There are two items for your consideration, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any discussion on the USM Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: No discussion.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. May I have a motion to approve the USM Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

We'll proceed with the MDOT Agenda. Ms. Radomsky, good morning.

MS. RADOMSKY: Morning, Governor and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation. Today, we are presenting 21 agenda items for your consideration. This agenda includes six awards to small businesses totaling \$1.8 million, and two awards to minority business enterprises totaling \$4.7 million. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a motion to approve the MDOT Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

And we will conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry,
good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, sir. Mr. Governor and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Department of General Services. Today, the Department is presenting 63 items on our agenda including one report of an expedited procurement. We are withdrawing four items today. Those four items are 15-CGL, 27-CGL, 48-IT, and 62-S. Our agenda does feature 42 capital grants and loans totaling more than \$42 million.

I want to highlight one in particular very quickly. That's Item 58-CGL, which provides \$3 million to the B&O Railroad Museum that now is officially known as the National Museum of Railroad History & Innovation for infrastructure improvements to the museum to support the \$38 million renovation there. That renovation includes the rehabilitation of their historic South Car Works Building, creation of a new entrance to the museum, two new classrooms, and a new exhibition and event space. Last week, I was excited to attend their announcement of their rebranding, which went very well. And we're excited to continue to work with the Executive Director Kris Hoellen, who's been a great partner. And we look forward to their 200th anniversary of the railroad next year.

As we continue to keep an eye on our minority business participation, we do have three contract actions to certified minority businesses, who are also certified small businesses, totaling approximately \$13.9 million. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Outstanding. Also on the capital side, the -- for 6-CGL for the Helping Up Mission, it's really good work.

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And so thank you, Mr. Secretary.

And I would like to call up Item 49, which is a request from the State Board of Elections to award a \$84.9 million contract -- excuse me -- to Election Systems and Software, LLC, to acquire a new statewide voting system to help to modernize Maryland's election operations and also Maryland's election security. I'd like to ask Jared DeMarinis, the State Administrator for Elections, to share more about this request.

Good to see you, Mr. Administrator.

MR. DEMARINIS: Good to see you, Governor. Thank you for this opportunity to talk about this.

But first, I just want to say something about -- that the primary election will be certified tomorrow, so that's all good. And we have 104 days until the general election. And if you want to know more about dates, deadlines, and signing up as an election judge, please download our app, Go Vote MD. So we are trying to make sure everything's there.

But now as to the business at hand, which is about the new voting system here. You are correct. We are procuring a new comprehensive statewide voting system intended for implementation to support the '28 Presidential Election. This project includes the acquisition, deployment, and support of a secure and compliant user-friendly voting solution that meets all federal and State regulatory requirements.

This selected system will modernize election operations, improve accessibility and electoral security. It's a five-year contract with two two-year option periods. And it's a firm fixed price with a not-to-exceed contract, so that is the maximum amount of money that is going to be there. And payments will only occur after meeting deliverables, so there's no prepayments of anything ahead of time. The system in which we're procuring has been federally certified and State

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certified for use in the state of Maryland. So it is a federally-certified/State-certified system, period.

The RFP itself has been a transparent process. It began over two years ago. We've included updates on the RFP in every one of my State Administrator's Reports for -- during that period there, as well as including it on our quarterly Joint Chairman's Reports to the General Assembly. So everyone's been quite aware of this contract here. The structure of the contract has been what has been in question a little bit here, and I want to talk about that.

It was written two years ago when there was only one of -- or there was no federally certified system to the voluntary voting system guidelines of the EAC to the 2.0 standard. Every system was at the 1.0 standard. So doing our due diligence on the landscape there, and to increase competitive bidding from vendors, we have created a pathway so that Maryland will start out with a federally-certified/state-certified system for the '28 election but will have the most current, most secure system for the 202030 (sic) election -- so the 2030 election. Sorry, I put too many zeros there-- too many 20s.

The contract itself has been reviewed for legal sufficiency and approved by the Attorney General and has also been reviewed by the Office of State Procurement and other agencies. Why is all this needed here? Because the current system is over 11 years old. They no longer manufactured parts for it. The ballot marking device, I believe, that you voted on, they don't make them anymore. So, you know, every time they break, we lose one -- and that's our accessibility voting as well. So therefore, you know, it's -- you know, replacement parts are impossible to get. It's important. And also, the supporting infrastructure is also equally as old and needs to be replaced.

So again, procuring this voting system here and associated infrastructure will position Maryland to continue administering secure, reliable,

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accessible elections ensuring vendor support, current technology availability, and operational resiliency for years to come. So with that, I would like your support and both your votes. So thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Mr. Administrator.

MR. DEMARINIS: I'm used to doing that at the General Assembly. I need votes.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

I know we have a few additional speaker requests for this item. And I'd first like to recognize James Rundlett, who signed up to speak in support of this item.

Good morning, James. How are you?

MR. RUNDLETT: Good morning. Good.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding.

MR. RUNDLETT: My name is James Rundlett. I'm here to read a statement on behalf of ES&S. Our CEO was supposed to be at the previous meeting, but couldn't be here today due to some travel conflicts. So I'll be reading a statement on the company's behalf.

So good morning, Governor Moore, Treasurer Davis. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today regarding the proposed voting system contract with the State of Maryland. We were extremely pleased that our company was selected as the vendor for the procurement of the new voting system. This voting system is our top-of-the-line voting equipment. It's currently certified in 26 states. Being used statewide in Connecticut, South Carolina, as well as forward-thinking jurisdictions like Fairfax County, Virginia. And we're excited to have it in the state of Maryland.

Through every election cycle, our shared objective has remained

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the same, ensuring voters can have confidence that every eligible vote is cast as intended and counted as cast. Marylanders can be assured the voting system procured will instill confidence with the accuracy of the results. We recognize that questions have been raised regarding future system enhancements. We respect those questions and understand the importance of ensuring that every procurement decision complies fully with applicable laws, regulations, and contractual obligations.

Let me be clear, ES&S meets the requirements of the solicitation, the contract, and Maryland certification processes. Any system deployed for use in Maryland elections will be required to satisfy the applicable federal and State certification requirements before it's placed into service. This system for approval today has been federally and State certified for use. As for future enhancements to the voting system, the ES&S has a long history of successfully navigating certification processes and foresees no issues with meeting the contractual timeline and obligations by the 2030 election.

If approved, we view this contract not as the end of a procurement process, but as a partnership that will serve Maryland voters well for many years to come. We remain committed to supporting the State Board of Elections and local election officials with the highest levels of service, responsiveness, security, and technical expertise. On behalf of the entire ES&S team, thank you for your consideration, your thoughtful review of this procurement, and your continued commitment to election integrity. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Maryland and helping ensure secure, accurate, accessible, and transparent elections for many years to come.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thanks so much, Mr. Rundlett.

MR. RUNDLETT: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

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And I would -- next, I'd like to recognize Susan Greenhalgh, who has signed up to speak in opposition of this item.

Ms. Greenhalgh, good morning.

MS. GREENHALGH: Good morning. Thank you. And good morning, Governor Moore and Treasurer Davis.

I am the Senior Advisor on election security for Free Speech for People. I've studied voting systems and certification for over 20 years on behalf of voters. I'm speaking today on behalf of our organization as well as Common Cause Maryland and Save Our Votes Maryland, which is not suing the State. We offer public comments regarding our concerns about the proposed system purchased. We urge the Board not to approve this contract, so it can be restructured and reissued to best serve Maryland voters and taxpayers.

We do not make this request lightly, but we do so because -- and we don't want to stand in the way of a new system for 2028, nor do we seek to oppose the SBE. We have met with the SBE and appreciate their cooperation and information, but we remain gravely concerned that this purchase would commit Maryland to a contract for a system that has not been demonstrated, tested, or certified. The purchase contract that SBE proposed includes two different versions of the voting system. One that is certified to the old, outdated federal voting system standards from 2005 that would be delivered before 2028, and a second version of the system that the vendor represents will be certified to the new updated standards from 2021, termed VVSG 2.0, delivered to Maryland before 2030.

The second version of the system is not yet certified by the Federal Election Assistance Commission or the State Board of Elections. A May 19th letter from the vendor ES&S acknowledged that it hadn't even submitted a system suitable to Maryland for federal testing to the new standards. It also states that the

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core hardware would remain the same -- core hardware, raising questions that some of the hardware elements may be replaced.

Further, in a statement to the press, ES&S said, "The Maryland State Board of Elections has not predetermined which 2.0 version will be implemented in the state", revealing that the system Maryland would procure is still undefined and unidentified. All of this suggests the future system is still under development, but it's part of the contract. In short, this contract would commit Maryland to a voting system that is still under development at a premium price with potential unforeseeable costs.

We wish to highlight that in its SBE meetings, the Board voted only to certify 1.0. It did not vote to certify the 2.0 system or to approve the terms of the contract. According to the RFP and press reports, the purchase price also includes a third system to replace Maryland's current electronic ballot delivery and online ballot marking system. And this has also not been publicly discussed by the SBE or demonstrated to the public.

In sum, we respectfully ask the Board of Works -- Board of Public Works not to approve this contract as proposed and pursue this purchase through a revised procurement that could be done by issuing two RFPs. One that is expedited to cover a short-term acquisition before the 2028 election through a purchase or short-term lease, and another RFP to purchase the new 2.0 system on a longer timeline to ensure the prospective candidate systems are properly developed, demonstrated, and certified. Additionally, we understand that the current lease could be extended and this could be exercised to enable reissuing the RFP.

Thank you very much, and I welcome your questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Ms. Greenhalgh.

Do you have any questions?

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TREASURER DAVIS: Yeah, I have a couple.

Ms. Greenhalgh, earlier in your testimony, you mentioned the cost of it, but then you just said we should do two, a short -- isn't that costly as well as -- perhaps more costly to do two procurements for the same system?

MS. GREENHALGH: I think we need to look at what the -- thank you. Thank you for the question, Mr. Treasurer.

I think it would be helpful to understand how the cost is being structured because the cost right now for the 1.0 system that is going to be delivered in the short-term is much higher than what we see other states paying for it. That means that the 2.0 system is built into it. I think if we were to separate it out and get comparative prices for the 1.0 system -- or perhaps a short-term lease, or perhaps extend the lease, and then purchase the 2.0 system, there would be greater transparency in the cost structure.

Right now, the 2.0 system -- the purchase price for the 2.0 system is folded into the 1.0 system, the old standard system that's going to be delivered in the short-term. I hope I'm not using too much jargon and confusing this --

TREASURER DAVIS: Yeah, you are.

MS. GREENHALGH: -- the matter.

(Laughter.)

MS. GREENHALGH: I know, I'm sorry. I'm sorry about that.

I think -- to answer your question more concisely, I think that by separating out the contracts, there would be more transparency in the pricing overall. There would also be the opportunity to apply discounts. I think it would be more cost effective.

TREASURER DAVIS: And just on the last point, because I do want to ask Mr. DeMarinis a question, from a -- we're less than two years away from the Primary in 2028. I know you mentioned an expedited procurement, but

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even that -- you know, it takes a while and then almost anything we do of any significant money -- it gets challenged and all those kinds of things.

I'm wondering, is there a significant risk that we won't be ready? I mean, even if we get it approved, I mean, with testing and all of that, will we have confidence that we'll be ready if we have a significant delay to go through another procurement process? Is that a concern of your organization at all that we won't be -- I mean, we'll have the machines. I'm sure we'll come up with it, but there's a difference between having them and having confidence that you're ready to run an election, which is less than two years from now.

MS. GREENHALGH: Thank you for the question, Mr. Treasurer.

I don't. I don't think so. We've seen states procure systems in a matter of six months, and get them up and running for general elections. Virginia did something actually in about half that time. But I think that if Maryland were to consider something like extending the current lease or doing a short-term lease for the 2028 election, as it fully vets and examines the 2.0 -- the new systems -- the systems to the 2.0 standards that are to the 2030 -- sorry, 2021 standards before 2030, there could be a stopgap procurement that would enable the State to run their elections in 2028 securely, accessibly, and accurately.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I have no questions for Ms. Greenhalgh.

MS. GREENHALGH: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

I do have some for Administrator DeMarinis, but please go first.

TREASURER DAVIS: I was talking to a couple of my former colleagues, and so I wanted to raise an issue or two that they had that I told him I would ask. It says Maryland law requires the State Board to certify and do a public demonstration on a voting system before it is acquired, and I think they

quoted Section 911. Has that been done?

MR. DEMARINIS: Yes. So we did -- we did three days' worth of testing outside. We did it in Baltimore, one on the Eastern Shore, one in Montgomery County, I believe. So we had three locations for three days. We -- people came in; they tested the system. It was all part of the State certification process. So yes, we did that. We made sure about that. And again, like this system here meets -- is a federally-certified/ state-certified system to move forward with it.

TREASURER DAVIS: And then just the last question from our conversation. It was asked what will happen if ES&S is unable to deliver the VVSG 2.0 certified system by 2030?

MR. DEMARINIS: Well, then they don't meet their contractual obligations. We've done this before where we actually had to go after our pollbook vendor for not meeting our contractual obligations. We sued them for damages, and then we sought a new RFP. Where it is in the process would depend on how we want to move forward with it. We can either keep the system, but I would say that ES&S would be held contractually liable for any damages.

And we are monitoring these contracts, and this is something that we've done and are very good at. And the pollbook company, which we basically said no more to, doesn't exist anymore. There's 50 states, as you know, and basically -- you know, we all talk and ES&S's reputation is as much on the line as everything else. So if they don't meet this contractual obligation, I don't foresee them being in the business much longer after that.

TREASURER DAVIS: That's good enough for me.

GOVERNOR MOORE: So any further upgrades have the specific appropriate certifications?

MR. DEMARINIS: So like -- right. If whatever they -- right now,

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if we move anything or touch anything on this voting system for '30, we have to go through another State certification. We'll bring it in front of our board. We go through the entire process, public demonstrations. We meet all those requirements again for this. We will even notify you that they've met the contractual obligations for that, if you want, because I think that that's important to say that, yes, moving forward for 2030 and beyond that we will have the best system out there.

And so right now, we're modernizing this. We're going to get ready for '28 because that's important. As I mentioned before, the current system is no longer -- as much as it can be -- it's good for '26. I don't want to have any problems with that. It is good. But as things progress, as age happens on any new technology, we need to upgrade. And this is why we're doing it now. And it gives us enough lead time for '28 and enough lead time then for '30.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Do you have any other questions? Okay.

Thanks.

MR. DEMARINIS: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes, thank you.

And lastly, I'd like to highlight Item 55, which is a request from the Department of Human Services to enter into a 10-year intergovernmental lease with Prince George's County to centralize essential health and human services all throughout the County. This is an exciting and frankly a long-awaited move. And so I'd like to invite Deputy Secretary Burnett to share more about this request.

Madam Deputy Secretary, good morning.

MS. BROWN-BURNETT: Good morning. For the record, I'm Gloria Brown-Burnett and I have with me the Director, newly six months old, of Prince George's County Department of Social Services, Jennifer Amaya

Thompson.

MS. THOMPSON: Good morning.

MS. BROWN-BURNETT: She wanted to be here for this very important piece of business.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on DGS Agenda 55-LT, the proposed intergovernmental lease for the relocation of both the administrative and adult services operations of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services to the new Prince George's County Health and Human Services Building located at Hampton Plaza on the Blue Line Corridor.

I would like to first thank Treasurer Davis and this Board for its steadfast leadership and support of this project over many years. This milestone reflects the power of sustained collaboration between the State of Maryland and Prince George's County. Without partnership, we would not be here today.

This investment will improve access to essential services inside the Beltway by providing seniors and persons with navigating physical challenges with Prince George's -- within Prince George's County in a centralized location within the Beltway. The new location will better serve the residents of Prince George's County over the next 20 years by bringing together critical health and human service agencies including the administrative operations of all three health and human service departments along with a senior center, Veterans Affairs, aging, and other social services under one roof and in one accessible location.

Through the local Department of Social Services, DHS serves monthly nearly 100,000 Prince Georgians with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, over 5,000 Prince Georgians with temporary cash assistance, over 600 Prince Georgians with temporary disability assistance, and nearly 100 Prince Georgians with Adult Protective Services and other adult services programs. Following the Board's approval, we will begin the relocation

immediately and hope to be open to serve the County by the end of the summer.

On behalf of the entire Human Services team, we want to thank County Executive Aisha Braveboy for finishing the relay race, as well as now Senator Angela Alsobrooks, then Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, and prior County Executive Rushern Baker for their vision and leadership on this project. We recognize and applaud the advocacy of Senator Nick Charles and Chairman Ben Barnes. We thank the numerous staff teams at the County level, at DHS, and under Secretary Chaudhry's DGS team for the years of planning and execution to get us where we are today.

Thank you, and I'm prepared to take any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam Deputy Secretary.
And congratulations to you both.

I want to echo all the thankfulness to all the names that you that you mentioned before, but I specifically want to echo the Treasurer, who -- it was his work and his leadership and his continued push on this for years that really helped to get this across the finish line. So thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: If I can, I just wanted -- look, I grew up over in that area not ten minutes from where it is. I know it well. I know how important those programs are going to be to that particular community. I'm glad -- and by just the names that you mentioned tells you how many -- you know, how important that was, how many people had to be involved to make this happen, but you all got it done. And for that, I'm certainly eternally grateful. And I think there's going to be a lot of positive outcomes that result from this, so thank you for your steadfastness, commitment from the Administration. You know, things get bumpy from time to time, but as long as we end up where we need to be, that's all that matters.

So thank you all very much, and I look forward to the opening.

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MS. BROWN-BURNETT: We look forward to having you both.

Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: With that, is there any further discussion on the DGS Agenda? Sorry, I thought you meant --

TREASURER DAVIS: Nope, I'm good.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a motion to approve the DGS Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And I'll be the second.

And so we'll close out. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

That concludes today's meeting.

TREASURER DAVIS: Governor, may I have just --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Of course.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- a word?

I picked up bad habits from -- you know, from being around a while and certainly from my predecessors here, but I have something, it's not for you or for anyone else, but I'd like an education. So at some point, if somebody from the Judicial Nominating Commission could give me a call, 410-260-0075, and educate me on the process, I would certainly appreciate it.

One of the things I learned, and I see my guy, Talmadge Branch, former member of the House of Delegates here, one of the things that we learned, Governor, when we first came in, first under Cass Taylor and Mike Busch, Adrienne Jones, and now Peña-Melnyk on the House side. And obviously, it's much shorter on the Senate -- Senator Miller and Senator Ferguson. One of the things we learned in our whole One Maryland -- that was sort of our theme. And we learned that, you know, each one of us had something to contribute and that

we were best, you know, when we're reflective of society at large.

I say that to say I had a -- you know, I had a couple of citizens from Prince George's County call me about the Judicial Nominating Committee. And what they said to me was that there were two judges from the County who two years ago made the list for the Maryland State's Supreme Court. They were also up now for the Appellate Court, and they didn't make that list. And so they were concerned. How can you be deemed qualified for -- you know, if you will, the major leagues, but then the one just below it you're not qualified for that.

And I didn't have an answer for them, and so I told him I would find out. And at first, I just started looking stuff up and I -- and then, I was like, I better ask somebody. Because I looked and of the 17 members of the Judicial Nominating Committee, nine came from one area and then -- first of all, only 5 of the 24 jurisdictions were represented, which is -- almost 20 percent of the Commission comes from one area. And then nine, within that, nine of the 17 came from one area, another four came from a second area. So you're talking 13 of 17, or 75 percent from just two jurisdictions.

So when I was getting into the whole One Maryland and it being reflective, I didn't think that that was a reflection of society at large. Now, that's not to question anyone's competency, integrity, or anything like that. But when you have to go back and try to explain, you know, why things happen, and I thought of the larger conversation about the circuit court judges, and you know, it's sort of been a rage down here whether or not we should have retention elections or continue with the competitive elections.

And it makes it hard to support a retention election because when the outcome seems unfair, and I emphasize seems unfair, what alternative do you have when it's just a retention? You just got to take it. At least with a competitive election, you can go, "All right. If I couldn't get the appointment,

then I'll just run and let the people decide." So I'm asking -- like I said, I gave that number. If anybody -- I know they're very busy people and they're great jurists, but if they have an opportunity, if they can give -- someone can give me a call and sort of just explain, you know, how this stuff works so that I can then relay it to the folks back home.

Because you never stop -- once you get elected, you never stop being a public servant in constituent services. And they don't want to hear, "Well, I have this job." They don't -- the public doesn't differentiate and nor should they about, you know, who does what. I elected you or voted for you in some capacity, and I agree with that sentiment. So that all of that was just a long-winded way of saying somebody, please, who has more knowledge about this stuff at that level, if you can give me a call and tell me how it works so I can relay it to other Marylanders, I'd be much obliged.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, thank you.

First, I cannot believe that you just gave your phone number away.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: That wasn't my personal cell number. I gave the number they could have Googled anyway.

GOVERNOR MOORE: A lot of people are testing it out right now. But I -- and I have to say, especially -- frankly, I know this is not the venue for it -- on a lot of those circuit court conversations, I think that is frankly a long overdue conversation within the State. But I have to say that I know someone from the from the JNC will give you a shout.

I have to, I have to tell you, I have been overwhelmed by the performance of the JNC and the type of jurists that they have pushed in my direction just during these three and a half years. The work, the diligence -- and to your point, something that was a core criteria was is it a reflection of our state.

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It is a reflection of not just the, you know, not just the geographic and demographic, but also the excellence of the state. And I'm grateful for the work that they have continued to do for these past three and a half years all throughout the state of Maryland. But I'm sure they're going to give you a call.

Anything else?

TREASURER DAVIS: No. I got to get out of here. I've got a funeral, guys, I got to get to. But I still have to, you know, still doing that constituent services. So we'll do that, and have a great day.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes.

Well, that concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. The next meeting will be on August 5th. Thank you all, and we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:48 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)