



March 2026 Newsletter Issues 11 & 12

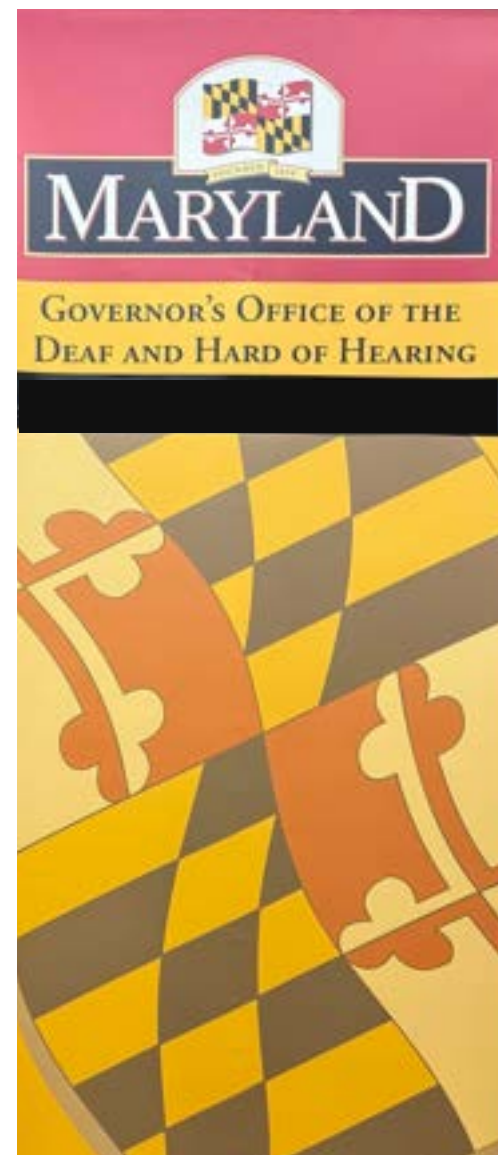
Usherla DeBerry | Director

Issued March 11 and March 31, 2026



You can find our brief ASL Updates on
YouTube or our Social Media
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GOVERNOR MOORE MARCH RECAP



Economic Development

- Utility RELIEF Act proposes \$200M+ investment to lower energy costs, modernize grid, and support clean energy jobs
- ARLIS and broader innovation efforts are complemented by investments in housing near transit to drive growth
- Port of Baltimore handled ~50M tons of cargo in 2025 (second-best year), showing economic resilience
- St. Mary's County Regional Airport runway expansion supports aerospace, defense, and job growth
- \$135M upgrades completed at Oriole Park at Camden Yards to enhance tourism and economic activity

Public Assistance Programs

- The Protection from Predatory Pricing Act aims to prevent unfair “dynamic pricing” in grocery stores
- Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act targets affordable housing and transit-oriented development
- Utility RELIEF Act expected to reduce average household energy bills by ~\$150 annually



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Fiscal Accountability

- The Board of Public Works reviewed state spending, contracts, and funding allocations
- Strategic Energy Investment Fund leveraged for energy affordability and infrastructure improvements
- \$150,000 in DHCD funding awarded to Richardson School of Music

Intergovernmental Affairs

- Governor Moore engaged with the Senate Finance Committee to advance the legislative agenda
- Lt. Governor hosted Maryland mayors, emphasizing state-local partnerships
- Roundtable with April McClain Delaney, faith leaders, and stakeholders on ICE facility concerns
- Ongoing collaboration across local, state, and federal partners on infrastructure and economic projects

New Appointments

- Leadership transition at Maryland Higher Education Commission
- Dr. Sanjay Rai departed; Elena Quiroz-Livanis named interim secretary

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Other Updates

- Multi-state engagement: attended 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma
- Community engagement events, including school visits and meetings with faith and civic leaders
- Celebrated Richardson School of Music ribbon cutting in Takoma Park
- Commemorated the 2nd anniversary of Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, honoring victims and recovery efforts

Resources

- Governor legislative agenda & testimony:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Testifies-Before-Senate-Finance-Committee-in-Support-of-Legislative-Agenda-to-Make-Maryland-More-Affordable-.aspx>
- Board of Public Works: <https://bpw.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- Utility RELIEF Act:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/ROUNDUP-Governor-Moore,-Senate-President-Ferguson,-and-House-Speaker-Peri-Melnik-Unveil-Legislative-Package-to-Lower-Energy.aspx>
- Port of Baltimore update:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Announces-Banner-Year-for-Handling-Cargo-at-the-Helen-Delich-Bentley-Port-of-Baltimore.aspx>
- Higher Education leadership:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Announces-Maryland-Higher-Education-Commission-Leadership-Transition.aspx>
- Airport project:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Celebrates-Completion-of-St-Marys-County-Regional-Airport-Runway-Extension,-Bolstering-State-Aerospace-T.aspx>
- Key Bridge commemoration:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Commemorates-the-Two-Year-Anniversary-of-the-Francis-Scott-Key-Bridge-Collapse.aspx>
- Camden Yards upgrades:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Unveils-Historic-Stadium-Upgrades-at-Oriole-Park-at-Camden-Yards-on-Opening-Day.aspx>

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GODHH March Events

NIC/BEI Study Table

On March 14, 2026, Outreach Interpreter Manager Tanéa Brown led a Study Table designed to provide a focused and disciplined learning space for interpreters. This initiative supports HB 260 and aligns with the Moore–Miller Administration's priorities of Connecting Marylanders to Jobs and Making Maryland a State that Serves.

Study Tables offer interpreters an opportunity to exchange notes, collaborate, and support one another in preparation for the certification exam.

Upcoming sessions will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, and in person on Saturday, April 11, 2026, in Laurel. If interested and/or have any questions or concerns email gov.odhh@maryland.gov.



ID: A photo of two women standing and smiling at the camera.

2026 Legislative Session

The State Board of Sign Language Interpreter Bill (HB1192) had a hearing on Tuesday, 3/10/2026.

MyMGA Link:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1192/?ys=2026rs>

Bill Link:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2026RS/bills/hb/hb1192F.pdf>



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March is Women's History Month!



Elice Patterson is an experienced higher education professional with a longstanding commitment to student success. She began her career at the National Children's Center, where she built a strong foundation in advocacy and service to individuals from diverse backgrounds before transitioning to Gallaudet University's Registrar's Office.

Over the course of 27 years at Gallaudet, Elice has remained dedicated to empowering students to thrive and has developed a deep and enduring passion for the university community. She understands that strong, efficient systems create meaningful opportunities for students to focus on their academic growth and personal achievement.

Her work is driven by a genuine commitment to fostering environments where every student feels supported, valued, and equipped to reach their fullest potential. Elice firmly believes in treating others with dignity and kindness and holds that every individual deserves equal respect, compassion, and understanding. This guiding principle shapes her leadership style, which is grounded in empathy, fairness, and an unwavering dedication to uplifting others.

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Dr. Judith MOUNTY is a Deaf licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Takoma Park, Maryland. She is actively engaged in advocacy focused on equity in professional licensure, as well as expanding mental health and healthcare access for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Dr. MOUNTY's distinguished interdisciplinary career spans education, research, administration, and clinical practice. She served 22 years at Gallaudet University in a variety of leadership, teaching, and research roles. She was an early and influential proponent of bilingual-multicultural education for deaf and hard of hearing students, helping to shape progressive educational approaches in the field.

Her academic experience includes teaching at Boston University and at McDaniel College (formerly Western Maryland College). She has also worked as a teacher and program administrator in pre-college and human service settings.

Dr. MOUNTY holds a doctorate in applied psycholinguistics from Boston University, a master's degree in deaf education from Temple University, and a master's degree in social work from Gallaudet University.

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Jaime Recht ran her first 26.2-mile race at the Marine Corps Marathon in 2017. Inspired by the Abbott World Marathon Majors, she became determined to complete the prestigious races. Over time, she ran 16 marathons, including seven World Marathon Majors. On March 1, 2026, in Tokyo, Japan, Recht achieved her goal and received the Six Star Medal, becoming one of the first DeafBlind female runners to earn this honor after completing races in Chicago, Berlin, New York City, London, and Tokyo.

During races, Recht worked with several guides, but in training she often ran alone in familiar areas. Because of limited vision and changes in terrain or lighting, she slowed down in crowded or shaded places to avoid tripping. Recht believes challenges are not major obstacles, saying she can overcome them even with limited sight. After 33 years of service, she retired from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration.

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Janet S. (Rothenberg) Weinstock was born and raised in New York City in a Jewish Deaf family. She attended an oral day school and public schools in four different states. After earning her degrees from Gallaudet University (then known as Gallaudet College), she worked on the Kendall Green campus for 35 years, educating individuals from preschool age through adulthood.

During her career, Janet developed and taught a variety of courses in ASL, English Language Arts, and Deaf Studies. She also conducted workshops and presentations that focused on applying theory to practice in both home and educational settings. Throughout her 35 years at Gallaudet, she was actively involved in numerous committees and projects both on and off campus.

Janet previously served as secretary on the board of the Deaf Abused Women's Network (DAWN) and as a board member of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. She has also volunteered as an ASL and acting coach for school and community theater productions, served on the editorial staff of The Bilingual Center, and participated on committees for various organizations.

In retirement, Janet remains active with many interests, including baking, solving crossword and jigsaw puzzles, practicing yoga, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, reading and writing, traveling, and volunteering. She served as secretary and later president of Maryland Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc. for seven years. She has also been a core member of the Maryland LeadK committee and served as an advisor for Gallaudet's Deaf New York Project, among other initiatives.

Janet enjoys sharing stories about her maternal family's experiences during the Holocaust. She currently assists the Maryland Deaf Community Center (MDCC) with flyers and fundraising events. Janet and her husband, Mike, have lived in Maryland for 48 years and are the parents of two adult Deaf sons.

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For more than three decades, **Dr. Jerri Lyn Dorminy** has called Maryland home, a place where her personal and professional journey has evolved alongside her deep commitment to student success. A proud graduate of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and the University of Maryland, College Park, she has dedicated her career to ensuring that students not only access higher education, but truly thrive within it.

Jerri Lyn's path into higher education is rooted in a passion for connection, equity, and opportunity. At Gallaudet University, where she serves as Student Success Director, she leads programs that support students at every stage of their journey from orientation and advising to career readiness and graduation. For Jerri Lyn, this work has always been about more than programs, it's about people.

"I've always believed that student success is deeply personal," she shares. "Every student has a story, and our role is to help them navigate challenges, discover their strengths, and realize their potential."

Throughout her career, Jerri Lyn has advanced how institutions approach student success by integrating data-driven strategies with compassion and student-centered practices. She has spearheaded major initiatives, including the implementation of a new student information system and the redesign of career services, while consistently centering the student experience in decision-making.

A Maryland resident since 1993, Jerri Lyn's work reflects the values of the communities she calls home—resilience, inclusion, and a commitment to uplifting others. She is especially passionate about supporting students from diverse and multicultural backgrounds, ensuring that every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to succeed. As a Deaf and bilingual professional who communicates in both American Sign Language and English, she brings a powerful perspective to fostering accessibility and belonging.

During Women's History Month, we celebrate Dr. Jerri Lyn Dorminy not only for her leadership and accomplishments, but for the way she shows up every day with purpose, empathy, and an unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives.

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April 2026 NEWSLETTER ISSUES 13 AND 14 TO BE RELEASED April 30, 2026.



**UNLOAD - CONNECT
UNDERSTAND - EACH OTHER
UNITY - TOGETHER**

*Coining the slogan, "nothing about us
without us,"*



Working at the pleasure of the Moore/Miller
Administration as they say, 'leave no one
behind.'



Governor Wes Moore



**Lieutenant Governor
Aruna Miller**

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