

# **Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs**



#### **Letter from Governor**

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present to you the 2018 Annual Report of the Governor's Commission Hispanic Affairs. This report highlights the dedicated work of the Commission over the past year.

I would like to thank the Commissioners for their review and recommendations throughout the process. You remain committed to honoring the legacy your community has made and celebrating the diversity in this great state. My administration will continue to share your rich heritage with other citizens and pass over your contributions to the next generations to come.



I would like to ask all of you to continue to participate in civic engagement and collaborate with the Commission. The 2020 census approaches, and the role of our communities is enormous. Your voice should be heard. You are the ones who can address the unique needs and strengths of your community. Our administration will do our best to share important information and opportunities for community improvement through the Commission.

I would like to congratulate the Commissioners on this accomplishment again and show appreciation for their leadership and commitment.

Thank you for empowering Marylanders and our communities. I look forward to working with you further in the future.

Larry Hogan

Governor of Maryland

#### **Letter from Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

The strength of Maryland comes from the diversity and vibrancy of our communities. Their distinctive culture and traditions make Maryland more embracing and inclusive. The Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs has taken an important role to engage, educate, and empower those communities. The Commission has assisted the Hogan Administration in focusing on how it can change Maryland for the better, especially for ethnic populations.

Through our cultural and ethnic commissions, we are educated about your community's beautiful culture, history, and heritage. More importantly, we have been able to address the issues your community faces and to stand



together to find solutions suitable for you. The 2018 activities, projects, and initiatives of the Commission improved our neighborhoods and strengthened their solidarity.

I would like to congratulate the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs and each of the Commissioners who serve as representatives for Governor Larry Hogan and your respected communities. Congratulations to Chair Walkiria Pool. Her dedication is truly appreciated.

I also would like to applaud the Commission's Administrative Director Lorena Rivera for her continued support and hard work.

With your perseverance of participation and leadership, the Commission will continue to meet its goals and vision.

Thank you.

Steven McAdams
Executive Director

Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

#### **Letter from Commission Chair**

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that I present to you the Annual Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs Report for 2018. The State of Maryland has welcomed and continually offered support to many immigrant people, myself included.

This report is a testament to the many opportunities this great country has offered us and Governor Larry Hogan's continual effort to better serve the Maryland's Latino community. The Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs has worked tirelessly to listen,



identify, engage, and respond to the Latino community's concerns and needs. We have sought to address the issues that many different communities face, recognizing that our distinctive cultures and communities make Maryland more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient.

To continue fostering our successes and serve Latinos in Maryland better, it is of upmost importance to quantify the growth and development of our community. As the Latino population rapidly grows in Maryland, we need more resources for empowerment and community organizations. Currently, our Commission is focusing on the 2020 census, where an accurate count will serve as a tool to further cultivate the Latino community. I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Larry Hogan along with Ms. Lilly Castillo to co-chair the State Complete Count Committee for the 2020 census.

Our Commissioners have worked hard to produce this report, including a group of diverse and committed individuals who are proud to represent their culture and Latino roots. I want to thank all of the Commissioners, our Director Lorena Rivera, and the endless support from Steven McAdams, and the entire team of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and Governor Larry Hogan's office.

With great joy and gratitude,

Walkiria Pool Chair Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs



Today, the Hispanic community in Maryland is one of the largest and fastest growing minority groups in the state. Its growth is changing the face of Maryland.

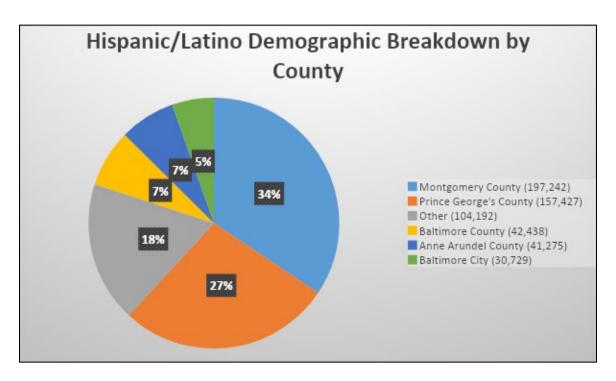
In Maryland, it is estimated that there are over 500,000 Hispanics who contribute to Maryland communities on a daily basis. According to the U.S. Census, while a majority of Hispanics in Maryland has a strong linguistic and cultural tie with Spanish-speaking countries, while most Hispanics under the age of 18 were born within the United States and are U.S. citizens. Foreign-born residents account for 53.6 percent of the state's Hispanic community, with 39.1 percent being non-U.S. citizens. Also, a young and vibrant population that is distinctive in Maryland and separates itself from other states across the United States.

For this reason, it has been a priority for the Commission to listen to the community's issues and concerns and bring them to the forefront of the administration, whether it be economic development, small business, education, charity, and community concern. In the past year, the Commission has participated in various community, charitable, and business educational events.

Governor Hogan's vision of "Changing Maryland for the Better" is reflected by his firm support of all ethnic commissions and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The Commission is truly proud of the work they have been able to do and looks forward to achieving more in 2019.







Source: American Fact Finder 2017 estimates & American Community Survey

## Maryland is home for more than 500,000 Hispanic Americans, more than 9% of the total population of the state.

34% of total Hispanic Americans in Maryland live in Montgomery County, which is 19% of total Montgomery County residents.

With over 40,000 small businesses in Maryland, Hispanic businesses have expanded their footprint in Maryland.



#### What We Do

Recognize cultural diversity

Advocate small businesses & educational opportunities

Support communities in need



#### **Crisis Response**

Director of Hispanic Affairs Lorena Rivera had the opportunity to provide remarks and a Governor's Citation to OLE's (Organization of Latinos at Exelon) Hispanic Heritage Month celebration hosted by Commissioner Alexander Nuñez. The celebration highlighted the efforts in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. While in Puerto Rico, the entire Exelon/BGE team of 284 employees restored power to more than 11,000 customers—installing

376 poles, 267 transformers, and more than 108 miles of primary and secondary wires. Not only did they provide power restoration, but it was also a mission of hope to those that had been forgotten.

From tragedy to triumph, Maryland's local community responded to the needs of Puerto Rico. Our administration is proud to have also been contributors to this call of help. After a call with Ricardo Rossello, Governor of Puerto Rico, Governor Hogan sent a 26-member unit of the Maryland National Guard to Puerto Rico to aid in the recovery. The Maryland National Guard's 29th Combat Aviation Brigade deployed with two systems that helped purify over 1,200 gallons of water per hour for drinking, cooking, and hygiene.

#### Procurement 101 En Español

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Governor's Commission of Hispanic Affairs partnered with the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs to bring "Procurement 101 En Español." This all-in-Spanish workshop is for Hispanic small businesses that have little or no knowledge of the state procurement process. The class focused on common procurement terminology, examined how the state contracting arena operates, and provided resources to help businesses determine if pursuing work in the public sector would be beneficial to their company.







### Hispanic Small Business Leaders Recognition

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and members of the Commission hosted Hispanic small business owners/leaders who contribute so much to Maryland's growing and thriving economy.

#### **Education Based Latino Outreach 38th Annual Latino Fest**

Governor Hogan and members of the Hispanic Commission visited Education Based Latino Outreach's (EBLO) 38th Annual Latino Fest at Patterson Park in Baltimore. EBLO is growing to provide greater educational opportunities to help Latino students succeed in school, increase awareness and acceptance of Latino culture in the Baltimore area, and provide opportunities for Latinos and the Baltimore community to share and interact.







#### **Meal Kit Donations**

Commission Chair Walkiria Pool helped distribute kits to Hispanic churches and community leaders across Prince George's County. In collaboration with the Maryland Department of General Services and community partners, the Commission distributed 19,440 shelf-stable meal kits to several organizations and churches who help Maryland Hispanic families in need.









- Census 2020 Initiative
  - Outreach at community based events
  - Maryland Complete Count Census Meeting attendance
- MVA REAL ID Education
  - o Know the facts, educate, empower the community
- "Es Mi Parque" Initiative continuation
  - The Maryland Department of Natural Resources with the assistance of the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, will continue the "Es Mi Parque" program initiative. The "Es Mi Parque" program was launched in 2016 to improve customer services for the local Hispanic community at State Parks and other recreation areas in Maryland. The program showcases the diverse fishing opportunities offered throughout the state and information about the regulations associated with both recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Continued collaboration with Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs
  - Ready, Set, Grow! En Español
  - Procurement 101 En Español



#### **Mission of the Commission**

The Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs advises government, advances solutions, and serves as a resource to ensure the economic, educational, health, and social well-being of Hispanics.

#### **Commission Members**

Chair:

Walkiria Pool

Members:

Francisco Ayala

Juan Caicedo

Lilian Castillo-Harris

Maria D'Arcy

**Christian Licier** 

Alexander G. Núňez

Erick A. Oribio

Miguel Romao Palmeiro

Carol A. Ramirez

Maria Liliana Robeson

**Gregory Rodriguez** 

Liliana E. Rojas

David A. Rosario

Miguel C. Vicente

Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez



Lorena Rivera
Director of Hispanic Affairs
Lorena.rivera@maryland.gov

100 Community Place 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Crownsville MD 21032 410-697-9260 GOCI.Maryland.gov



@MarylandGOCI



@MarylandGOCI

