

News Release

Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman Celebrates First Year in Office

Comptroller Lierman highlights significant accomplishments for 2023, outlines priorities for 2024

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 16, 2024) — Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman today marked one year in office with the release of a [video](#) highlighting several significant accomplishments of the Office of the Comptroller since her swearing-in as Maryland's 34th Comptroller on January 16, 2023.

Since taking office, Comptroller Lierman has focused on executing the agency's vision for working in partnership to create a more equitable, resilient, and prosperous state so that every Marylander can reach their full potential through three core priorities:

1. Implementing critical agency-wide improvements to help our state government work better;
2. Ensuring the resources and expertise of the agency create opportunities for and positively impact Maryland families, communities, and businesses; and
3. Ensuring Maryland is well-positioned for responsible long-term economic growth and success.

Comptroller Lierman also expressed her appreciation for the people of Maryland and the Office of the Comptroller's more than 1,100 team members.

"Being sworn in last January, surrounded by friends, family, peers, and hundreds of Marylanders was an incredible experience, but getting to do the work has been even better," Comptroller Lierman said. "I am excited to mark my first year in office, and I look forward to sharing more progress, updates, and accomplishments in the years to come."

Key accomplishments for the Office of the Comptroller in 2023 included:

- Reorganizing the agency's leadership structure to ensure accountability and support for all team members.
- Completing a tour of all branch offices across the state and kicking off a state tour to meet with local elected leaders and business leaders in all counties.
- Beginning the migration of the Agency's IT systems from mainframe-based technology to the cloud as part of an agency-wide modernization effort to improve efficiency and transparency.
- Releasing the first-ever [State of the Economy](#) report, which analyzed the opportunities and challenges driving Maryland's economic performance.

- Establishing new and strengthening existing relationships with organizations while also making communities throughout Maryland aware of resources and services available through the agency's new Public Engagement Team.
- Hiring the state's first Climate Resilience Director to ensure policies are aligned toward creating a more climate-resilient state.
- Creating the Office of Equity and Transformation to develop a diverse, inclusive workplace and strengthen staff training and development.
- Adding new positions and slashing the agency's vacancy rate by adding 178 full-time, 50 contractual, and 217 temporary employees.
- Increasing accessibility and 508 compliance.
- Processing over 3.3 million tax returns and issuing over 2 million refunds.

As a member of the [Board of Public Works \(BPW\)](#) in 2023, Comptroller Lierman worked alongside Maryland Governor Wes Moore and Treasurer Dereck Davis to approve 1,995 items representing more than \$8.8 billion in state spending. More than 500 of those items were contract awards, with 17% (\$241 million) of contracts awarded to certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), and 33% of new awards (\$380 million) made to certified Small Businesses. The BPW also increased awards to MBEs by \$160 million amid a 52% decrease in procurement expenditures.

Comptroller Lierman also served as the Vice Chair of the State Retirement and Pension System Board, overseeing \$64 billion in assets under management on behalf of 413,000 members to ensure that active and former state employees, teachers, police officers, and firefighters are well-positioned for retirement.

The Office of the Comptroller continues to build on its accomplishments and priorities, becoming the first state agency to begin moving its Baltimore office from the State Center Complex at 301 W. Preston Street to 7 Saint Paul Street Downtown. The Taxpayer Services Division began working in the new location on January 2, 2024. The move, which will be complete in Spring 2024, will support the revitalization of Downtown Baltimore and make agency services more convenient and accessible to taxpayers.

Additionally, the Office of the Comptroller is modernizing the state's tax processing system with the launch of [Maryland Tax Connect](#). This new secure portal will allow taxpayers to file taxes and complete other key functions online, saving taxpayers time and money. **The portal will be available for business tax filers on February 6, 2024**, and is expected to serve all tax types by 2026. The agency will also unveil a redesigned website in late 2024.

Find information about resources and services available through the Office of the Comptroller by visiting www.marylandtaxes.gov.

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