



HOWARD COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

20 ANNUAL 25 REPORT



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



Dear Chamber Members and Friends,

As we look back on the past year, we are proud of the remarkable progress the Howard County Chamber has made, and inspired by the momentum guiding us into 2026. This year brought meaningful growth, renewed energy, and exciting developments that strengthened both our organization and the local business community we serve.

A major highlight was the opening of our new office on the Downtown Columbia lakefront. This vibrant, modern space has quickly become a gathering place for members—a home for collaboration, shared ideas, and stronger connections. We also welcomed Events Manager Brianna Scott to our team and introduced Matt Anderson of World Insurance as our new Board Chair. Their leadership and expertise have already made a significant impact on the Chamber's direction and capacity.

Our programming also reached new heights. We celebrated our largest Women's Leadership Conference to date, delivered member favorites such as the Golf Classic and Summer Social, and introduced open houses to foster deeper engagement in our new space. Our Vintage Hollywood Signature Event was a standout moment of the year, and the adoption of our 2026–2028 Strategic Plan will ensure that our future work remains focused, responsive, and aligned with member needs.

Advocacy remained a cornerstone of our efforts as we expanded our presence on key policy issues and participated in a highly active legislative session. The Chamber continues to be a strong and informed voice for businesses at both the local and state levels, advancing priorities that support economic growth and a competitive business climate.

As we move into 2026, we are committed to delivering even greater value. New initiatives, such as our Nonprofit Roundtables, will offer members fresh opportunities to connect, learn, and flourish. These efforts reflect our dedication to supporting organizations of every size across Howard County.

Thank you for your continued support, engagement, and partnership. We look forward to a year of momentum, connection, and shared success in 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Matt'.

Matt Anderson
Chair, Howard County Chamber Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristi Simon'.

Kristi Simon
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

ABOUT THE

HOWARD COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

706
TOTAL MEMBERS

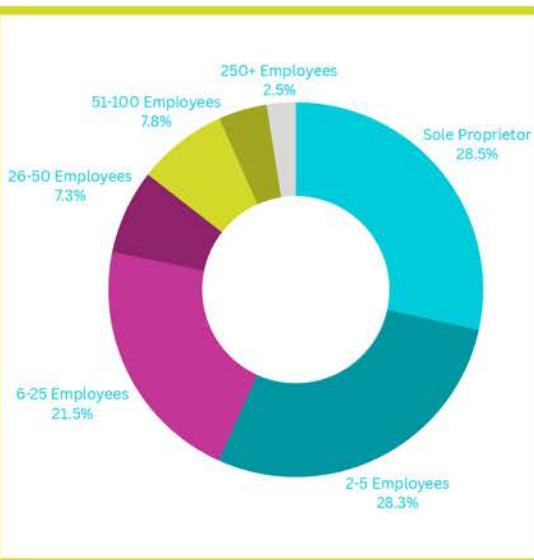
+3 (2024: 703)

FOR 56 YEARS, THE HOWARD COUNTY CHAMBER HAS STRENGTHENED THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY THROUGH ADVOCACY, CONNECTION, AND HIGH-IMPACT PROGRAMMING.

+158
NEW MEMBERS

+21 (2024: 137)

PEOPLE, POLICY, PROSPERITY



TOP 5 INDUSTRIES

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FINANCE & INSURANCE
FAMILY, COMMUNITY & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS
COMPUTERS, IT & WEBSITES
HEALTH CARE

MEET THE TEAM



KRISTI SIMON

President & CEO



MEAGHAN MCCLURE

VP of Marketing & Communications



LORI KLEPPIN

Director of Membership & External Affairs



BRIANNA SCOTT

Events Manager



JULIE SHERRY

Office Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



KRISTI SIMON
President & CEO
Howard County
Chamber of Commerce



MATT ANDERSON
Chair
World Insurance
Associates LLC



LINDA OSTOVITZ
Immediate Past Chair
Offit Kurman



TRICIA HUDSON
Chair Elect
Hudson Coastal



KATIE FORTWENGLER
Treasurer
KatzAbosch



JAMES GORMAN
Member at Large
M&T Bank



CLARO PIO RODA
Member at Large
Johns Hopkins Howard
County Medical Center



KIMBERLY PRESCOTT
Member at Large
Prescott HR

BOARD MEMBERS



CHRIS BRANDT
Community Action
Council of Howard
County



KELLY BROOKS
Spectrum HR
Solutions



SHAUN EDDY
Oxford Planning
Group



LYNDA ELLIS
Capitol Concierge



CHRIS HAINES
Fulton Bank



KELLI HALL
Giant Food



AMANDA HOF
Visit Howard
County



GRETCHEN HOLZHAUSER
Live! Casino &
Hotel Maryland



JENNIFER JONES
Howard County
Economic Development
Authority



ADAM JOSS
The Vertical
Connection



ELI LINTHICUM
GameOn Bar +
Arcade



CHARLIE MCCABE
McCabe Insurance
Associates



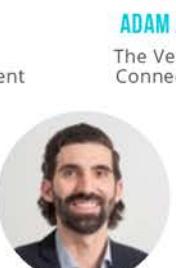
RYAN MILLER
Edwards
Performance
Solutions



KRISTY MUMMA
Stewart
Technologies



SANG OH
Legal Counsel
Talkin & Oh, LLP



CASEY PHILLIPS
YPN Chair
Wilhelm Builders



DAN ROSEWAG
Howard County
Public School
System



KRISTI SMITH
Howard Hughes
Communities



MARCHÉ TAYLOR
Baltimore Gas &
Electric



GUDELL WARD
IMEC Group LLC

COMMITTEES

THE CHAMBER RELIES ON THE DEDICATION OF VOLUNTEERS TO GUIDE ITS WORK AND STRENGTHEN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. OUR COMMITTEES PROVIDE VITAL LEADERSHIP, HELPING SHAPE PROGRAMMING, EVENTS, AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVES THAT DELIVER VALUE TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORT CHAMBER PRIORITIES.

AMBASSADORS

The Ambassador Committee champions member engagement by building connections, sharing feedback, and representing the Chamber throughout the community. Members also play a key role in recruiting new businesses and supporting strategic membership outreach.

CHAIR: Angela Balsamo

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The Legislative Affairs Committee shapes the Chamber's advocacy efforts by analyzing policy issues, monitoring legislation, and representing business interests at the local and state levels. Members also help guide the Chamber's positions and support engagement with elected officials.

CO-CHAIRS: Lynda Ellis & Shaun Eddy

SMALL BUSINESS

The Small Business Committee supports this sector by informing the Chamber's programming, providing tools for growth, and creating opportunities for small business owners to connect. Members also help elevate the challenges and priorities of small businesses across the county.

CHAIR: Linda Ostovitz

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The Women's Leadership Conference Committee shapes the annual event by developing impactful programming, securing dynamic speakers and sponsors, and creating opportunities for women to connect. Members also support professional growth and community-building.

CO-CHAIRS: Kristy Mumma & Lori Fuchs

SIGNATURE EVENT

The Signature Event Committee plans the Chamber's themed gala, creating a fun and engaging evening for members to connect and celebrate the Howard County business community. Members also help with event planning, sponsorship, and ensuring a memorable experience.

CHAIR: Valerie Weitz

GOLF CLASSIC

The Golf Classic Committee plans the Chamber's annual golf outing, creating a fun and engaging event that brings members together while supporting community connections. Members also help with event logistics, sponsorships, and ensuring a successful and enjoyable day for all participants.

YPN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



CASEY PHILLIPS
Chair
Wilhelm Builders



CLAIRE DUARTE
Vice Chair
The Columbia Mom



JULIA LEDERER
Immediate Past Chair
Zaching Against Cancer



ALICIA LIBERTO
Secretary
Tower Federal Credit Union



MATT PHILLIPS
Treasurer
M&T Bank

BOARD MEMBERS



JOE NATION
Joe Does Video



DEREK ROBINSON
Bridgeway
Community Church



KEVIN HASHIMOTO
Kevin Hashimoto
Photography



JOE USHER
DP Solutions

THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK BRINGS TOGETHER RISING PROFESSIONALS TO LEARN, GROW, AND BUILD MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS ACROSS HOWARD COUNTY.



6

NETWORKING MIXERS

48

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

-6 (2024: 54)

CHAMBER GAMES

NEW YPN PREMIER EVENT

83 REGISTRATIONS
& 17 SPONSORS

AWARDS FOR CHAMBER EXCELLENCE

THE AWARDS FOR CHAMBER EXCELLENCE HONOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND IMPACT WITHIN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUSINESS COMMUNITY.



LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

JAM Eateries



BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Tricia Hudson
(Hudson Coastal)



ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR

Eli & Casey Linthicum
(Gameon Bar + Arcade)



COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Community Action Council
of Howard County



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Matt Phillips
(M&T Bank)



AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Bobby Cardoni
(Strategic Factory)

EVENTS

58 CHAMBER SPONSORED EVENTS

BUSINESS OUTLOOK LUNCH	217	ATTENDED
+20 (2024: 197)		
BUSINESS DAY IN ANNAPOLIS	27	ATTENDED
+8 (2024: 19)		
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE	364	ATTENDED
+77 (2024: 287)		
GOLF CLASSIC	126	ATTENDED
+15 (2024: 111)		
SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT	86	ATTENDED
LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP BREAKFAST	79	ATTENDED
+16 (2024: 63)		
ANNUAL MEETING	162	ATTENDED
+16 (2024: 146)		
SUMMER SOCIAL	147	ATTENDED
+19 (2024: 128)		
ELECTED OFFICIALS MEET & GREET	114	ATTENDED
+17 (2024: 97)		
SIGNATURE EVENT	230	ATTENDED
+33 (2024: 197)		
YPN CHAMBER GAMES	83	ATTENDED
+4 (2024 YPN SUMMIT: 79)		
ECONOMIC FORECAST BREAKFAST	203	ATTENDED
-27 (2024: 230)		
LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW BREAKFAST	82	ATTENDED
+13 (2024: 69)		
SMALL BUSINESS SEMINARS	209	REGISTRATIONS
SIX TOTAL - AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 35		
+11 (2024 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 24)		
NETWORKING EVENTS	820	REGISTRATIONS
19 TOTAL - AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 44		
+7 (2024 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 37)		

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

THE CHAMBER ADVOCATES FOR PRO-BUSINESS POLICIES THAT SUPPORT ECONOMIC VITALITY AND STRENGTHEN HOWARD COUNTY'S BUSINESS CLIMATE, MONITORING KEY BILLS AND ENGAGING OFFICIALS TO ADVANCE MEMBER INTERESTS.

70+

BILLS MONITORED
BY THE CHAMBER

31

BILLS TESTIFIED ON
BY THE CHAMBER

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
BUSINESS REGULATIONS,
OPERATIONS & TAXATION
EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE
TRANSPORTATION
CYBERSECURITY & TECHNOLOGY
HEALTHCARE

25

BILLS THE CHAMBER TOOK
AN "OPPOSED" POSITION ON

100% of these bills did not pass.

6

BILLS THE CHAMBER TOOK
A "SUPPORT" POSITION ON

50% of these bills were passed.

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA



LINKEDIN
+560
FOLLOWERS

+166 (2024: 394)



FACEBOOK
+130
FOLLOWERS

+0 (2024: 130)



INSTAGRAM
+400
FOLLOWERS

+185 (2024: 215)

11,287 TOTAL PROFILE VISITS

+2,743 (2024: 8,544)

200,686 TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

+137,740 (2024: 62,946)

4,934 from Paid Ads

WEBSITE

97,139
TOTAL SESSIONS

+36,150 (2024: 60,989)

73,379
UNIQUE VISITORS

+30,652 (2024: 42,727)

40.35%
ENGAGEMENT RATE

-10% (2024: 50.35%)

1.77

PAGE VIEWS PER SESSION

-0.45% (2024: 2.22)

NEWSLETTERS

520,434 TOTAL SENT

+132,736 (2024: 387,698)

38% OPEN RATE

+5% (2024: 33%)

14,468 TOTAL CLICKS

-604 (2024: 15,072)

20 ANNUAL 25 PARTNERS

LEGACY



Business MONTHLY

Howard Hughes
COMMUNITIES



M&T Bank

BENEFATOR



DAVIS | AGNOR Attorneys at Law
RAPAPORT | SKALNY



LEADER



DP Solutions
Problem Solved.



PATRON



Fulton Bank



THE MALL IN
COLUMBIA

SUPPORTING

BmorePromo



Coffee News Maryland
Affordable • Exclusive • Weekly



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