



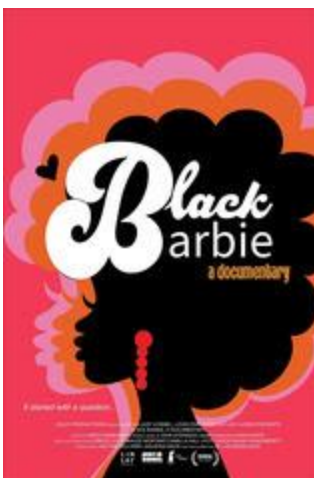
UPCOMING EVENTS



NOW Racial Justice Summit

June 18 6:30-8:30 pm (virtual)

Register Here:
<https://now.org/rjs2024>



JUNE 19th - BLACK BARBIE Premieres on Netflix

This documentary from producer Shonda Rhimes celebrates the momentous impact three Black women at Mattel had on the evolution of **Barbie**.



Maryland Women's Heritage Center Presents FarmHER by Annie Simcoe

Annie Simcoe's quilted paper art is an ode to FarmHERS

Free Artist Reception June 22, 2024 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

FARMHER
WORKS OF HANDMADE PAPER AND THREAD BY ANNIE SIMCOE
MAY/JUNE
RECEPTION: JUNE 22, 11AM-1PM



Maryland Women's Business Center & Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs

Prime Contracting in the Small Business Reserve Program Webinar

June 24 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Reproductive Justice & Intimate Partner Violence 101 - How did we get here?
Social Work CEU's available

June 24, 2024 2-3:30 PM
[CLICK HERE FOR EVENT INFORMATION](#)

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Make Democracy Work Breakfast
Featuring Governor Moore's Legislative Director Eric Leudtke

Annapolis, MD

June 27, 2024 8:30 AM
[CLICK HERE FOR EVENT INFORMATION](#)

Join Reproductive Justice Maryland at Salisbury Pride!

Jun 29, 2024, 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

July 9th
BLACK EQUAL PAY DAY!

AAUW Summer Meeting in Baltimore

July 20, 2024

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

**Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women
Annual Conference**

SAVE THE DATE

Nov 23, 2024

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT



*“The **Washington County Commission for Women** is the ‘model’ Commission for the 35 other appointed Boards & Commissions in Washington County. We are really excited about the recognition and grateful that we have been effective building bridges, establishing working relationships with our elected officials and their staff,”* says President Beth Harvey.

The Commission has been working overtime to accomplish great things for the women of Washington County. Establishing a [web presence](#) significantly helped with public visibility.

Two years in a row, the Commission partnered with TEDxHagerstownWomen during the global TEDWomen week. The 2023 theme was **Two Steps Forward**, gathering women to amplify ideas that inspire confidence and joyfully celebrating those taking bold strides to make big dreams become reality.

The Commission launched a reoccurring financial literacy program for women in recovery and regularly hosts elected officials and nonprofit leaders to brief them at monthly meetings. *“By introducing guest speakers at monthly meetings we are able to track and monitor issues directly affecting women in our community. Then in pairs, we provide public comments at county commissioner meetings,”* Beth added.

The Commission plans to continue as a TEDx partner because it is an event that highlights women who have big ideas to spark conversation in our community.



COMMISSION AT WORK



MEET THE NEW ED

Hi! I'm Ariana Kelly, the new Executive Director of the *Maryland Commission for Women*. I'm looking forward to working with people and organizations from across the state to advance women's rights here in Maryland. Next year, the *Commission* celebrates our 60th Anniversary! And our work to ensure women have full social, political and economic equality continues!

The *Commission* will be working with community groups and state agencies to achieve this goal. I'm eager to get started! My background is in both community organizing and state government. I served as Executive Director of *NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland* and Campaign Director at *MomsRising*. I also produced the national PBS women's news program *To The Contrary*. As a legislator I represented District 16 in Maryland's *House* and *Senate* for 14 years. I have been the lead sponsor of dozens of successful bills to advance women's rights, improve women's health and strengthen family economic security, including 4 of the *Commission's* priority bills just this year! Together, I know we can do great things. And, have some fun while doing it!



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Five of the Maryland Commission for Women's legislative priorities have been signed into law by Governor Moore!

- SJ1: Affirming the Equal Rights Amendment (Kelly/Patterson)
- HB496: Sex Crimes: Consent and Repeal of Threat of Force (Kelly/Shetty)
- SB391: Extending the Statute of Limitations on Stalking, Sexual Extortion, and and Revenge Porn (Kelly/Bartlett)
- SB113 Preventing the Solicitation of a Minor for Child Pornography (Kelly/Atterbeary)
- SB975 Establishing Security Grants for Reproductive Health Care Clinics (Elfreth/Vogel)

Congratulations to *Policy and Legislation Committee* Chair Commissioner Essita Duncan and the Committee Members who did an extraordinary job supporting these bills to advance women's rights in Maryland.

ANNUAL AWARDS

This March the *Maryland Commission for Women* was welcomed to Government House where Governor and First Lady Moore joined us to induct five history-making women into the *Maryland Women's Hall of Fame: U.S. Speaker Emeritus Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of State Susan Lee, Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Adrienne Jones and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller.*



We also honored five inspiring young women leaders from across the state who give us tremendous hope for the future. These young women are *Kiera Caffrey, Emily Dong, Lily Peng, Fariza Samadova and Brooke Silver.*

You can see more event photos [here](#) and read about the event at the [2024 Award and Induction page](#). Special Thanks to the *Awards and Recognition Committee* Chair Commissioner Pier Blake and the Committee Members for their hard work planning this extraordinary event!



MD Dept. of Labor Issues Equal Pay Report

In honor of **Black Women's Equal Pay Day** on July 9th take a look at this report issued by Maryland's *Secretary of Labor* Portia Wu examining Maryland's pay gap. The report finds that the average Maryland woman earns \$.86 for every dollar a man earns. The lifetime wage gap for Black women in Maryland is \$1.1 Million, and for Latina women it is \$1.8 Million.

[Click here to download Report](#)

Celebrating PRIDE!

The *Commission for Women* is celebrating pride by recognizing the historic contributions of Maggie McIntosh, the first openly LGBTQ+ member of the Maryland General Assembly. Maggie represented Baltimore's 43rd legislative district from 1993-2023. A woman of many firsts, Maggie is also the first woman to serve as *House Majority Leader*, and the first woman to Chair the powerful *House Appropriations Committee*. Maggie shines as a woman who breaks social barriers, as a brilliant and influential policymaker, and as a beloved colleague and mentor to generations of political leaders.



Chair Emeritus McIntosh is a former teacher in the Baltimore City Schools who led the charge for landmark legislation to improve K-12 public education for all of Maryland's public schools. She has also been the lead on legislation to enact marriage equality and to protect Marylanders from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. She began her political career as the state director for U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski from 1988 to 1992, and the campaign manager for Senator Mikulski's 1992 campaign. Among her countless legislative awards, Chair Emeritus McIntosh is enshrined in the Maryland Daily Record's *Circle of Excellence* as one of **Maryland's Top 100 Women**.





Miss Maryland an Asian American trans military wife, speaks out against hate

Newly crowned Miss Maryland USA, a Cambodian American trans woman and a military wife, is speaking out against transphobic hate comments she received after winning her title.

Bailey Anne Kennedy, 31, who immigrated from Cambodia when she was 11, said she was inspired to compete in beauty pageants after last year Miss USA lifted [restrictions](#) on contestants who are married and over the age 28. She won the state's title last week and celebrated the win Saturday at

Washington, D.C.'s Capital Pride Parade.

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[READ THE FULL ARTICLE BY Sakshi Venkatraman HERE](#)



Inside the push to reshape the gender politics of Maryland’s representatives

A few weeks ago, I called one of the most dedicated volunteers on Angela Alsobrooks’ campaign for a morning vibe check on the odds the Prince George’s County executive would triumph in the Maryland Democratic primary to succeed the retiring Sen. Ben Cardin.

The polls had Alsobrooks’ opponent, Rep. David Trone, a three-term congressman and owner of the Total Wine & More alcohol retailer, leading into Election Day. He self-financed his campaign with \$62 million, a fortune he relied on to outspend Alsobrooks by a 10-to-1 margin as he flooded the airwaves with TV ads. The race turned sour late last month when Trone disparaged Alsobrooks’ experience. Trone also used a racial slur during a congressional hearing earlier this spring, for which he apologized. Meanwhile, Alsobrooks stuck to issues like economic opportunity, community safety, and health care.

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[READ THE FULL STORY](#)
[by Michael Jones HERE](#)



Evvy’s Equal Research Day – And New Book - Exposes Gender Health Gaps

In 2022, Jimmy Kimmel Live took to the streets. There, the show’s interviewer stopped random men and [asked](#) them questions about basic female anatomy and health, including “Do most women have one uterus or two?”, “What does PMS stand for and how often does it happen?” and “What part of the body does a mammogram examine?”. None of the men knew the correct answers. In 2023, the same interviewer [asked](#) different men similar questions. Again, none of the men knew.

These two segments, titled “What Do You Know About the Female Body?”, showed that many people don’t actually know that much. And while the Jimmy Kimmel Live segments are recent, that knowledge gap has existed for [hundreds of years](#). The first known clinical trial took place in 1747, and, in the centuries that followed, scientists developed the first vaccines, discovered penicillin, invented the first EKG machine, performed the first human heart transplant, and more. But all these innovations – as well as the foundational research, data, and development behind them – were done without women.

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[READ THE FULL STORY](#)
[by Eva Epker HERE](#)

Joseline Peña-Melnyk On Amplifying Latina Leadership



By the time she was eight years old, Maryland Delegate [Joseline Peña-Melnyk](#) had already developed a sense of the injustices in the world. She noticed how the Latina women like her mother, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, were treated at the welfare office, and she knew it wasn't right. Her mother took to calling her *la abogada*, meaning "little lawyer."

"And I knew there and then that I wanted to be a lawyer—don't ask me why—and that I wanted to be the voice for my community," she told journalists during the April 2024 Women in Politics fellowship.

Peña-Melnyk knew she had to graduate college to accomplish this goal, and she would become the first in her family to do so.

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[READ THE FULL STORY by Madeleine Sherer HERE](#)



Girls flag football is coming to Montgomery Co., plus more high schools across Maryland

After a successful inaugural year of girls' flag football in Frederick County, the program is expanding to high schools across Maryland in 2024 with the help of two sponsors.

After operating in 10 high schools in Frederick County last year, [the program is expanding](#) to Baltimore, Montgomery and Washington counties.

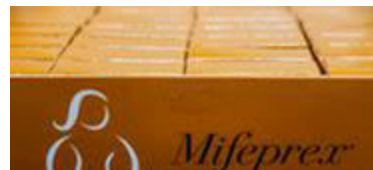
Sportswear company Under Armour and the Baltimore Ravens are providing custom uniforms, plus funding for coaching stipends, transportation, awards and other expenses to make it happen.

Under Armour Director Trey Evans said the company hopes the partnership helps female student-athletes to build confidence.

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[READ THE FULL STORY by Emily Venezky & Kyle Cooper HERE](#)

Advocates welcome Supreme Court ruling on abortion pill, but fear it's only a 'reprieve'



Reproductive rights advocates were cautiously celebrating Thursday's Supreme Court ruling that preserves access to the abortion drug, mifepristone, but said they fear it is only a reprieve until more challenges arise.



Sharon Blugis, executive director of the abortion-rights advocacy group Reproductive Justice Maryland, said that she was “shocked” to see the unanimous decision from the conservative-leaning Supreme Court, especially after the court reversed federal abortion protections under Roe v. Wade in 2022.

“I was doubtful ... That’s how jaded I’ve become” Blugis said. “I’m shocked that it came back unanimous and in our favor.”

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READ THE FULL STORY by Danielle J. Brown [HERE](#)



The *Maryland Commission for Women*, housed within the *Department of Human Services*, works across Maryland State Government to advance solutions and to expand social, political and economic opportunities for all women.

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