



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 15, 2020

Contact: Virginia White, Member Services Director | 410.269.0043 | [vwhite@mdcounties.org](mailto:vwhite@mdcounties.org)

## **MACo Board Cancels Upcoming Summer Conference, Exploring Virtual Solution in Wake of COVID-19 Crisis**

Annapolis, MD (05/15/2020) – A meeting of the Maryland Association of Counties Board of Directors and Officers today yielded some unfortunate news about the upcoming Summer Conference. This year, due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 public health crisis, MACo’s Board has decided to cancel the in-person Summer Conference.

The MACo Summer Conference is held annually in August in Ocean City, Maryland at the Roland Powell Convention Center. Each year nearly 3,000 people attend the four-day event, which includes educational sessions, a 60-booth one-day technology expo, and 250-booth two-day tradeshow – all focused on the needs of county governments and working toward ways to solve the governance challenges of the day.

MACo’s President and Baltimore City Council Vice President Sharon Green Middleton issued a statement today regarding the Association leadership’s decision:

“These are challenging times. Our ways of life have been uprooted and we are all working together to keep ourselves, our families, and our vulnerable community members safe. To that end, my colleagues and I on the MACo Board of Directors feel that the most responsible and respectful decision available to us is to cancel this year’s MACo Summer Conference.

This decision was not made lightly – the value that comes out of our traditional in-person event is incalculable. The understanding gained around county governance issues, the relationships built, the cost-saving partnerships formed, and the solutions discovered are hard to replace or replicate virtually. However, we’re going to try.”

[Read the full statement here.](#)

Governor Larry Hogan, who always been very visible and engaged at the summer conferences, along with his cabinet leadership, offered his views, saying:

“I always value the MACo conference as a place to build on our partnership for Maryland. Our Administration will look forward to opportunities ahead to collaborate and engage with counties everywhere we can.”

MACo’s staff is working diligently to evaluate the possibility of a virtual educational offering to help county, state, and commercial leaders explore the top issues of the moment in the safest way possible.

Read more on [MACo's blog](#).