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Conclusion

Those visionary Western and Eastern Shore elected officials who gathered across the Chesapeake Bay in 1951 and earlier, recognized an opportunity to create a powerful voice for county government in Maryland.

That unified voice, the Maryland Association of Counties, has been a touchstone for county government for half a century, providing the cumulative knowledge that only 50 years of hard fought successes and disappointing failures could bring to an organization and its membership. With that history comes the strength of the Association. MACo strengthens the individual elected county elected official, through continuing education, friendships, personal growth, and networking. It strengthens the community, by encouraging and respecting an ever-growing diversity of opinions. It strengthens counties, as each county benefits through the legislative advocacy developed by the representation of all counties. And it strengthens Maryland, by striving to improve the lives of citizens through better county government. Through individuals, through the community, through counties, county elected officials can learn much from the lessons MACo has learned for them. A worthier mission for the Maryland Association of Counties is simply not possible.

County elected officials will hopefully read this history to gain understanding of how and why the Association has evolved to become the organization it is today and why it is important to honor MACo's past by contributing, through membership and active involvement, to the Associations' next 50 years.