



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT    COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

*Tony Jones, Public Information Officer*  
*SMCG TV 95 Station Manager*

Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200 ext. \*1342 or [pio@stmarysmd.com](mailto:pio@stmarysmd.com)

James R. Guy, President  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Tom Jarboe, Commissioner  
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner  
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

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**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

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**St. Mary's County Leaders to Join over 2,000 Maryland Government Officials to Discuss Economic Development Challenges and Opportunities at MACo Conference**

**Leonardtown, MD** – This year's Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference will allow county elected officials, county staff, state and federal officials and business representatives to discuss Maryland's workforce growth and wealth of opportunities in a variety of industries. The conference will be held at the Roland Powell Convention Center in Ocean City from August 16 - 19.

St. Mary's County Commissioner President Randy Guy and Commissioner Mike Hewitt (2<sup>nd</sup> District), members of MACo's Legislative Committee, along with Commissioner Todd Morgan (4<sup>th</sup> District), will attend the conference. In addition, County Administrator Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, Chief Financial Officer Jeannett Cudmore, County Attorney George Sparling, Human Resources Director Catherine Pratson and Public Information Officer Tony Jones will also attend.

MACo's annual conference attracts more than 2,000 stakeholders in Maryland's local government. County elected officials and staff, state officials and department leaders, Senators and Delegates, Congressmen and representatives from commercial and nonprofit organizations will discuss challenges and opportunities facing Maryland's residents. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and their Cabinet traditionally participate throughout the conference.

The conference kicks off with Wednesday's Tech Expo, hosted by the Maryland Tech Council (MTC) and MACo. This tradeshow will include special technology-focused sessions and a nearly 50-booth expo of technology products, services and best practices. Other session topics include economic development opportunities around specific industries in Maryland, including agritourism, energy, technology, manufacturing and the sharing economy.

"MACo's summer conference affords us an opportunity to learn from our colleagues across the state best practices on how to deal with the vast number of challenges we face in St. Mary's County," said Commissioner President Randy Guy. "We always come away from the conference with a fresh perspective on how to best serve our citizens."

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There will be a heavy focus on the opioid crisis as officials at every level of government strive to battle this epidemic. A panel discussion, several industry perspective presentations and a general session forum will take place. Attendees will discuss partnership opportunities and strategies to help address the crisis and support the treatment of individuals suffering from opioid addiction.

The conference will adjourn on Saturday following the Governor Larry Hogan's Closing Address.

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