



THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
*The Association of Cities and Towns*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Secretary Jake Day Keynotes MML Housing Symposium with Local Leaders

**(August 1, 2024) Annapolis, Md.** – The [Maryland Municipal League](#) (MML) held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Symposium Thursday, August 1, at the Crowne Plaza in Annapolis. The second in a series of deep dives into emerging municipal issues, speakers discussed Maryland’s housing crisis, the Governor’s recent housing legislation, and how to combat NIMBYism. Maryland Secretary of Housing & Community Development and MML Past President Jake Day gave the keynote speech to over 150 municipal officials and housing organization representatives.

“Why housing?” led MML CEO Theresa Kuhns. “Housing is at the heart of what we do as local governments... The 160 members of the League houses 25% of the state’s population. We are the most vibrant, diverse communities of the state, and we as a collective community house 2 million Marylanders on less than 5% of the total land mass.”

Michael O’Connor, MML President and Mayor of Frederick, set the tone for the presentations to come: “As the leaders of Maryland’s 160 cities, towns and villages, just by being here today, we are committed to continuing to address those challenges by listening to our residents, working with our federal and state partners and implementing best practices for each of our own communities.”

The audience then heard from panels on the National League of Cities’ recently published [Housing Supply Accelerator Playbook](#) and [Governor Moore’s 2024 housing legislation](#).



Over lunch, Secretary Day’s remarks built on the themes shared by the prior two panels. “The problem is clear,” said Day. “The solutions are obvious. The political challenge before all of us to do something about this, that’s tough.” As a former Mayor, his presentation stressed the importance of partnership between the stakeholders to address the 96,000-housing unit shortage in Maryland and shared his – and the Moore Administration’s – commitment to turning the tide in what is a national challenge.

Afternoon sessions focused on communities that have undertaken innovative housing solutions with examples from New Windsor, Cambridge, Laurel, and La Plata, as well as a constructive discussion on NIMBYism.

“Together, we’re going to figure out how to tackle the housing challenge. I have no doubt, if anyone can figure out how to do it, local government will,” concluded President O’Connor.

Symposium sponsors included the Maryland Realtors and the Sustainable Community Development Company. Other community stakeholders in attendance included Community Development Network of Maryland, USDA, DHCD, The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, Great Outdoor Cottages, AARP, and the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission.



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**About The Maryland Municipal League:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) was founded in 1936 and serves as the collective voice of 160 municipal governments and the 2 million Marylanders it represents. A voluntary, non-profit, nonpartisan association controlled and maintained by city and town governments, MML works to strengthen and support municipal government through advocacy and the development of effective leadership. Through its membership in the National League of Cities MML offers legislative representation in Washington, urban research programs, and a national municipal government information exchange. MML is the only statewide organization in Maryland composed solely of municipal officials and devoted to the promotion of all branches of municipal administration.