

State of Maryland

Governance and Structure

<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/cocoun.html>

Federal Government

Maryland is represented in the U.S. Congress, and is part of the federal court system and other federal offices.

In the U.S. Senate, Maryland is represented by two senators.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, eight representatives speak for Maryland.

County Government

For much of Maryland, local government is county government. Twenty-three counties and Baltimore City make up the twenty-four main local jurisdictions found in Maryland. Baltimore City, although a municipality, has been considered on a par with county jurisdiction since the adoption of the Maryland Constitution of 1851. For Maryland counties, three forms of government exist: county commissioners, code home rule, or charter. Of the 50 states, Maryland is among those with the fewest number of local governments.

Municipal Government

Some 157 towns and cities (including Baltimore City) have their own governments. Created by State, county and municipal governments, special taxing districts exist in Montgomery County as well. Twelve of Maryland's counties are governed by boards of county commissioners. These include:

- Allegany
- Calvert
- Caroline
- Carroll
- Charles
- Garrett
- Kent
- Queen Anne's
- St. Mary's
- Somerset
- Washington
- Worcester

Among these, six have adopted a code "*home rule*" form of government:

- Allegany
- Caroline
- Charles

- Kent
- Queen Anne's
- Worcester

"Home rule" empowers the county with broad legislative authority, and limits the General Assembly's local legislative powers, preventing State Government's intervention with its operations.

Eleven Maryland counties have ratified charter forms of government:

- Anne Arundel
- Baltimore
- Cecil
- Dorchester
- Frederick
- Harford
- Howard
- Montgomery
- Prince George's
- Talbot
- Wicomico

All of these are governed by county councils; and all (except Dorchester & Talbot) are led by county executives.

