



CHESAPEAKE
LEGAL ALLIANCE

Embracing our Differences: A Comparison of State Legislative Processes



David Reed
Executive Director

January 3, 2025



Who is Chesapeake Legal Alliance?



From Left: Morgana Omaleki, Kennedi Fichtel, David Reed, Evan Isaacson, Patrick DeArme y, MarieClaire Egbert, Lesley Vultaggio

Morgana Omaleki

Morgana joined CLA in 2024 as the Outreach & Engagement Coordinator. Morgana holds a B.A. in International Relations from the University of British Columbia, and her J.D. from the University of Maryland Carey Law.

Kennedi Fichtel

Kennedi joined CLA in 2024 as a staff attorney. She focuses on Clean Water Act (CWA) enforcement, particularly through actions against facilities that violate their pollution limit permits.

David Reed

Dave is CLA'S Executive Director, and has been with CLA since 2020, following the merger with his previous organization, the Environmental Action Center. Dave provides our clients and partners with both environmental law experience and terrestrial and estuarine ecological systems analyses.

Evan Isaacson

Evan is a Senior Attorney and Director of CLA's Environmental Action Center. Evan directs legal research and provides strategic insight to CLA staff and volunteer attorneys based on legal, policy, and data-driven research and analysis. Evan also provides legal assistance to Maryland clients and consults on legislative matters. His expertise includes Chesapeake Bay Policy and legislative issues, as well as effective enforcement of the CWA.

Patrick DeArme y

Patrick joined CLA as a staff attorney in 2020. Previously with the Environmental Action Center, he focuses on environmental enforcement and leads matters involving water quality, water resource protection, and water permitting.

MarieClaire (MC) Egbert

MC is the Executive Assistant and Operations Manager at CLA. Prior to her position at CLA, she served as the Director of Campaigns & Comms at the John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute, where she was a direct liaison to Congressional offices and nonprofit networks, while creating and lobbying for direct policy action.

Lesley Vultaggio

Lesley joined CLA in 2024 as the Development Coordinator.

(not pictured)

Molly Brown

Molly is the Director of CLA's Legal Education Center. Molly joined CLA in 2017. Since then, she has developed and implemented CLA's Legal Education work, bringing her passion as an environmental lawyer, educator, and facilitator to her work. *(Molly is currently working remotely from Okinawa Japan.)*



Why are we here?

Chesapeake Bay Commission's goals include:

- 1. to assist the legislatures in evaluating and responding to mutual Bay concerns;**
- 1. to promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination for resource planning;**
- 1. to promote uniformity of legislation where appropriate;**
- 1. to enhance the functions and powers of existing offices and agencies; and**
- 1. to recommend improvements in the management of Bay resources.**



Roadmap

- 1. State Geography and Demographics
- 2. General Assembly
- 3. Legislative Procedure
- 4. Budget Process
- 5. Takeaways and Questions



State Geography and Demographics Overview



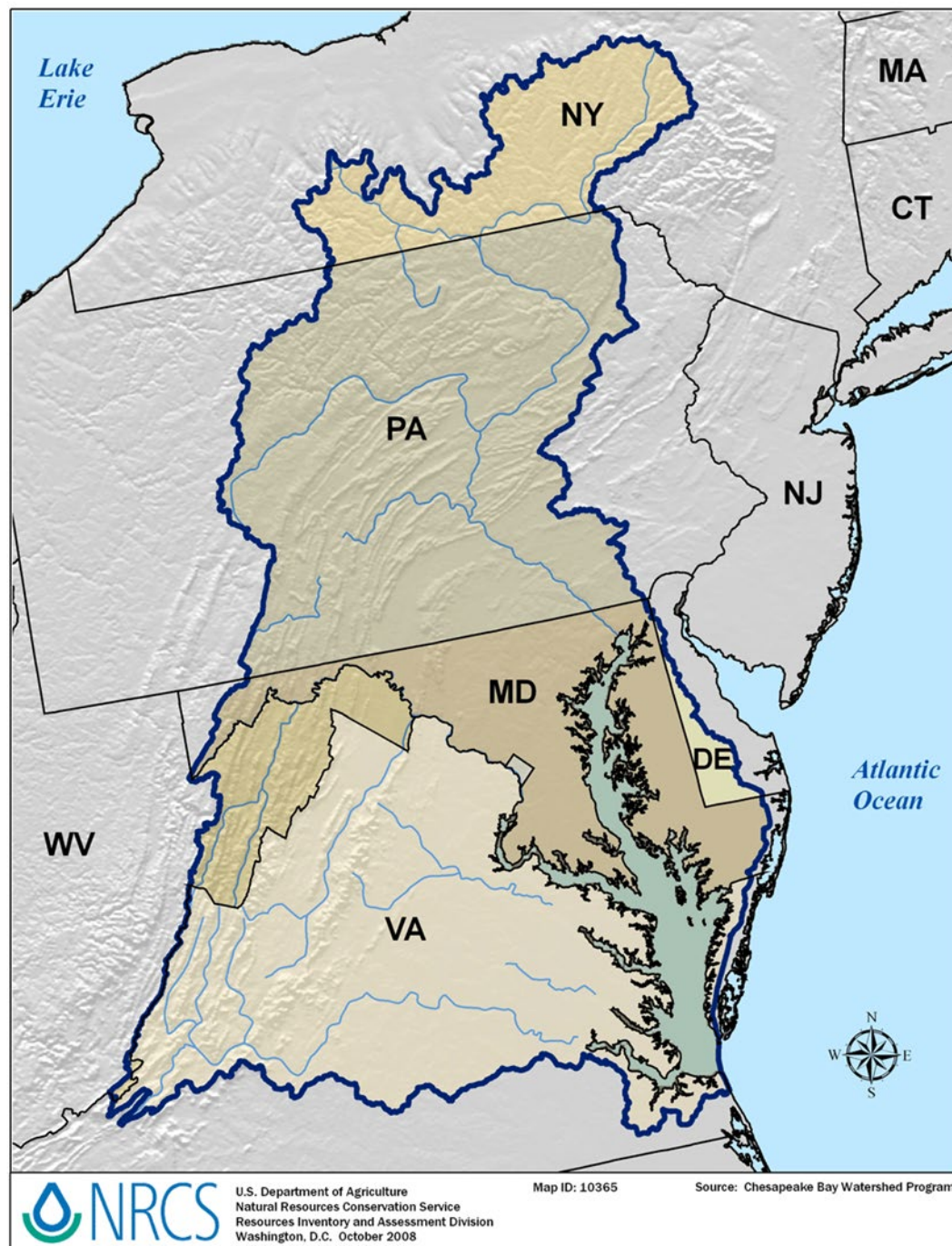


Size

Maryland – **12,407** sq miles
(94% in Bay watershed)

Pennsylvania – **46,054** sq miles
(50% in Bay watershed)

Virginia – **42,775** sq miles
(54% in Bay watershed)



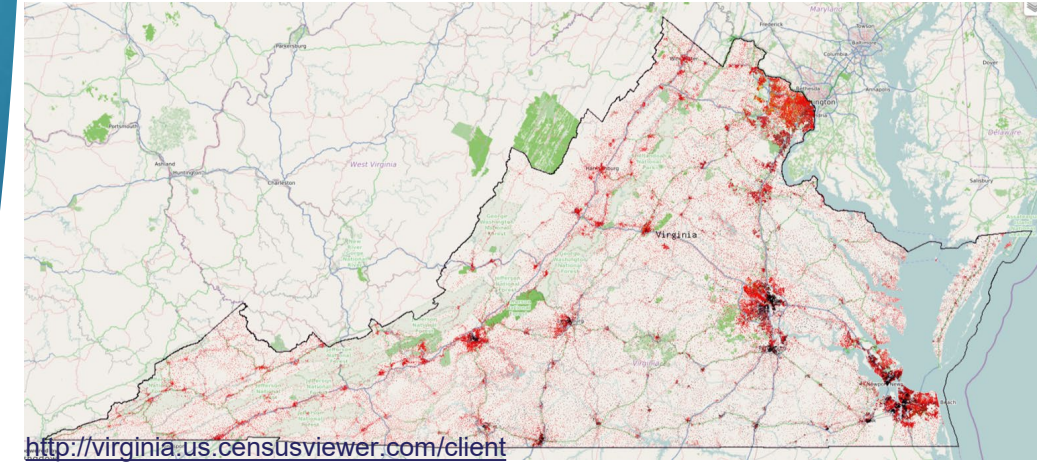
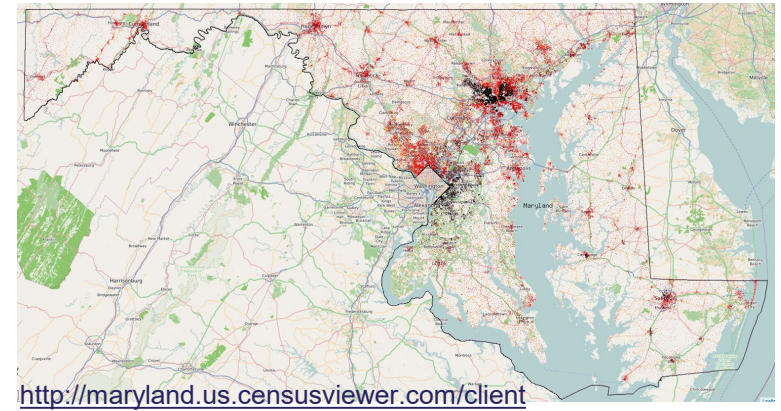
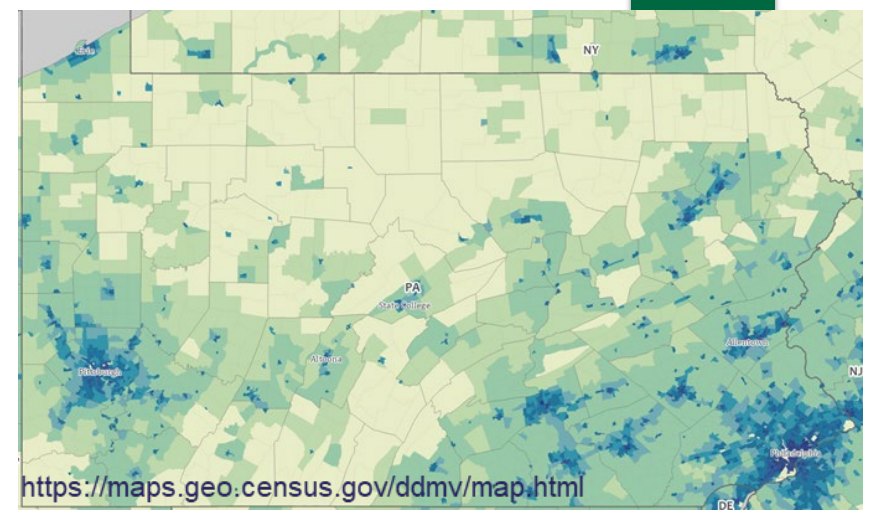


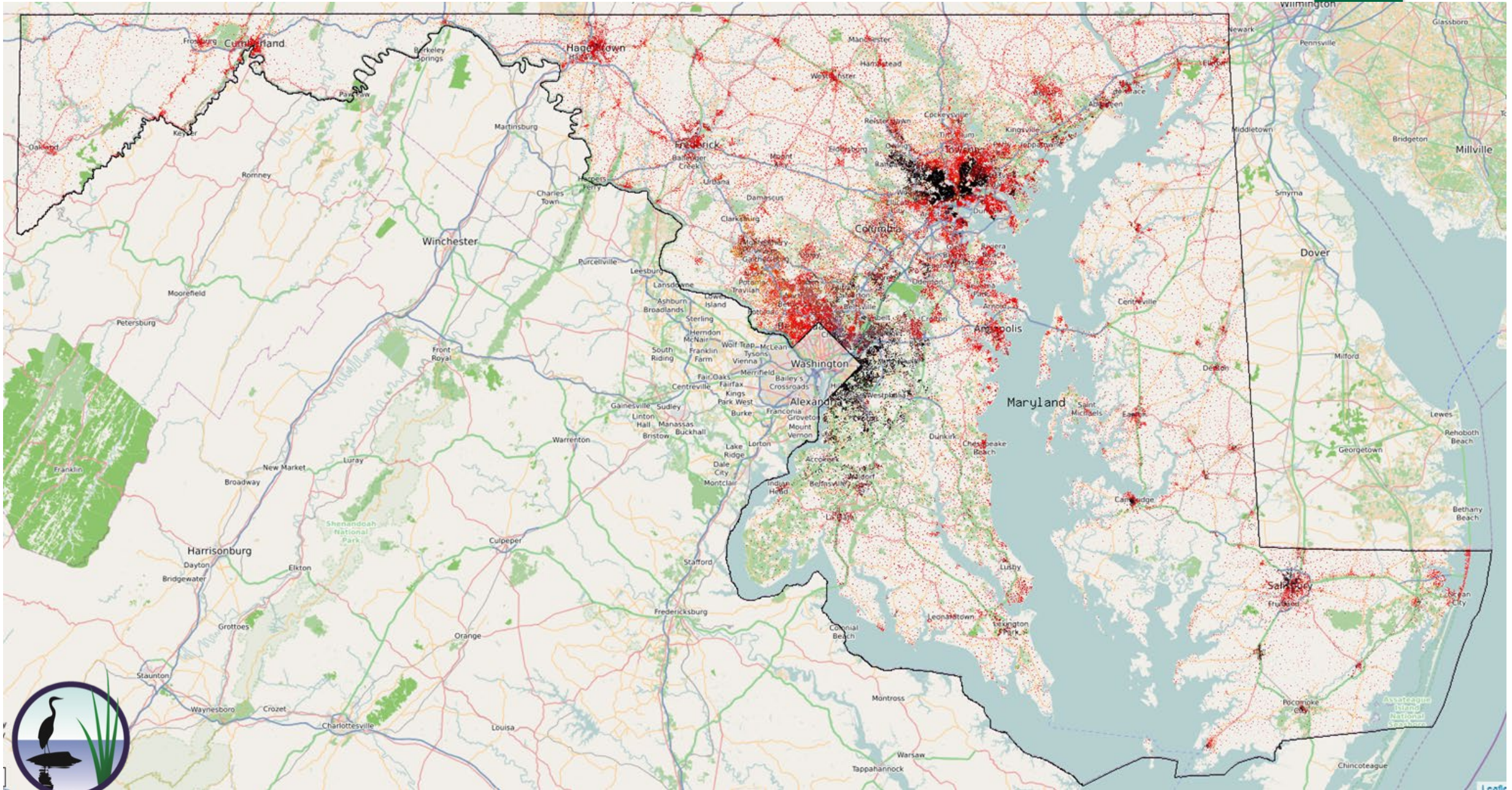
Population

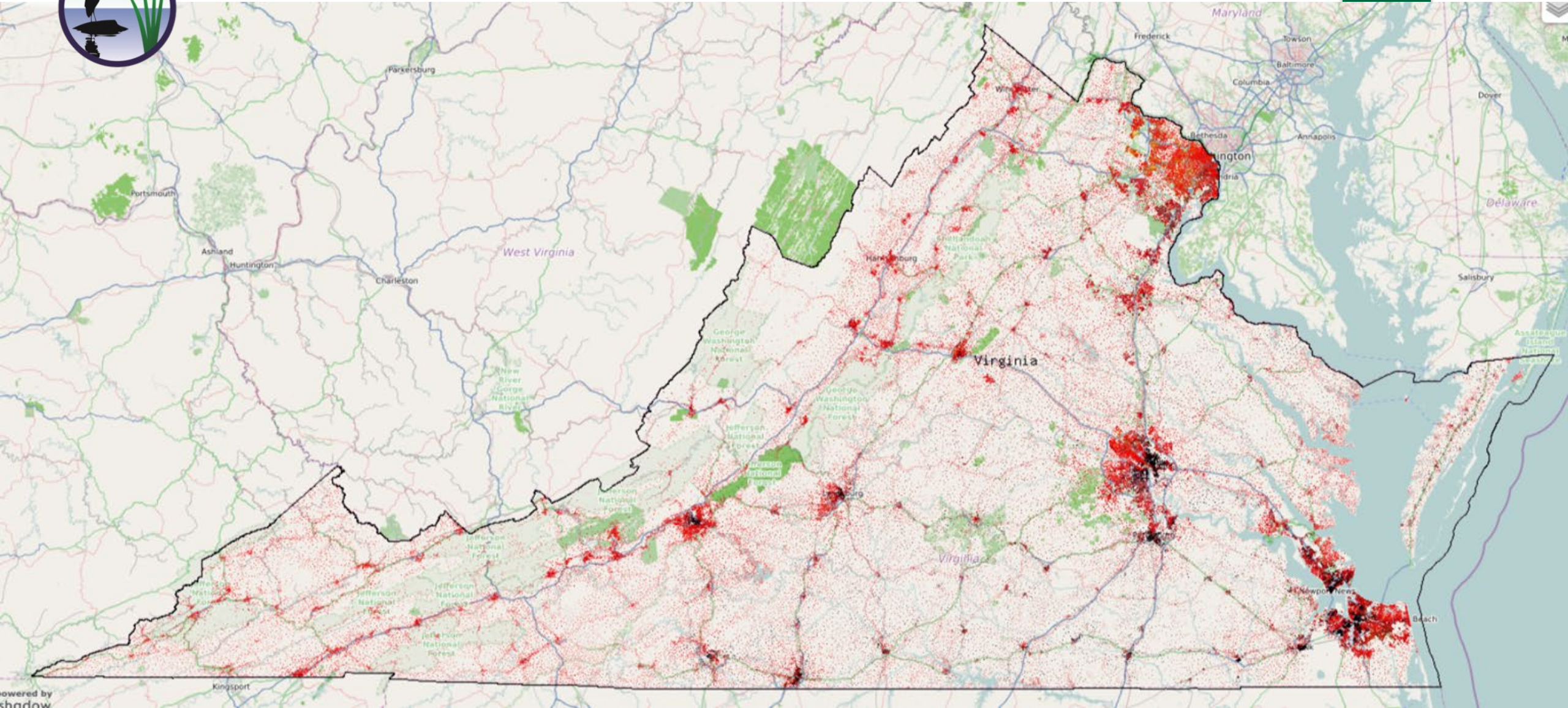
Maryland **6.18** mil people

Pennsylvania **12.96** mil people

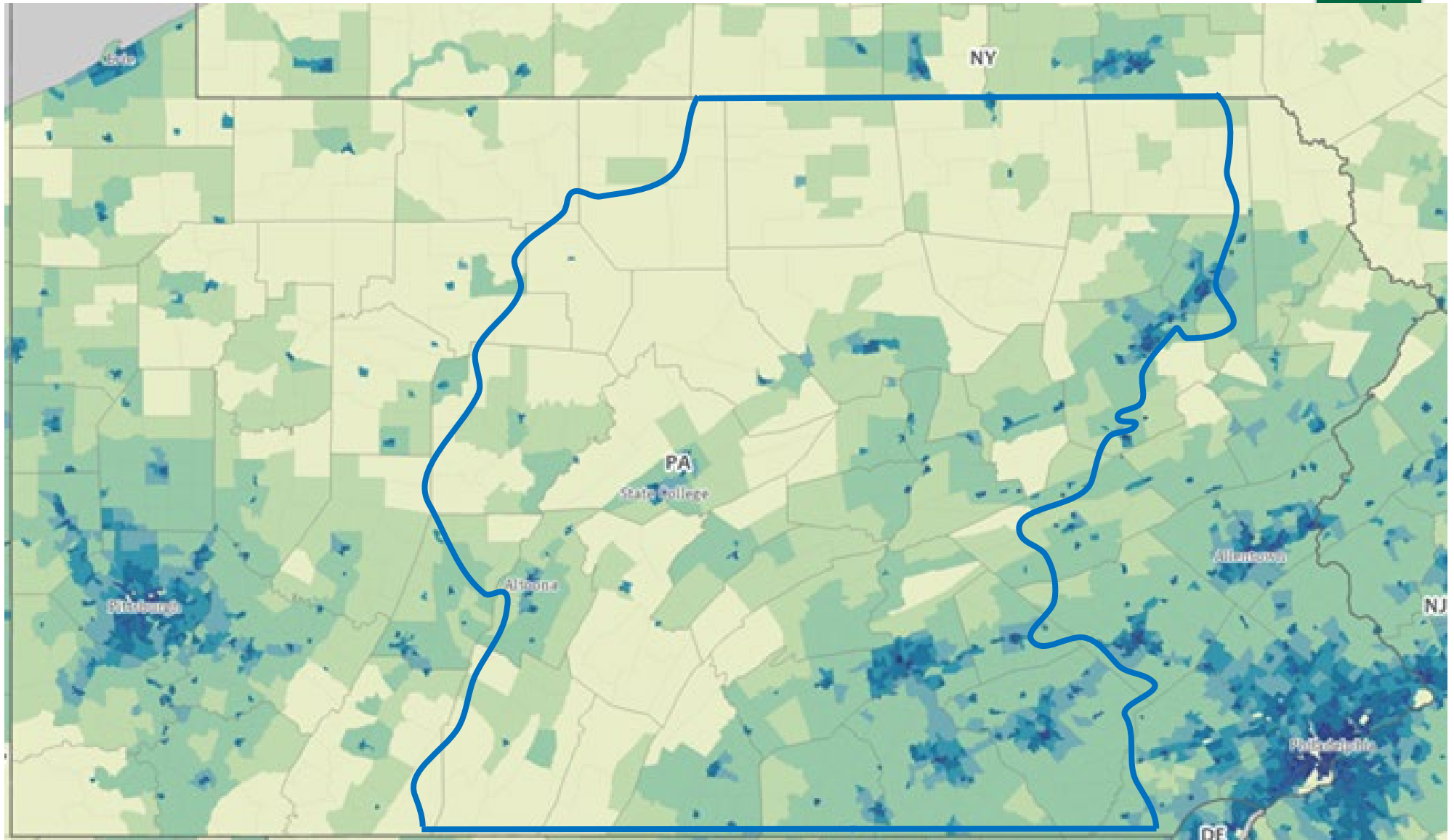
Virginia **8.72** mil people





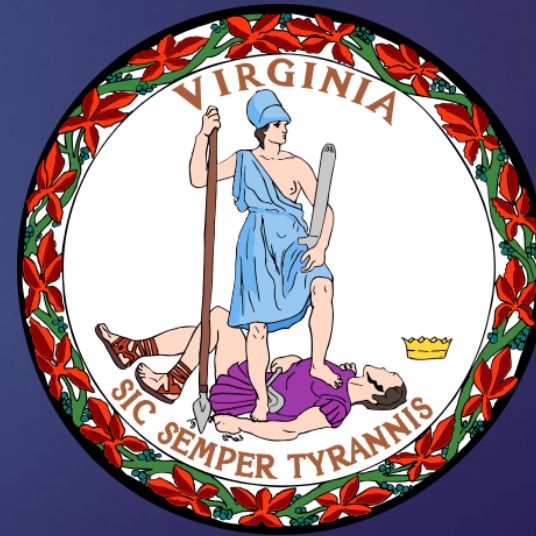


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Political Subdivisions





Counties

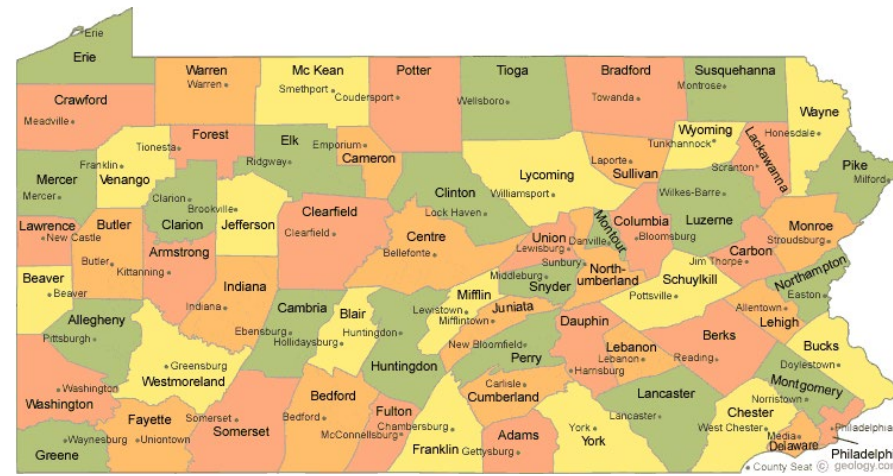
Maryland – **24**

(including Baltimore City)

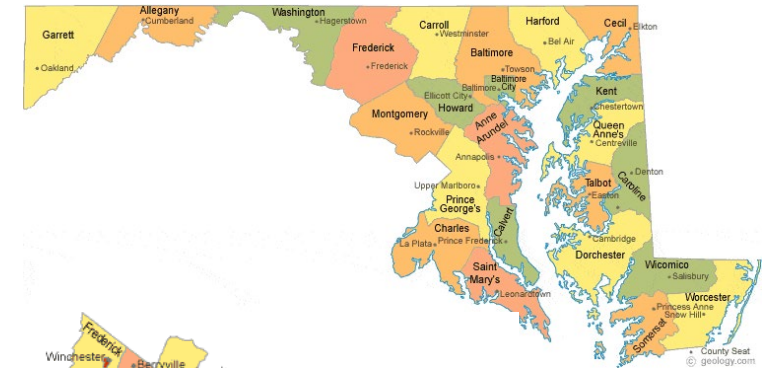
Pennsylvania – **67**

Virginia – **95**

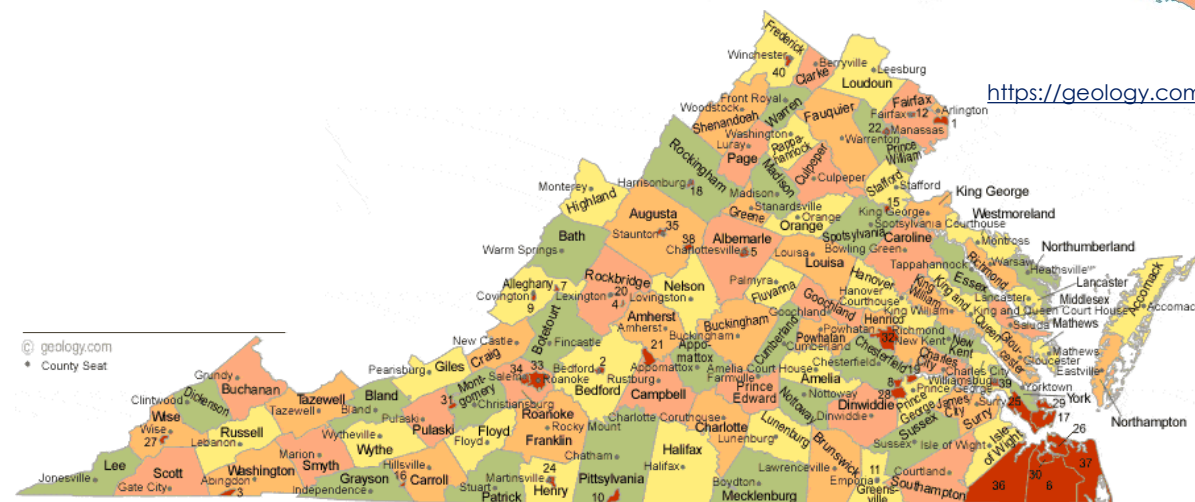
(and 38 independent cities)



<https://geology.com/county-map/pennsylvania.shtml>

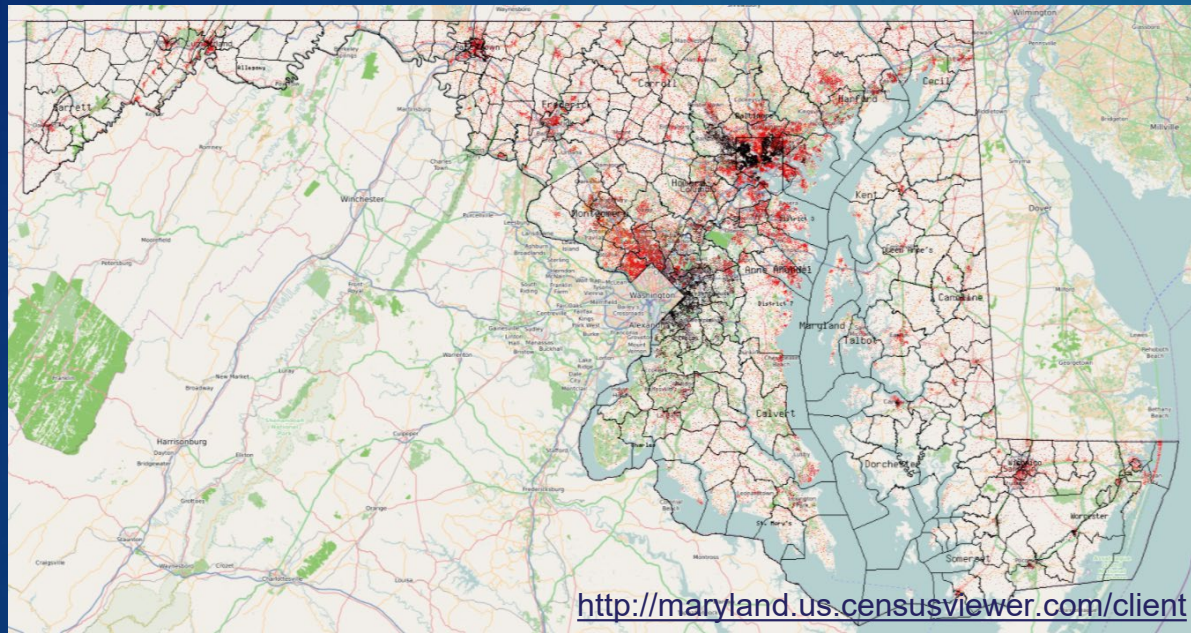


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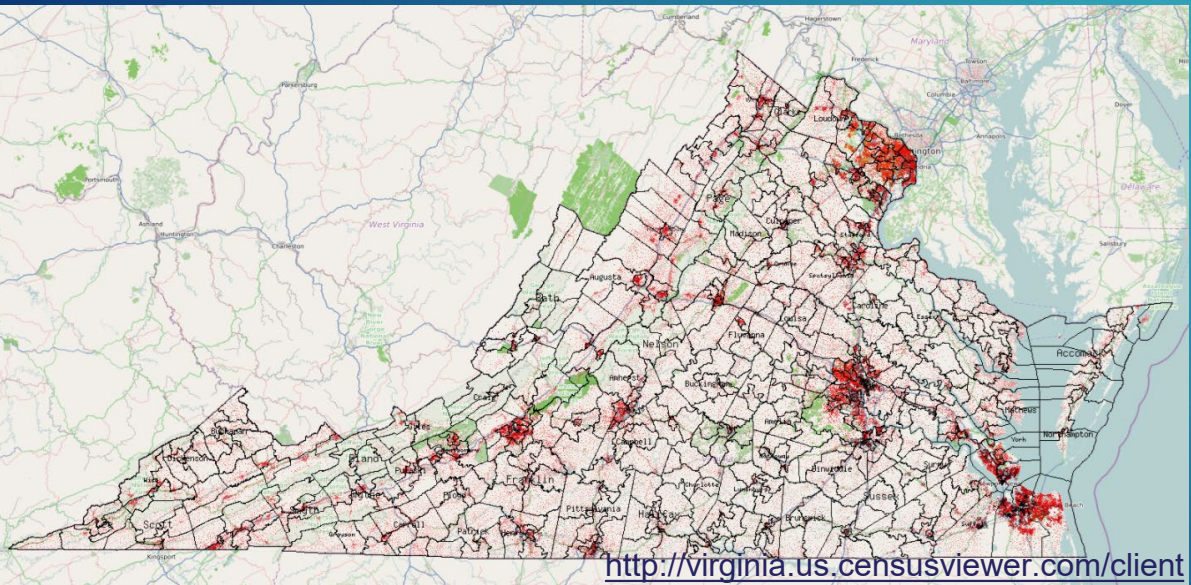


<https://geology.com/county-map/virginia.shtml>

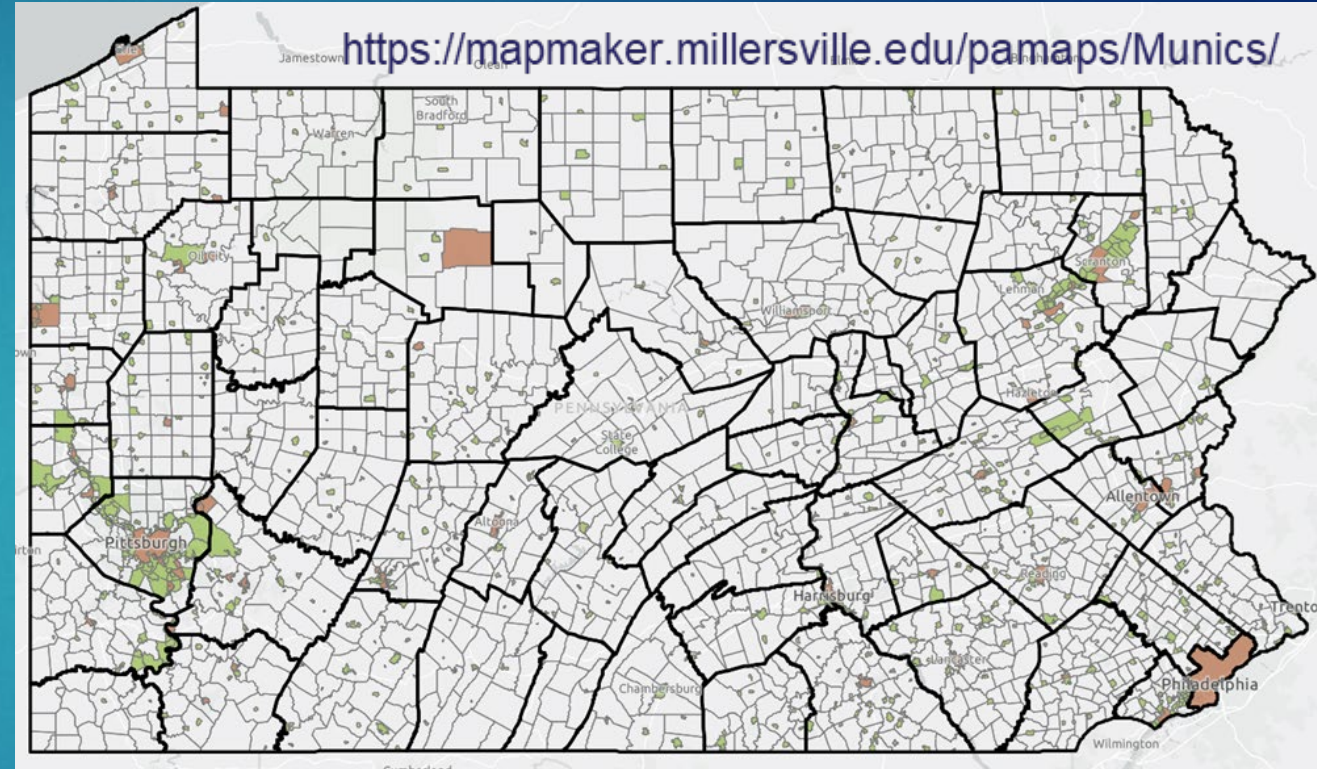
Municipalities



Maryland – **157** cities, towns, & villages



Virginia – **229** cities and towns



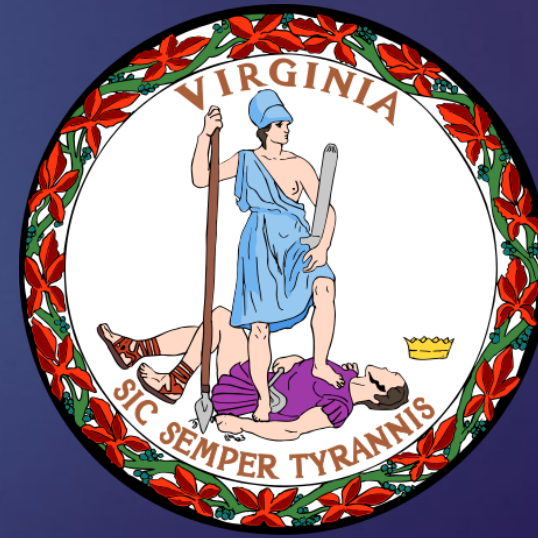
Pennsylvania – **2,560** cities, boroughs, townships

***Dillon Rule v. Home Rule**





General Assembly Overview





Districts

Maryland: 47

Pennsylvania: 50 (Senate)
203 (House)

Virginia: 40 (Senate)
100 (House)



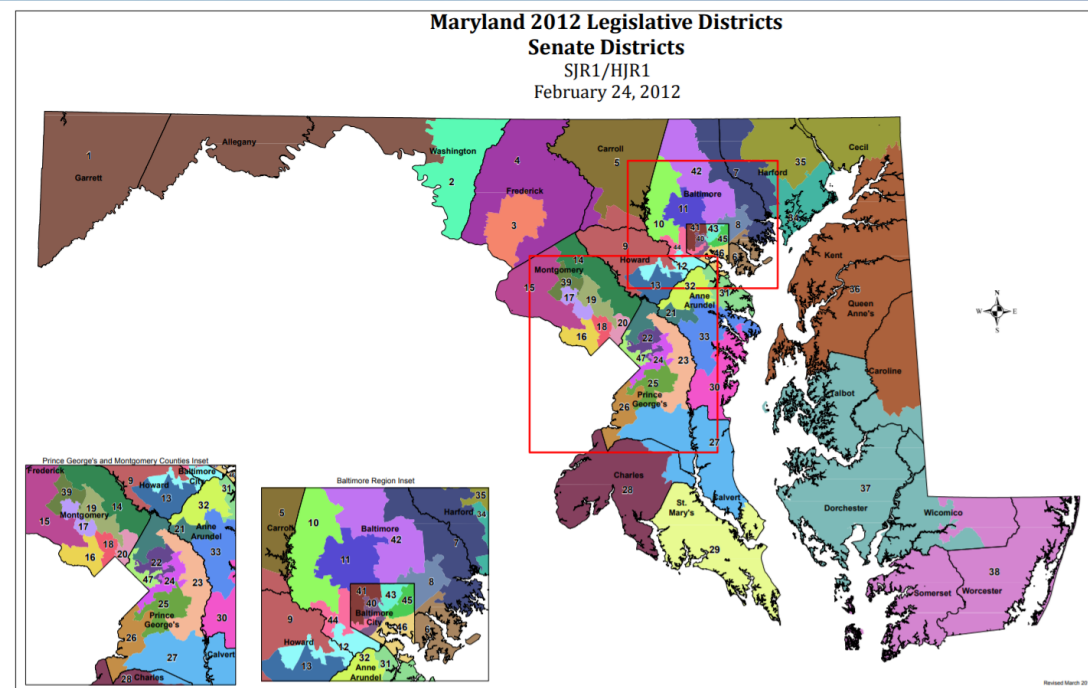
Maryland Districts

Each of the 47 Districts has:
1 Senator & 3 Delegates

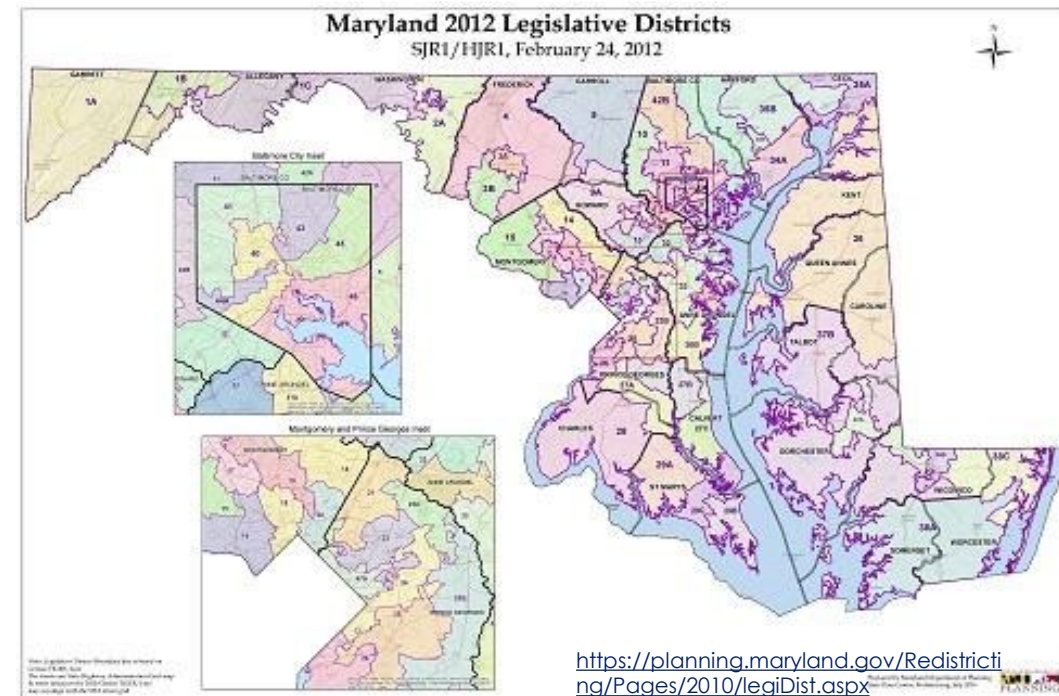
Total of: **47** Senators
141 Delegates

Each Senator represents approximately: **123,000** people

Each Delegate represents approximately: **40,947 – 123,000** people



<https://planning.maryland.gov/Redistricting/Documents/2010Maps/Leg/DistrictsSenate.pdf>



<https://planning.maryland.gov/Redistricting/Pages/2010/legiDist.aspx>

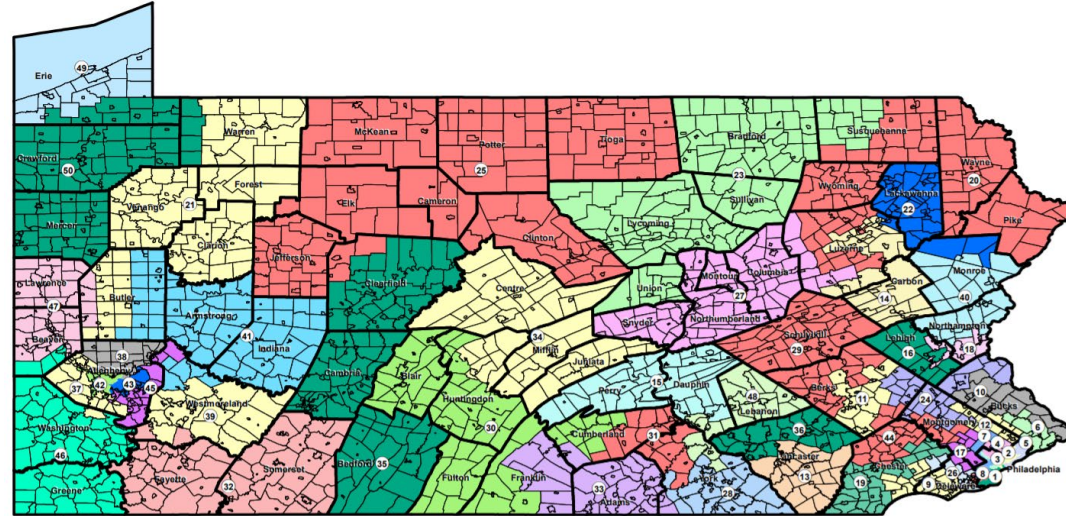


Pennsylvania Districts

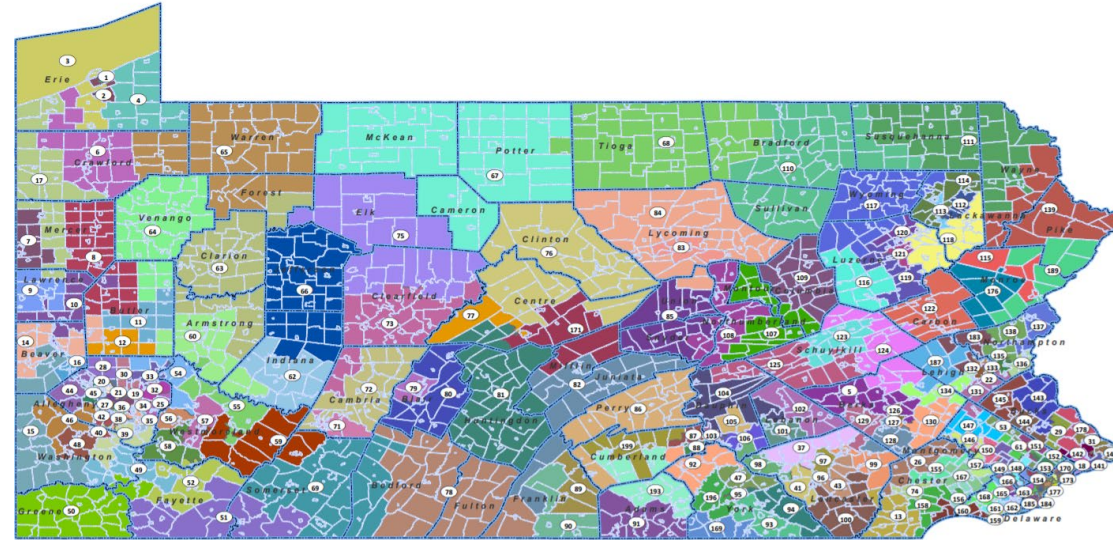
50 Senate Districts
203 House Districts

Total of: **50** Senators
203 Representatives

Each Senator represents
approximately: **254,048** people
Each Representative represents
approximately: **63,573** people



<http://aws.redistricting.state.pa.us/Redistricting/Resources/GISData/Districts/Legislative/Senate/2011-Revised-Final/PDF/FinalSenatePlan2012.pdf>



<http://aws.redistricting.state.pa.us/Redistricting/Resources/GISData/Districts/Legislative/House/2011-Revised-Final/PDF/2011-Revised-Final-Plan-Map-House.pdf>



Virginia Districts

40 Senate Districts

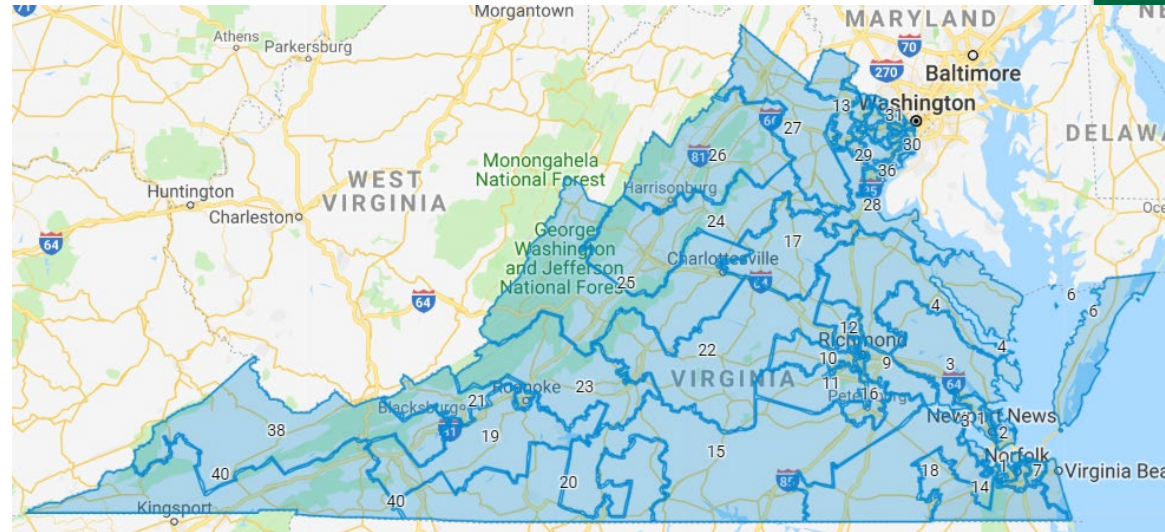
100 House Districts

Total of: **40** Senators

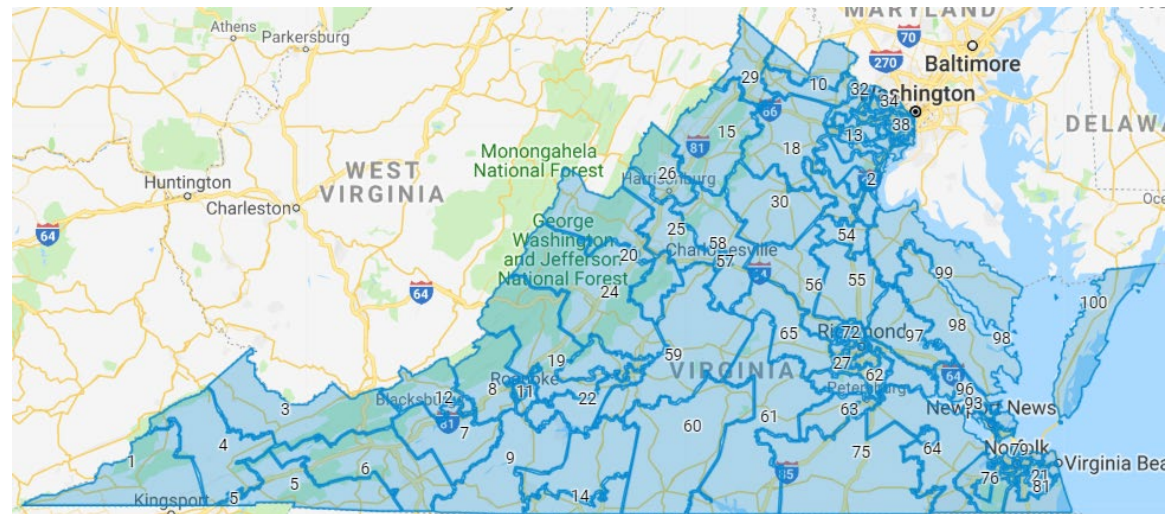
100 Delegates

Each Senator represents approximately: **200,000** people

Each Delegate represents approximately: **80,000** people



[https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia State Senate](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_State_Senate)



[https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia House of Delegates](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_House_of_Delegates)



Senate Overview

| | Total | Republicans | Democrats | Ind. | Vacancies | Term Length (in years) | Next Election |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Maryland | 47 | 13 | 34 | | | 4 | 2026 |
| Pennsylvania | 50 | 28 | 22 | | | 4 | 2026 |
| Virginia | 40 | 19 | 21 | | | 4 | 2027 |

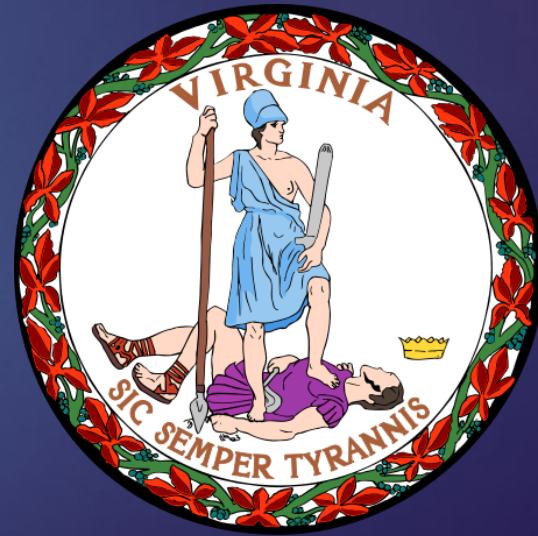


House Overview

| | Total | Republicans | Democrats | Term Length (in years) | Next Election |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Maryland | 141 | 38 | 102 | 4 | 2026 |
| Pennsylvania | 203 | 101 | 102 | 2 | 2026 |
| Virginia | 100 | 49 | 51 | 2 | 2025 |



Legislative Process Overview





Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law





Length of Session

Maryland: 90 days

Virginia: 60 days (in even numbered years)
30 (45) days (in odd numbered years)

Pennsylvania: 2 years



Legislative Process: Bill is Introduced

Maryland: ~3,000 bills are introduced per session
(Of the 2,728 bills introduced in 2024, 1053 passed, or **38%**)

Bill is
introduced/
sponsored

Pennsylvania: ~4,000 bills are introduced per session
(Of the 3,862 bills introduced in 2023-24, 217 were enacted, or **6%**)

Virginia: ~3,000 bills are introduced per session
(Of the 3,595 bills introduced in 2024, 1046 passed, or **30%**)



Legislative Process: Committees

Bill goes to
Committee



| | House (Standing) | Senate (Standing) |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Maryland | 6 | 4 |
| Pennsylvania | 24 | 22 |
| Virginia | 14 | 11 |

*Hearings – does every bill get a hearing?

*How accessible is this part of the process to the public?



Legislative Process: Full Chamber

Caucus

Bill goes to the
full chamber
for debate
and vote



3 Readings/Considerations

Fiscal Analysis

Proposed Amendments



Legislative Process: Opposite Chamber

Bill goes to the other chamber for Committee process, debate and vote



See Above...





Legislative Process: Goes to Governor

Bill goes to
Governor for
signing



| | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------------------|
| Maryland | House | Senate | Governor Moore |
| Pennsylvania | House | Senate | Governor Shapiro |
| Virginia | House | Senate | Governor Youngkin |

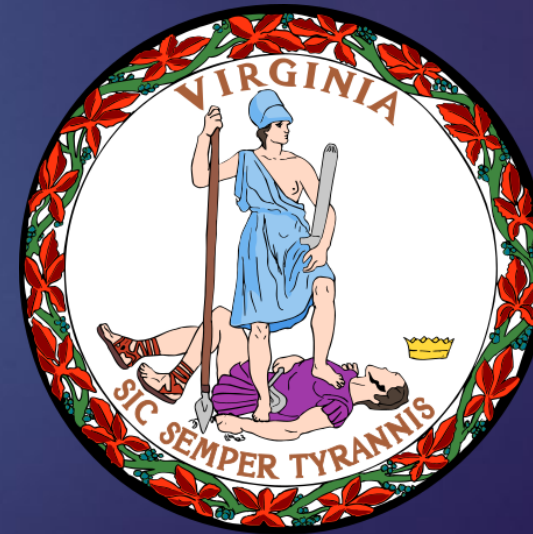


Congratulations!

Law!



Budget Process





Budget Cycle

Formulation



Enactment

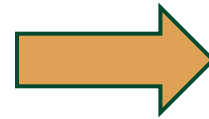


Execution



Length of Cycle

Maryland
Pennsylvania



Annual

Virginia



Biennial



Process (in a nutshell)



Issuance of Budget Instructions

Agencies review and submit requests to Governor

Governor prepares budget

Governor presents budget to General Assembly

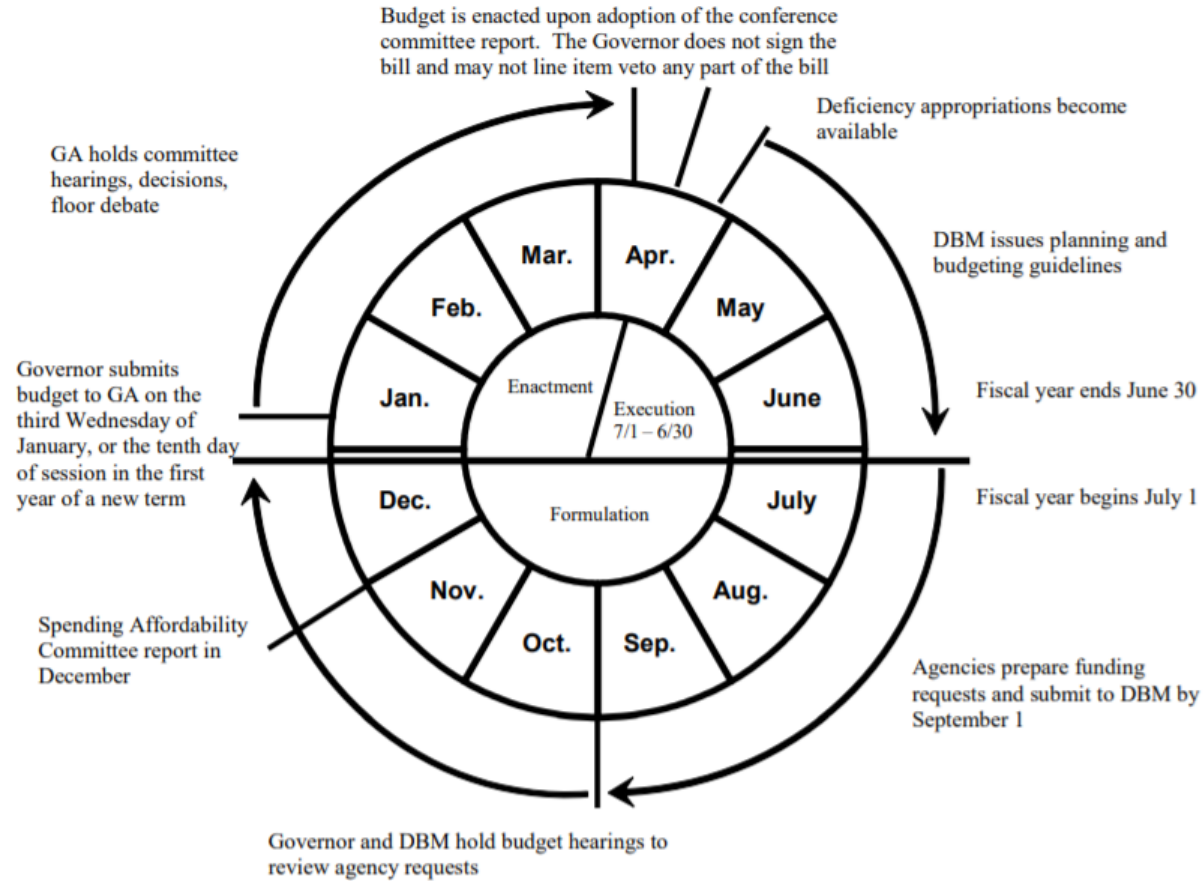
Budget goes through legislative process in the General Assembly

Budget goes back to the governor*

*But NOT in Maryland



The Budget Cycle



Maryland

DBM: Department of Budget and Management

GA: General Assembly

Source: Department of Legislative Services



Things to Note: Maryland

- ▶ Legislature is constitutionally required to pass a balanced budget
- ▶ Relative power of Governor v. Legislature
- ▶ Legislature does not see agency requests prior to budget being prepared
- ▶ No veto or amending authority by the governor
- ▶ Capital Budget Bond Bill
- ▶ Ways the legislature can work around the budget

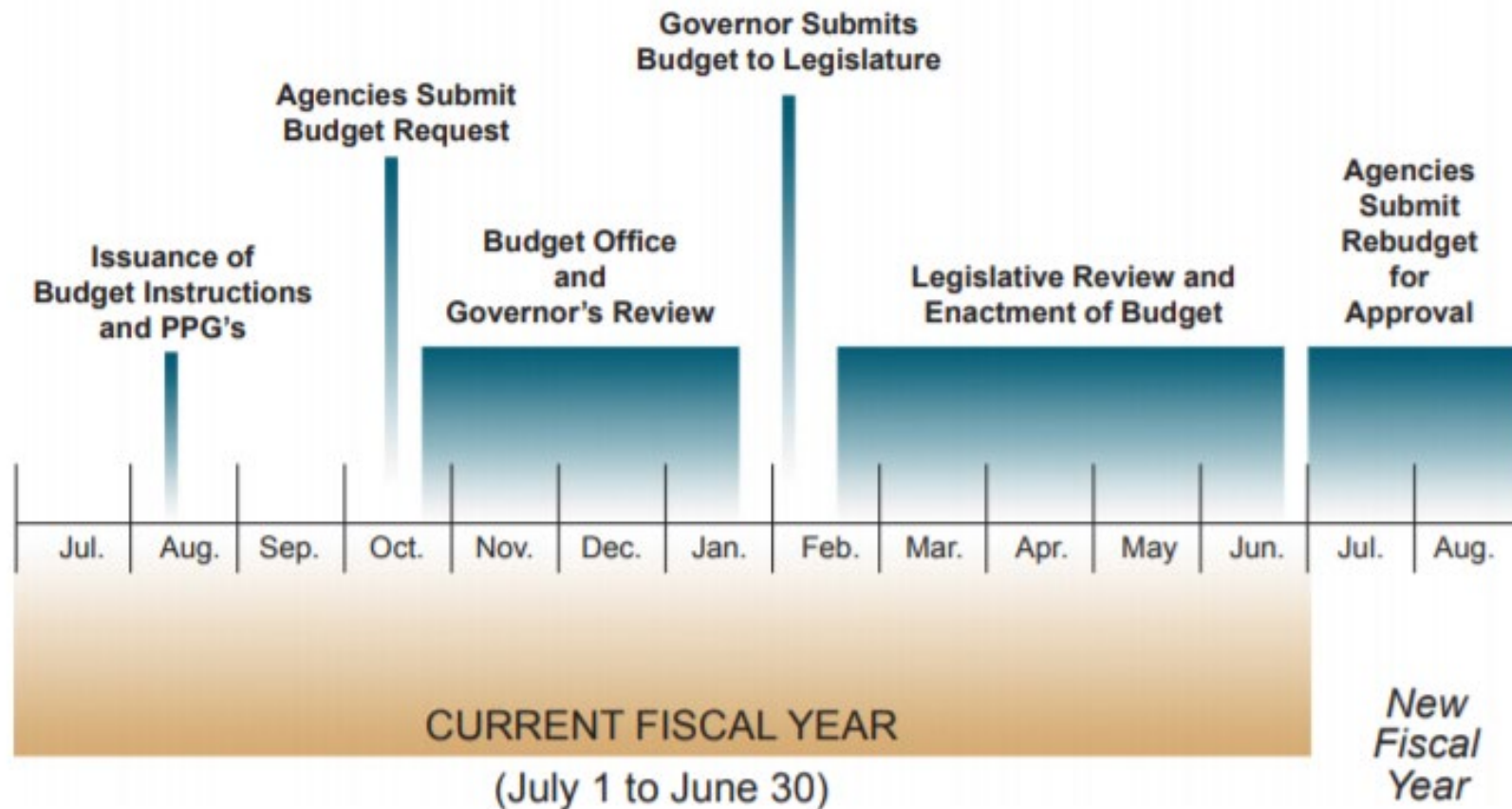


Photo by Matt Rath, Chesapeake Bay Program:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/chesbayprogram/5448325455/in/album-72157689747017192/>



Pennsylvania

Budget Process in Pennsylvania





Things to Note: Pennsylvania

- ▶ Water quality spending is statewide, not Bay Watershed specific
- ▶ Two budgets per session
- ▶ Capital Budget
- ▶ Ways the legislature can work around the budget

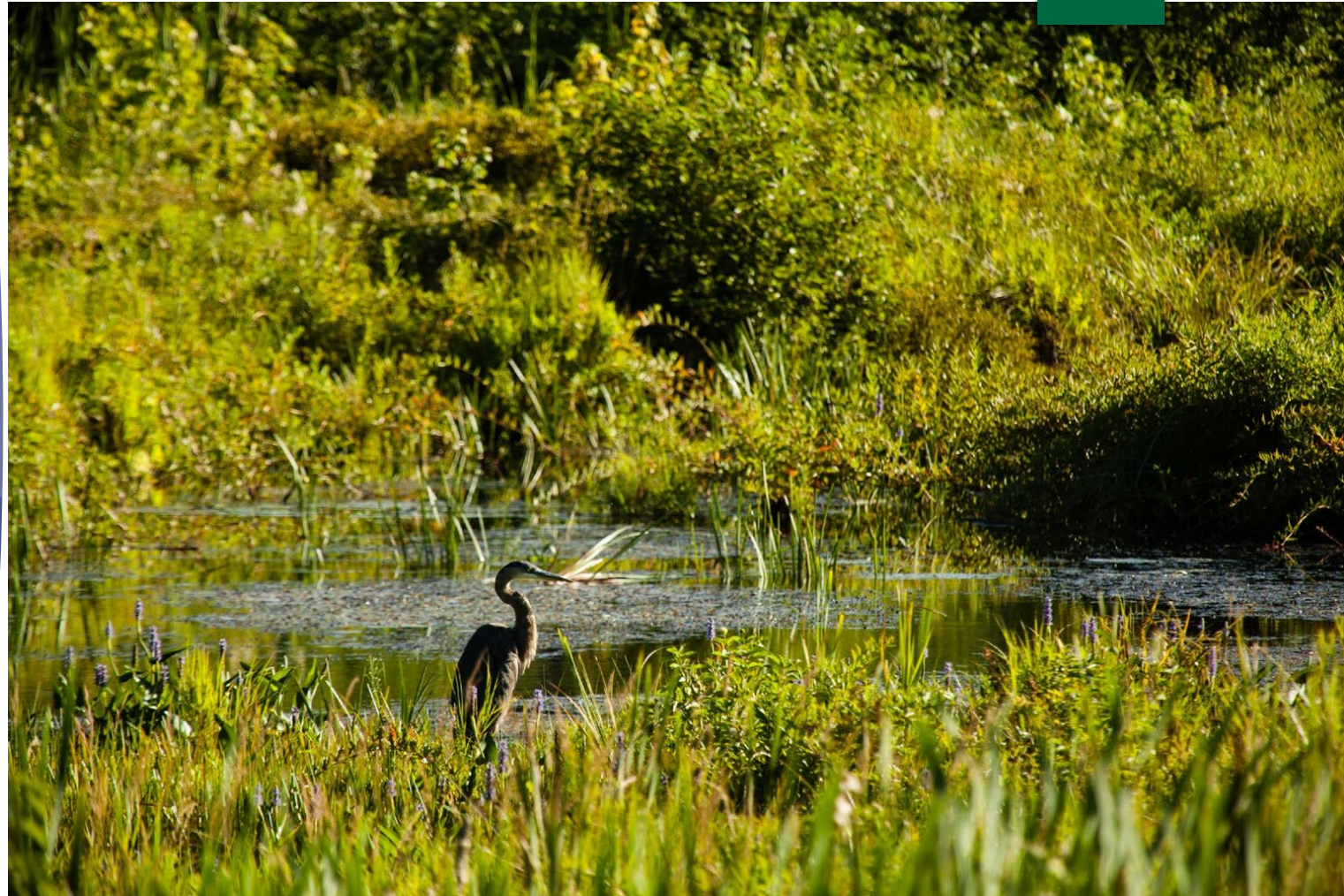
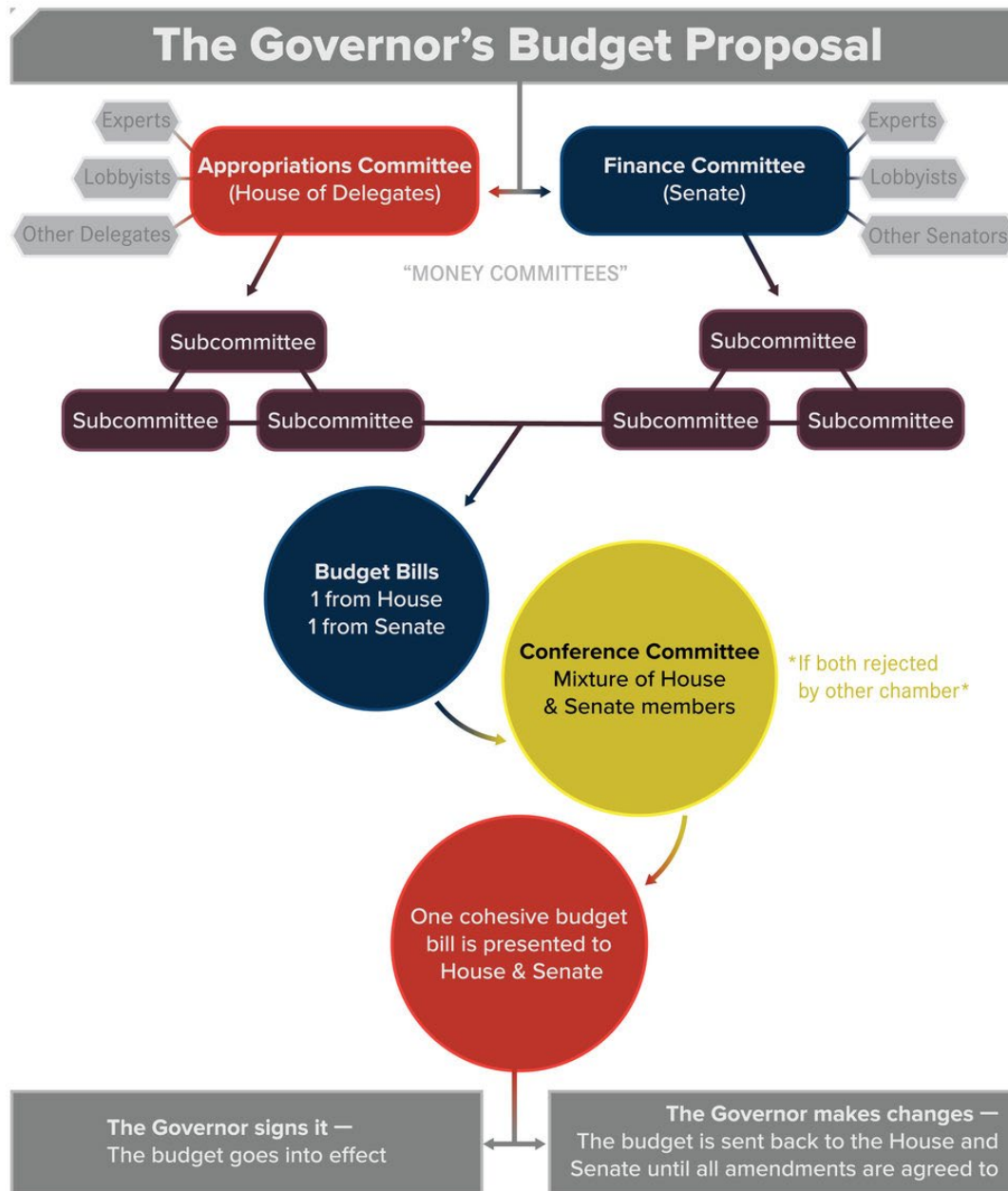


Photo by Will Parsons/Chesapeake Bay Program:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/chesbayprogram/32373495412/in/album-72157711469774196/>



Virginia



Things to Note: Virginia

- ▶ Biennial
- ▶ Short Session
- ▶ Governor is limited to 4-year term
- ▶ AAA Bond rating
- ▶ Ways the Legislature can work around the Budget



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/chesbayprogram/48188767927/in/album-72157709405201166/>



Discussion



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chesbayprogram/49757775603/>



Takeaways and Questions

Chesapeake Bay Commission's goals include:

- 1. to assist the legislatures in evaluating and responding to mutual Bay concerns;**
- 1. to promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination for resource planning;**
- 1. to promote uniformity of legislation where appropriate;**
- 1. to enhance the functions and powers of existing offices and agencies; and**
- 1. to recommend improvements in the management of Bay resources.**

Thank you!

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