

# The Business has no Home in Maryland

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In a quite literal sense, the business has no home in Maryland, or, at least, it does not have a home that is not extremely disorganized. Specifically, there are not enough municipalities that are particularly inviting to groups of people and businesses, large or small, in the state. There may be currently established businesses that have traditionally been active in the state, but there's no visible influx or active creation space. In other words, Maryland's problem seems to be with the centralization of government within the state.

Most people in Maryland, especially in population-dense areas where it matters, don't have a local government. Contrary to popular belief, this has immediate disastrous effects for the local population, since, without a municipality, it is unlikely that they as a small group will receive the funding and care they need to thrive as a community, often leading to a lack of organization within these communities, and consequently, a lack of professional organizations. Not only this, but with too much centralization, rarely do they have accurate governmental representation so as to control what happens to them civically; as a result, this could very well mean that the opposite of support could ensue, that the communities could be taken advantage of without their say. Ironically, this situation also drives down civic engagement and activism through civic pessimism, as the community could find that they may not have an effect on what happens to them, and thus, that participating in their community is meaningless.

Less immediate are the even more disastrous effects that centralization could have on the state. As was aforementioned, the lack of service towards the needs of a population, even one as small as a locality, could prevent them from establishing businesses in their community, and thus, also having employment in them. This affects the state negatively, as there is no avenue for profit for the state if there is no diversity in business or, even worse, if there are no businesses to begin with. Consider, as an example, the Washington Metropolitan Area apportioned to Maryland. What could be a center for both business in the district and in the state, turns out to be much more sided towards the district, simply because of a lack of major Maryland-based businesses in the area. Even worse, most of these areas are simply too underdeveloped and uncared for to host new businesses, almost definitely as a result of being unincorporated territory, and so they are uninviting to potential investors, and the cycle perpetuates. This is why, historically, it was never a question of abandoning the local government, but instead, as to the creation of a centralized government. In other words,

there is no well-off centralized government without a strong foundation in the local sector.

Overall, the importance of having organizations that care for the well-being of a certain population, no matter how small, pays off for all parties, especially when there is major competition (like the District of Columbia). An economic change can only locally exist should there be some form of representation that may accurately strive to attain this for the people that they represent. The economies of these localities collectively form the fabric of the state-wide economy, which fuels goods and services to sustain and improve itself. The point here is that there is no basis for an economy without established localities and municipal corporations that make appropriate decisions for them, which is not present in Maryland. We are then left with a mundane economy which will remain so indefinitely, or until it collapses. Regardless of the number of workers that travel here, or their income, it will not be beneficial to the state should they do business outside of it.

Straightforwardly, municipalities and the incorporation of densely populated areas are the answer to Maryland's economic issues. Businesses invest in areas that host people who care about the area, and who would be willing to contribute to its well-being, and which, most importantly, will provide some sort of financial incentive for their establishment in that area. Houses are more valuable should they be built in communities that care for their own well-being, so that housing projects are more welcome in developed communities, and should we have more developed communities, the housing market's strain could be distributed. Education flourishes in well-organized and well-funded communities, and a good education fuels civic quality and entrepreneurial spirit, and the cycle of commerce and care perpetuates. The answer is clear: Maryland must incorporate its territory.

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