

STATE SENATOR JOANNE C. BENSON



MESSAGE FROM THE SENATOR

Dear Wonderful Friends:

As we move through the summer and beginning of fall, there is so much to be done. Our priorities are numerous as we move closer to a seat at the table for everyone.

The assault on our democracy must be one of our top priorities. Strong focused leadership must be in place for a better and more prosperous community, county, state and nation.

We can't afford to hope that something happens! We must all work hard to make things occur for our future and those who will come after us!

HOT TOPICS : WHY WE NEED AN INSPECTOR GENERAL

WHY WE NEED AN INSPECTOR GENERAL. ACCOUNTABILITY DOESN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT — IT MUST BE BUILT IN AND FOUGHT FOR. FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN COUNTY OPERATIONS DON'T STOP ON THEIR OWN; THEY STOP WHEN SOMEONE HAS THE POWER TO FIND THEM AND THE COURAGE TO ACT. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT AN INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL DOES. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DESERVES ONE WITH REAL SUBPOENA POWER AND REAL WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS — NOT A WATCHDOG WITH ITS HANDS TIED, BUT ONE THAT CAN ACTUALLY INVESTIGATE, ACTUALLY COMPEL ANSWERS, AND ACTUALLY HOLD COUNTY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE IT SERVES. ACCOUNTABILITY MUST BE PROTECTED AND IT MUST BE FOUGHT FOR AT ALL COST. MANY COUNTIES HAVE DONE THIS ALREADY, AND WE NEED TO FOLLOW THEIR LEAD. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEEDS TO GET OVERSIGHT IMMEDIATELY!

FROM THE RAPID GROWTH OF DATA CENTERS TO THE FUTURE OF SENIOR CARE AND THE SPECIAL SESSION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, SENATOR BENSON IS LISTENING TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAMILIES AND FIGHTING FOR POLICIES THAT STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, SUPPORT WORKING PEOPLE, AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES.

DATA CENTERS

I am in strong opposition to the continued expansion of data centers because of their impact on our electricity and water resources and the disproportionate pollution burden placed on communities of color. We should halt on any data centers until the communities know more information.

SPECIAL SESSION

During the August special session, the Maryland General Assembly approved a proposed constitutional amendment addressing congressional redistricting. The amendment will now go before Maryland voters in November. Senator Joanne C. Benson voted in support of the measure, helping advance it to the ballot.

SENIOR HOUSING

Ensuring our seniors can age with dignity is essential. I will continue pushing for affordable senior living options, tax relief, and home-maintenance support so long-time residents can comfortably stay in their homes.

WHAT'S NEXT?



GREATER 202 COALITION TURKEY DISTRIBUTION

We are currently organizing our annual Thanksgiving turkey distribution and are asking for support from our friends to help make this event a success. Our goal is to provide 2,000 turkeys and bags of groceries to families in need.

If you would like to make a donation, please call our office at 410-841-3148. Thank you for helping us make Thanksgiving brighter for our community and children.

THE 202 COALITION MEETING SCHEDULE

September 28, 2026

October 26, 2026

November 2026 (No Meeting)

December 2026 (No Meeting)

Happy Holidays



SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, we were proud to award approximately 80 Prince George's County students the 2026-2027 Senatorial Scholarship. Each student received a Senatorial Scholarship certificate. We wish the students all the best on their academic goals.

MOVEMENTS

The Hooray Squad is spreading gratitude across Baltimore by encouraging neighbors to celebrate the everyday people who make our communities stronger. This summer, they're working toward 1,000 Hoorays before Labor Day. Learn more at hooraysquad.com.

GO VOTE

Your vote is your voice. Help shape the future of our community by showing up, staying informed, and making your voice count in the important upcoming elections. "If You Don't Vote, You Don't Matter!"