

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Queen
Anne's
County

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County Commissioners:

Eric S. Wargotz, M.D., Commission President
Courtney M. Billups, District 1
Paul L. Gunther, District 2
Gene M. Ransom III, District 3
Carol R. Fordonski, District 4

County Administrator: John P. Borders, Jr.

County Operating Officer: Gregg Todd

Executive Assistant to County Commissioners: Margie A. Houck

County Attorney: Patrick Thompson, Esquire

June 24, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Administrator
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COUNTY LEADS THE WAY ON LIVING WAGE

Queen Anne's County is taking the lead on the Eastern Shore with the adoption of a living wage for its employees.

The Queen Anne's County Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the living wage policy for full and part time classified employees. The living wage minimum salary will take effect July 9 after the adoption of the FY 2009 budget and will be set at \$25,000 or \$12.02 per hour for a full time employee. The budget will be officially adopted at today's County Commissioner meeting.

Queen Anne's County's living wage policy will currently impact about 30 county employees and beginning July 1 new classified service hires in grades one through five will be eligible.

“With the increasing expense of food and fuel we must assure workers meet their every day necessities with a livable wage,” said County Commissioner Gene Ransom, who seconded the motion made by Commissioner Paul Gunther. The commissioners also unanimously voted for an employee Cost of Living Adjustment of \$1,800.

Queen Anne's County will be well above the average annual salary for its classified service employees on the Eastern Shore, which is currently about \$21,000.

Governor Martin O'Malley signed Maryland's Living Wage bill into law in October 2007, the first in the nation. Queen Anne's County joins Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Baltimore City as jurisdictions with a living wage policy in Maryland.

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