

Michael Higgs, Director, Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation

Michael L. Higgs is the Director of the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), after previously serving as the Deputy Director from September 2015. In addition to serving on Governor Larry Hogan's Cabinet, Director Higgs also has or currently serves on the: Governor's Commerce Subcabinet, Governor's Smart Growth Cabinet, Governor's Small Business Taskforce, Governor's Rural Broadband Steering Committee, and Legislature's Deed Recording Taskforce.

During his time at SDAT, Director Higgs has focused on Changing Maryland for the Better by streamlining processes, modernizing technology, and establishing a culture of customer service and professionalism throughout the agency. Director Higgs has overseen the successful streamlining or replacement of numerous paper-based processes with digital and highly accessible technology while maintaining legacy systems. The Department's award-winning online business portals, Maryland Business Express and the UCC Filing System, are helping Marylanders by allowing important business documents to be conveniently filed online while increasing efficiency and dramatically reducing processing times. In 2018, Director Higgs [unveiled](#) the new Maryland Business Express website, which has made it easier than ever for Maryland's small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to plan, start, manage, and grow their business. By breaking down government silos, Maryland Business Express has combined information previously spread across many state agencies into one easy-to-navigate site.

Prior to joining the Department, Director Higgs privately practiced law for over 18 years. He served both commercial and governmental clients in transactional, corporate, regulatory, and real estate matters, specializing in the fields of telecommunications and cyber security. Director Higgs received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from University of Maryland and his J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. He currently resides in Montgomery County with his wife and two children.