



Thomas “Mac” Middleton

Chesapeake Bay Commission Chair

Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton is a lifelong Charles County resident, a farmer, husband, father of three, proud grandfather, and a strong believer in public service.

Middleton currently serves as Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a position he also held in 2010. The Commission is a tri-state legislative body that advises the legislatures of MD, PA and VA, and the U.S. Congress, on issues of bay-wide concern, and ensures state and Federal actions to sustain the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay. Middleton was appointed to the Commission in 2007.

In Maryland, Middleton serves as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, a position he has held since 2003. The Committee reviews all legislation relating to banks and other financial institutions; business regulation and occupations; commercial law, including consumer protection; credit regulation and consumer financing; economic development; and health matters. It also hears legislation concerned with horse racing; insurance; labor and industry, including prevailing wage; State personnel issues; social programs, including welfare; transportation; unemployment insurance; utility regulation; and workers' compensation.

Elected to the Maryland Senate in 1994, he initially served on the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee where he was considered an even-handed, fiscally conservative leader. Prior to serving in the Senate, Middleton was Chairman of the Charles County Planning Commission where he worked from 1978 to 1985 to better manage growth in the county. In 1986 he was elected President of the Charles County Commissioners and worked to improve county government services, education, and growth management. He helped steer the county through tough fiscal times during the last recession, ultimately improving the county's bond rating – a reflection of his fiscally conservative management style.

Born in September 1945 in La Plata, Md., Middleton grew up in a large family – one of fourteen. He graduated from Charles County Community College in 1966, then earned a bachelor's of science (Biology) degree from Mt. St. Mary's College in 1968. He served in U.S. Army Intelligence from 1968 to 1971. Returning from the Army, he has worked on his family farm – Cedar Hill Farm – and remained active in the community ever since. As the only full-time farmer in the Maryland General Assembly,

Middleton brings special insight into challenges faced by small business owners, and the challenge of retaining the rural character of Charles County.

Middleton and his wife Joan are strong supporters of public education. All three of their children – Kelly, Brooke and Bret – graduated from Charles County public schools, and from Maryland colleges or universities. On the State level, Middleton has earned a reputation as a strong supporter of Maryland's higher education institutions.