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For immediate release

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MPT's *State Circle* celebrates 40 years of shining a light on Maryland government and politics

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [State Circle](#), Maryland Public Television's (MPT) long-running public affairs program dedicated to Maryland government and politics, celebrates its 40th anniversary this month. The show made its debut on MPT on January 8, 1982.

The Friday, January 7 edition of *State Circle* will include a segment looking back at the program's history and highlighting stories it has covered over four decades. The show airs at 7 p.m. both on MPT-HD and the network's [livestream](#).

State Circle was originally anchored by local newscaster Ron Canada and aired on Friday evenings during the annual legislative session. The program concept was to give viewers across the state a review of the action taking place on bills that might become law during the Maryland General Assembly session and to talk with the people who were impacting the prospective legislation. Following Canada, anchor duties were handled by Joe Krebs and then by Dave Durian.

In 1993, *State Circle* reporter [Jeff Salkin](#) assumed the anchor chair. Salkin continues in that role as the program enters a new season ahead of the start of the 2022 Maryland General Assembly.

The original Maryland General Assembly wrap-up program became a year-round weekly public affairs series on the statewide public TV network in 2003.

Since *State Circle's* inception, the show's team of reporters have covered the work of six Maryland governors, five speakers of the house, and four senate presidents. Over time, nearly two dozen broadcast journalists – among them John Aubuchon, Brad Bell, Lou Davis, Annette Gibbs-Davis, Nate Howard, Jim Nash, Liz O'Neill, John Rydell, and Yolanda Vazquez – have attended and reported on 40 General Assembly sessions for the benefit of Maryland citizens.



Charles Robinson, Nancy Yamada, Sue Kopen, (seated) Jeff Salkin

The series' current lineup consists of Salkin and reporters Sue Kopen, Charles Robinson, and Nancy Yamada.

“The service MPT provides, in producing in-depth and impartial reporting on issues of importance to all Marylanders, has never been more valuable,” explains Salkin. “Our whole team is thankful for the consistent backing of MPT’s leadership along with our dedicated viewers and supporters.”

In addition to its regular Friday evening broadcasts, members of the *State Circle* team recap and dissect annual gubernatorial State of the State addresses, participate as hosts and panelists in candidate debates, and host special editions on important topics.

Among the most notable of its specials was perhaps the out-of-this-world interview with Baltimore-born NASA astronaut G. Reid Wiseman when he was aboard the International Space Station in 2014.

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT’s commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT’s year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.