

## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 11, 2018

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## Frederick County Named #3 Top Digital County in the Nation

FREDERICK, MD – During her weekly <u>public information briefing</u>, Executive Jan Gardner announced that Frederick County Government has received national recognition as one of the top Digital Counties in the nation. The county was ranked third in the country among counties with populations between 250,000 and 500,000, despite being one of the smallest counties in this category.

"Our priority is to provide information in an open, transparent, and customer-oriented manner," said Executive Gardner. "Technology plays an important role in serving our citizens. I am proud that Frederick County Government has been recognized for its innovation, because an open government is good government."

The Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties today released the results of their 15th annual <u>Digital Counties Survey</u> that recognizes the technological capabilities and innovation of governments.

Every division of county government uses technology to provide services and information. The county website, mobile apps, content management, video web streaming service, e-government services and use of social media contributed to the county's ranking.

Citizens can pay bills online, track the status of permits and development projects, find procurement and contracting opportunities, register for a parks and recreation class, request a library book or download an e-book from the library, find an animal to adopt or search for a lost pet, view crime statistics, find out where roads are closured during a major storm and more.

In addition, TransIT riders can buy fares on their smart phones and get text messages telling them when their bus will arrive at their stop. During the primary election last month, real-time results were streamed by FCG TV faster than the State Board of Elections could update its website. Job applicants can apply online, schedule interviews and get other information from the employment portal.

Services that contributed toward open government include expanded map-based programs where citizens can report potholes and work requests using an online mapping application that automatically fills in a person's location from their smart phone. In addition, county road closures can be found on a single online map that is constantly updated. During the storms and floods in May, people relied on this service with more than 24,000 visits made to the site.

More than ever before, citizens are signing up for emergency notifications, media releases, building closures, recycling schedules and more.

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