

I Together Against COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens our health, wellbeing and economic security. The state needs a coordinated, strategic response to safeguard the public's health, safely and equitably distribute a vaccine, and protect consumers from emerging dangers. Specifically:

- Maryland needs a robust, streamlined effort to distribute the COVID-19 vaccines. The governor and legislature must provide sufficient funds for effective vaccine acceptance education, coordination and staffing for distribution, and tracking of shots administered.
- The state must invest in enough testing and PPE to suppress the virus and to protect essential workers.
- Until the state of emergency has ended, all evictions, foreclosures, and utility shutoffs should be suspended.

I Healthy Living

All families and communities should have access to clean air, safe drinking water, and healthy and sustainably produced food, and we should protect vulnerable populations from dangerous products.

PFAS Protection Act

Sen. Elfreth and Del. Love (SB195/HB22)

We are exposed to PFAS chemicals, which are linked to cancer and other illnesses, in water, food, and consumer products. This bill stops their use in firefighting foam, food packaging and rugs and carpets. It also prevents the mass incineration or landfilling of PFAS chemicals.

Lead in School Drinking Water

Sen. McCray and Del. Solomon (SB546/HB636)

Lead is a potent neurotoxin that affects how our children develop, learn, and behave. Testing is revealing lead in the drinking water in our schools. This policy strengthens protections for lead in school drinking water.

Protect our Kids from Nicotine Addiction

Sen. Washington and Del. Jazz Lewis (SB233/HB3)

We need to protect kids from nicotine addiction and all the harm that comes with it. This bill stops the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes, and cigars.

Recommended Veto Overrides

Increase and Expand the Tobacco Tax

Senator McCray and Delegate Luedtke

Increases the tobacco tax and creates tax parity for all tobacco products including electronic cigarettes.

Ban Chlorpyrifos

Senator Lam and Delegate Stein

Bans the use of the toxic insecticide chlorpyrifos.

I Consumer Protection

We work to get dangerous products off store shelves, to end exploitative practices, and ensure a level playing field in the marketplace. We advocate for policies to defend consumers from the economic and political power of special interests.

Right to Repair

Sen. Hester and Del. Feldmark (SB412/HB84)

It's getting harder and more expensive to get our electronics fixed. We generate way too much waste, and companies intentionally make things harder to repair. This bill gives consumers and small businesses access to the parts, tools and service information they need to repair products.

Maryland Consumer Reporting Act

Del. Julie Palakovich Carr (HB642)

This bill provides critical protections for consumers from mistakes on their credit reports by ensuring Credit Reporting Agencies ensure maximum accuracy and respond more quickly to complaints of credit report errors.

I Transform Transportation

Each year, pollution from cars, trucks and other vehicles cuts short an estimated 58,000 lives, and increases the risk of lung cancer, stroke and heart disease.

Transportation is also America's number one source of carbon pollution.

Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act

Sen. Zucker and Del. Korman (SB137/HB334)

Transitioning the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) bus fleet to Zero-Emission, electric buses is a common sense way to protect public health from diesel pollution, reduce traffic, and fight global warming.

I Sound Budget and Tax Policy

Marylanders have the right to know how our money is being spent, and no company should be able to game the tax system. When multi-state corporations use accounting tricks to avoid paying Maryland taxes they leave individuals and small businesses to bear the brunt of the tax burden.

Combined Reporting

Sen. Pinsky (SB511) and Del. Lehman (HB172)

Prevents companies from reducing taxable profits by shifting revenue to out-of-state subsidiaries.

Adopting the Throwback Rule

Sen. Pinsky (SB511) and Del. Stewart (HB229)

Ensures that each dollar of corporate income in Maryland is subject to taxation by a single state.

Closing the LLC Loophole

Del. Palakovich Carr (HB357)

Ends pass-through/LLC loophole and “nowhere income.”

I Don't Trash Maryland

Nothing we use for a few minutes should threaten our health and pollute our environment for hundreds of years. The waste we produce means leaky landfills, dirty air from incinerators, and more litter and litter cleanup costs. We support policies dedicated to the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle and put us on a path to zero waste.

Stop Plastic to Pollution Plants

Del. Love (HB21)

Restricts the establishment of so-called “Chemical Recycling” facilities in Maryland. These facilities threaten public health and the environment and are counter to our goals of producing less petro-chemical based plastics.

Plastic Bag Reduction Act

Sen. Augustine and Del. Lierman (SB223/HB314)

Bans single-use plastic bags.

Producer Responsibility

Del. Brooke Lierman (HB36)

Requires producers to bear financial responsibility for recycling the products they create. Incentivizes better design, financial models, and education.

Reducing Organic Waste

Sen. Hettleman and Del. Charkoudian (SB483/HB264)

Requires large generators of organic waste to divert waste from landfill or incinerators if a compost or anaerobic digestion facility is located nearby.

Maryland PIRG's role is to find common ground around commonsense solutions that will make our future healthier, safer and more secure.

I Democracy for the People

The influence of wealthy special interests in elections has eroded public trust in government and helped to depress civic participation. We should do everything we can to ensure all eligible voters are able to have their voice heard on Election Day.

Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act

Sen. Elfrehth and Del. Luedtke (SB282/HB156)

Strengthens voter participation on campuses and expands registration options for active military.

Maryland Fair Elections Act

Sen. Pinsky and Del. Feldmark (SB415/HB424)

Updates the gubernatorial campaign finance program to enable candidates to run for office without large or corporate contributions by providing limited matching funds for small donations.

Improving our Elections' Systems

Sen. Kramer (SB683) Del. Wilkins (HB1048/HB1047) (and others)

We support policies to increase eligible voters' ability to participate in voting and to streamline voting processes, including: creating a permanent mail-in voter list; expanding access to early voting and ballot drop boxes; expanding automatic voter registration; and, improving ballot tracking.

I Clean, Efficient Energy Use

Maryland's reliance on polluting fuels puts our health and safety at risk. The growth of cleaner technologies in Maryland benefits both our environment and our economy. We support policies to increase clean, efficient energy use.

Climate Solutions Now Act

Sen. Pinsky and Del. Stein (SB414/HB583)

Improves upon Maryland's draft climate plan and sets more rigorous and progressive goals for reducing emissions and mitigating climate change.

Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Sen. Pinsky (SB418)

This bill establishes minimum efficiency standards for our appliances and will save energy, reduce pollution and lower utility bills.

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