

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRIORITIES 2026

LET'S CREATE A BETTER MARYLAND FOR ALL

PROTECT IMMIGRANT MARYLANDERS

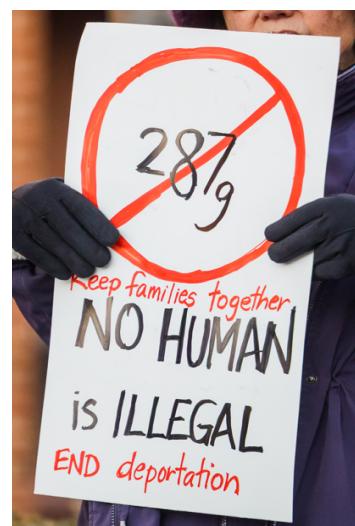
President Trump is expanding federal policing power to carry out mass deportations, using ICE to target immigrants and communities of color. This quota-driven detention and deportation dragnet funnels people into ICE custody without regard for due process or public safety. In 2025, over 3,300 Marylanders were abducted by ICE and torn from their families. Despite Trump's rhetoric, the majority of them did not have criminal charges, let alone convictions. The administration is increasingly relying on local law enforcement agencies to do their bidding via local collaboration through programs like 287(g). Marylander's taxpayer dollars should be used to support public safety solutions that benefit our communities, not harm them and tear families apart.

BAN LOCAL 287(G) COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS WITH ICE (SB 245)

Maryland must cease involvement in the voluntary 287(g) program. Under 287(g), local police can act as federal immigration agents after minimal training, bypassing due process and funneling Marylanders into the deportation pipeline, often for minor offenses and before seeing a judge. Nationally, 76% of people detained or deported through 287(g) had no criminal convictions. These agreements erode community trust, separate families, and use local tax dollars to advance a federal deportation agenda. With Congress approving a \$75 billion increase for ICE, Maryland must end these harmful partnerships. In 2026, we will support legislation prohibiting state and local agencies from entering or maintaining 287(g) agreements.

END NOTIFICATIONS TO ICE BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Maryland must pass common sense legislation to cease local collaboration in federal immigration enforcement via notifications and transfers to ICE. This legislation would affirmatively ban state correctional facilities from detaining, or prolonging the detention, of people based on suspicion that an individual may have committed a civil immigration violation. It would also ban state correctional facilities and law enforcement from notifying federal immigration authorities that an individual is in custody without a subpoena or judicial order and prohibit the transfer of individuals to ICE from state correctional facilities unless presented with a criminal warrant signed by a federal judge. Maintaining this practice not only decreases trust in law enforcement, it also risks complicity in the violation of individuals constitutional rights.



PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN VOTING RIGHTS IN MARYLAND

Maryland must take action to protect the voting rights of historically disenfranchised communities via comprehensive and common-sense legislation. While Maryland has expanded ballot access, Black, Brown, and non-English speaking voters still face discrimination, under representation, and obstacles to voting – issues which have been exacerbated by weakened federal protections. The Maryland Voting Rights Act (MDVRA) aims to strengthen state-level tools that ensure fair representation and prevent voter suppression.

END VOTE DILUTION (SB 255/HB 350)

Currently, there is no law in Maryland that specifically addresses racial discrimination in local elections. This bill protects communities of color from being silenced in the electoral process by unfair district maps and other discriminatory election systems. It establishes a clear, accessible legal pathway to challenge vote dilution so voters of color can elect candidates who represent their interests.

END VOTER INTIMIDATION & SUPPRESSION (HB 219)

Voter intimidation, deceptive practices, and suppression still threaten fair elections despite recent gains in language access. This bill creates a private right of action to challenge intimidation and expands the tools available to combat discriminatory election practices, filling gaps left by limited federal protections.



AFFIRMATIVELY BAN RACIAL PROFILING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN MARYLAND

As recent events have plainly shown, Maryland must take affirmative action to ensure existing protections against racial profiling are not eroded and to protect Marylanders from racial profiling and other abuses by federal agents to the maximum extent allowable by law. The US Supreme Court's continued dismantling of bedrock constitutional rights demands that the General Assembly take swift action to codify essential protections against racial profiling in our state law.

This summer, the US Supreme Court telegraphed a troubling acceptance of ICE's explicit use of racial profiling in immigration enforcement. Via a shadow docket decision overturning the rulings of two other courts forbidding ICE from racial profiling, SCOTUS allowed ICE to resume immigration stops and arrests in the Los Angeles area based solely on apparent race or ethnicity, speaking Spanish, location, and job. In a shocking concurring opinion, Justice Kavanaugh justified and defended racial profiling, downplaying the individual and social impacts of practices that have long been considered violations of the Fourth Amendment, essentially inviting law enforcement to profile based on perceived race or ethnicity. Because Maryland courts tend to interpret state constitutional law based on federal constitutional law, erosions to federal constitutional rights also affect state constitutional rights.

This bill would define racial profiling and affirmatively codify a ban on the practice for all law enforcement enforcing state law in Maryland—including federal agents.