

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

ACLU
Maryland



WE NEED IMPACTFUL POLICE REFORM IN MARYLAND



Reimagining policing is necessary to save Black lives. During the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session, a diverse coalition of over 90 groups is demanding at least five impactful police reforms: 1) repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR); 2) build community trust by reforming the Maryland Public Information Act to allow transparent investigations into police misconduct; 3) limit law enforcement's use of force; 4) remove police officers from our children's schools and increase the number of trained social workers, psychologists, counselors, and behavioral specialists; and 5) restore control of the Baltimore City Police Department to Baltimore City residents.

WE NEED TO TAKE THE POLITICS OUT OF PAROLE



Maryland's parole system is one of only three in the country where the Governor has to approve the recommendations of the Parole Commission before a person may be paroled. This injects politics into the system, and has resulted in a severe lack of paroles during the last three decades. We need to pass a law to ensure people with sentences of life with the possibility for parole – who have thoroughly demonstrated their rehabilitation – have a real chance to earn parole. The decision should be in the hands of the Parole Commission, like it is in the vast majority of states.

WE NEED AN EQUITABLE BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE



We must ensure that the General Assembly overrides Governor Hogan's veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future bill, which will provide much-needed funding for Maryland's students, especially Black and Brown students who for generations have disproportionately learned in schools that lack adequate resources. Our goal is to be intentional about filling the gaps for the most underserved students and ensuring transformative implementation.



WE NEED DUE PROCESS FOR CHILDREN IN THE LEGAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Every day in Maryland, children entangled in the legal justice system are questioned by police without a parent or attorney present. As a result, children face criminal charges, prosecution, and incarceration without the basic due process rights that adults are entitled to. We are working with children's and justice reform advocates to protect the rights of children, so they are not further harmed and over-exposed to the system by being interrogated without the advice of counsel.



WE NEED A TRUST ACT TO PROTECT IMMIGRANTS IN MARYLAND

Marylanders across our state live in fear of being unlawfully detained, separated from their families, and deported, because of draconian immigration laws and practices. These risks often prevent even lawful residents and crime victims from feeling safe to work with local police. The Trust Act would prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE and assisting with federal immigration enforcement. This law would help protect Maryland residents from lifelong negative consequences and rebuild trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.



EXPANDING THE VOTE

Voting is the hallmark of our democracy. If a Marylander is eligible to vote, whether incarcerated or not, that right must be honored. In 2021, we will work with our partners to ensure that Marylanders who are incarcerated – disproportionately Black and Brown Marylanders – who are eligible to vote, have meaningful access to the ballot. This includes voter registration applications, absentee ballot applications, and information about how to vote.

LET'S CREATE A BETTER MARYLAND!