



2018 Statewide Candidate Questionnaire

Please complete this candidate survey by May 25, 2018 to be included in the ACLU of Maryland's 2018 Voters' Guide. The ACLU of Maryland will publish the Voters' Guide as a public education service before the Primary Election to provide Maryland voters with information on the pressing civil rights and civil liberties issues facing Marylanders and where the candidates and elected officials stand on those issues. Neither the ACLU of Maryland nor the ACLU of Maryland Foundation endorses candidates or supports political campaigns in any way.

The ACLU of Maryland is strictly non-partisan. It advocates for the freedom of all Marylanders guided by the U.S. and Maryland Constitutions, the Bill of Rights, and the Maryland Declaration of Rights. A link to this survey has been sent to all candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, the State House of Delegates and the State Senate. Responses received by May 25 will be included in the ACLU of Maryland's 2018 Voters' Guide published in June. "No response" will be indicated for any candidates who do not complete the survey by May 25.

If you have any trouble completing the survey, contact Meredith Curtis Goode at the ACLU of Maryland, curtis@aclu-md.org or 410-889-8555 ext. 115. Your responses must be received by May 25, 2018 to be included.

Thank you for sharing your position on civil rights and civil liberties issues with Maryland voters.

--- *The ACLU of Maryland, Inc. is an organization that is exempt from tax pursuant to Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

* 1. I would like a copy of the ACLU of Maryland's Voter Guide. Please email it to me.

Yes

No

* 2. I would like to be added to the ACLU of Maryland's email list to receive regular updates about the ACLU of Maryland's events & activities.

Yes

No



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Candidate Identification

* 3. Candidate's Name:

* 4. Candidate email (same as how you got this survey):

* 5. What office are you seeking?

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Attorney General

State House

State Senate



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Candidate Identification Continued

* 6. Please specify the number of the district in which you are running for office.



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Survey Questions

Please provide your position on the following questions.

Taking the Politics out of Parole

Despite being sentenced to life with the possibility of parole, in practice, more than 2,000 persons serving life sentences in Maryland are condemned to die in prison. Unlike nearly every other state, Maryland requires the Governor to personally approve parole for any lifer even though we have a 10-member Parole Commission. Because parole has been politicized, for almost three decades, lifers have been systematically denied a meaningful opportunity for parole, regardless of individual merit and even after earning a recommendation from the Parole Commission after an extensive vetting process.

Maryland's broken parole system disproportionately affects Black Marylanders, as Maryland has the highest rate of Black lifers in the country. The current system comes at enormous human and taxpayer costs—each year, Maryland spends nearly \$75 million just on incarcerating lifers.

For background, a bill to remove the Governor from the parole process passed the House of Delegates by a 79-55 vote, but was not voted on in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

* 7. QUESTION: Do you support depoliticizing the process by ensuring that the Parole Commission, not the Governor, is the final decision-maker?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Marijuana Legalization

In 2010, African Americans made up only about 30% of Maryland's population, but 58% of all marijuana possession arrests, despite comparable rates of use across all races. A legalized market for adult recreational consumption of marijuana is estimated to generate millions in tax revenues for the state.

* 8. QUESTION: If adult recreational consumption of marijuana is legalized during your term in office, will you support diversion of tax revenues to communities of color, which have been most harmed by marijuana criminal laws?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Public funding of Private Schools

Maryland currently allocates millions of taxpayer dollars to fund voucher programs for students to attend private schools. Private schools are not subject to the same non-discrimination laws that govern public schools and they can and do discriminate against students and teachers. Moreover, these are monies that could be directed to our public schools, which are woefully under-resourced.

* 9. QUESTION: Should private schools that receive taxpayer dollars be subject to the same non-discrimination laws as public schools?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Open Government

Under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), complainants of police misconduct are only entitled to learn the disposition of their complaint and the discipline imposed, if any. They have no right to know what depth of investigation was conducted and what information was considered in that investigation. Moreover, community members, members of the press, and advocacy groups are not entitled to any information about the way these complaints are investigated. In its 2016 investigation of the Baltimore City Police Department, the Department of Justice noted that the current MPIA “limits BPD’s transparency to the public.”

* 10. QUESTION: Should the MPIA be amended to allow disclosure of records regarding investigations of law enforcement misconduct using the same standards that apply to records regarding investigations of criminal conduct by members of the public?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Voting Rights

Across the country, 6.1 million Americans are disenfranchised as a result of laws restricting voting rights for persons convicted of felonies. Moreover, one in 13 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised, which is more than four times greater than the disenfranchisement rates for other racial groups.

Maine and Vermont do not limit the right to vote based on criminal offense or history.

Under Maryland law, persons currently incarcerated for a felony offense are barred from voting.

* 11. QUESTION: Should all Marylanders participate in our democracy by retaining the right to vote, regardless of entanglement with the criminal justice system?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Net Neutrality

In December 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to eliminate net neutrality, which prohibits Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from engaging in content-based discrimination. This now means that, depending on the content a customer wishes to view, an ISP can charge more money to access certain content, or quicken, slow, or block access altogether wherever doing so advances its political or commercial interests.

* 12. QUESTION: Should the state take steps to protect Marylanders' free speech and intellectual freedom by requiring ISPs to adhere to net neutrality principles and provide their customers with equal access to all lawful content on the Internet?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Immigrants' Rights

As a result of draconian federal immigration enforcement practices, Maryland's immigrant communities are increasingly at risk of being uprooted—families face separation, and countless children may be left uncared for. For the federal government to successfully tear families apart, they rely on local and state law enforcement to identify non-US citizens, detain them, and hand them over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) so they may be expelled from the United States, despite whatever contributions they have made to Maryland's well-being.

13. QUESTION: Should Maryland limit state and local law enforcement's collaboration with federal immigration enforcement efforts?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Women's Rights

In the Maryland criminal justice system, women—especially women of color—are denied comparable programming and other opportunities to men. For example, the state operates several pre-release facilities for incarcerated men to offer educational services, strengthen family and community relationships, and other supports necessary for re-entry. The only such facility for women was closed as a cost-saving measure years ago, leaving women without comparable opportunities. To this day, no such facility exists for women.

14. QUESTION: Should Maryland be required to provide women and girls in the criminal justice system with programs and services substantially equivalent to those offered to men?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Police Accountability

While the Maryland General Assembly has made reforms to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, these reforms are inadequate to allow for meaningful community oversight of police because under current law, only sworn law enforcement officers may investigate a complaint that can lead to discipline. As a result, the public cannot have truly independent investigations of complaints of police misconduct. Civilian review boards or any other civilian entities can only comment on investigations undertaken by police, but cannot be the ones to conduct such investigations in the first place.

15. QUESTION: Should state law be amended to allow the creation of professional, independent bodies outside of police departments to conduct the investigations of complaints of misconduct by police officers that may lead to departmental discipline?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

State Education Funding

The state's constitution directs that a "thorough and efficient" education be provided to the state's public school students but numerous reports show that many children in Maryland schools are unable to meet high standards, which suggests that the State is not meeting its duty. A state commission is developing recommendations to ensure all Maryland students can meet 21st century standards and that the racial and socioeconomic achievement gap is closed. A state-hired consultant estimated that Maryland schools need another \$2.9 billion annually—with \$2 billion as the state responsibility—to adequately address teacher pay, add resources and staffing for students who need more support, adjust class sizes, etc.

16. QUESTION: Do you commit to funding the approximate \$2 billion needed to establish an updated, equitable funding formula that will meet the needs of students across the state?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response

Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodation

Under the Fairness for All Marylanders Act, a place of public accommodation cannot discriminate against its LGBT patrons. Nevertheless, discrimination against LGBT people in Maryland businesses abound. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, 29% of Transgender Marylanders were denied equal treatment or verbally harassed in a place of public accommodation. Still further, LGBT people have no recourse when they are turned away by a store, hotel, or other public accommodation. The law only allows them to file a complaint with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, where at best, the establishment may have to pay a small penalty to the state's general fund. The law also does not allow LGBT people to sue the vendor directly.

17. QUESTION: Should state law be amended to provide for a civil remedy for discrimination in places of public accommodations?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- No Response



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Free Response

18. Please provide two examples of your advocacy to protect and promote civil rights and civil liberties in Maryland. (500 Character limit; you should not type more than can fit in this box without a scroll-bar.)

19. Please provide two examples of what you will do if elected to protect and promote civil rights and civil liberties in Maryland. (500 Character limit; you should not type more than can fit in this box without a scroll-bar.)

If you want a paper copy of your response, do not forget to print before clicking "done." Once you complete the survey, you will be unable to access your replies.

* 20. Affirmation: I represent the candidate and am authorized to answer on her or his behalf.

Yes