



**JEWS UNITED**  
FOR **JUSTICE**  
CAMPAIGN FUND

# MARYLAND 2018 **VOTER GUIDE**

**THINK JEWISHLY.**  
**VOTE LOCALLY.**

# STATEWIDE ENDORSEMENTS

Governor and Lieutenant Governor  
**Ben Jealous and Susie Turnbull**

Attorney General  
**Brian Frosh**

Questions 1 and 2  
**FOR the Constitutional Amendments**

# LOCAL ENDORSEMENTS

Montgomery County Executive  
**Marc Elrich**

Baltimore County Executive  
**Johnny Olszewski Jr.**

Baltimore City Questions E, F, and H  
**FOR the Charter Amendments**

Learn more about the JUFJ Campaign Fund and our endorsements,  
and take action for these candidates at [jufjcampaignfund.org](http://jufjcampaignfund.org).

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**The Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund** is a grassroots community organization working for affordable housing, good jobs, racial equity, and other issues of social justice in DC and Maryland by electing officials and holding them accountable to our shared agenda.

**As Jews, we are called by our history and our tradition to repair the world,** by working to ensure that:

- **everyone has what they need** to live and thrive
- **all people live in dignity and have a voice in democracy**, no matter the color of our skin or how much money we have
- **our government focuses on the needs of the most vulnerable people in our society**, not the wallets of the wealthiest people and their businesses' profits

The JUFJ Campaign Fund's grassroots election team of volunteers and staff undertook an extensive process to identify candidates who share our priorities and values:

- **social and economic justice agenda**
- **commitment to racial equity**
- **high ethical standards**
- **accountability to voters and our communities**

If you are a **first-time voter in Maryland**, you may need an ID to vote. You **may not use electronic devices** while voting. Make sure to print this guide or take notes on paper before you vote.

Visit **[elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov)** for more information.

## Governor and Lieutenant Governor: **Ben Jealous and Susie Turnbull**



**Bold leadership in the fight for social, racial, and economic justice across Maryland.**

Ben and Susie's positions are rooted in their belief that our government should serve all Marylanders, Black, brown, and white, and should remove the barriers to success that poor and working families face in our state.

**[benjealous.com](http://benjealous.com)**

When they are elected, Ben and Susie plan to:

- Raise teacher pay
- Provide full-day, universal pre-K
- Raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour
- Legalize and regulate marijuana for adult use
- Spend gambling revenue on schools
- Decrease mass incarceration and ensure safety and justice for all Marylanders, whether we're Black, white, or brown.
- Free over-imprisoned residents who have paid their debt to society
- Stop police from collaborating with ICE to rip apart immigrant families
- Work for education and a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers
- Appoint fair judges, not partisan operatives, to Maryland's courts

**Ben Jealous** knows how to get people to work together in government, business, nonprofits, unions, and advocacy to make progressive changes in people's lives. He has built bipartisan consensus to pass legislation, including when Governor Martin O'Malley turned to him to lead advocacy to end the death penalty in Maryland.

Ben was National President and CEO of the NAACP. He has spent the

past five years as a venture capitalist, creating over a thousand new jobs and applying novel, market-based solutions to tackle social problems.

**Susie Turnbull** has been committed to activism, civil rights, political organizing, and creating opportunities for regular people to access their government for over 40 years. She has been a national leader in Jewish organizations like the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and Jewish Women International.

She has worked in a variety of government, non-profit, business and political positions, including Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Chairwoman of the Maryland Democratic Party, and as a senior advisor to several members of Congress. As Lieutenant Governor, she will secure federal funding and bring resources to Maryland.

**On the opponent:** Governor Larry Hogan pretends to be a moderate, but he's helped the rich get richer while harming poor people, criminalizing Black and brown people, and making life in Maryland less safe and less sustainable. His dismal record includes:

- Vetoing paid sick leave for 700,000 Marylanders
- Trying to block environmental protections for our water
- Pushing for laws that would increase mass incarceration, especially of poor people of color
- Siphoning money from transit and education to build roads
- Allowing Maryland's schools to plunge from #1 to #6 in the nation
- Collaborating with pharmaceutical lobbyists keep drug prices high
- Appointing a Republican lobbyist to the Court of Appeals

Larry Hogan has been wrong on the issues that matter most to our Jewish community and for a safe, just, and equitable Maryland. Ben Jealous and Susie Turnbull are the leaders Maryland needs to move forward.

## Attorney General: Brian Frosh



**A champion for immigrants, for poor people targeted by predatory companies, and for Black and brown people facing a racist criminal justice system.**

Brian has fought for sensible gun control, environmental protections, and other causes that make a real difference. As a legislator in the General Assembly, he helped advance marriage equality through the Senate's powerful Judicial Proceedings Committee.

[brianfrosh.com](http://brianfrosh.com)

As Attorney General, Brian defended Maryland's assault weapons ban in court and has been a passionate, knowledgeable proponent of changing our bail system to stop locking people up for being poor. He also worked to keep prescription drug costs down and to close abusive nursing homes.

The immoral policies of the Trump Administration have hurt Maryland and Marylanders, on everything from taxes to immigration policy to healthcare. Though Governor Hogan has ignored Brian's request for funding to help fight cruel policies like the Muslim ban and the tax scams, Brian is part of a team of attorneys general challenging the Trump administration. From fighting these policies to suing the president for the unconstitutional use of his office, Brian has done a tremendous amount to move the work forward through working with other states and bringing on pro-bono legal help.

**On the opponent:** Craig Wolf supports policies that worsen mass incarceration of Black and brown Marylanders, and he thinks the state should not fight against disastrous federal policy. He has spent the last 18 years as a liquor industry lobbyist, and his campaign is largely funded by out-of-state donors from that industry.

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# S T A T E W I D E

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## Question 1: **FOR** the amendment **Fulfill the promise of money for schools**

Larry Hogan has looted nearly \$2 billion in education funding. When Maryland first legalized gambling in 2008, voters directed gambling revenue to fund education. But when the money started rolling in, Governor Hogan swapped out existing education funding for the new money so our schools didn't get an extra nickel.

**Vote FOR Question 1** to create an “education lockbox,” putting gambling revenue towards schools and stopping Governors from playing shell games with our children's education.

## Question 2: **FOR** the amendment **Create same-day voter registration**

Our government should be protecting every person's sacred right to vote, not making it harder for us to participate in democracy. Just this year, the state disenfranchised 70,000 voters by failing to process their registrations. People had to cast provisional ballots or not vote at all. Maryland should join nine states and the District of Columbia in offering same-day voter registration to make sure that everyone gets to raise their voice in democracy - even if you recently moved, or you don't have lots of time off of work.

**Vote FOR Question 2** to set up statewide same-day voter registration.

*For the full text of both of these constitutional amendments,  
visit [elections.maryland.gov/elections/2018/Ballot\\_Questions/index.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2018/Ballot_Questions/index.html).*



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# MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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## County Executive: Marc Elrich



[marcelrich.org](http://marcelrich.org)

### **The progressive choice for County Executive.**

On the County Council, Marc has championed the needs of the county's most vulnerable residents. The only candidate who has never taken developers' money, he fights tirelessly against big-money interests. Marc proposed an equity framework to evaluate new legislation for its impact on people of color, poor and working class residents, and others facing systemic inequities.

As Executive, Marc will work to make affordable housing and quality education available for all. He will listen to local small business owners, many of whom are immigrants, women, and people of color. He wants to make sure that real estate developers help fund the schools, transportation, and other infrastructure that their development demands.

Marc has been criticized for being unwilling to compromise, but the JUJF community has worked with him for years and seen him bring allies and opponents together many times, most recently to pass a \$15 minimum wage.

***On the opponents:*** For the past 16 years, Nancy Floreen has been the most conservative County Council member. She consistently weakens economic justice and environmental legislation, often at the request of developers. She opposed raising the minimum wage and protecting local immigrant families. By leaving the Democratic Party to run as an independent, she is attempting to subvert the will of the voters who chose Marc in the primary.

Perennial Republican Party candidate Robin Ficker is infamous for his disruptive, offensive behavior. He has campaigned against good jobs, transit, a strong safety net, and protections for immigrants.



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# BALTIMORE COUNTY

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## County Executive: Johnny Olszewski



**For social justice, accountable and transparent government, and economic development.**

Johnny grew up in Baltimore County and has dedicated his life to serving our community. He was a student member of the Board of Education. At age 23, he was elected to the House of Delegates and served as the youngest-ever chair of the county delegation.

[gojohnnyo.com](http://gojohnnyo.com)

With poverty increasing alongside great wealth, many of our residents

are unable to find affordable housing. Johnny O's administration will end housing discrimination against people with disabilities, veterans, and other residents facing systemic bias. Our children need more support in school than they are getting now. Johnny's plan for education includes pre-K, universal school meals and additional counselors, social workers, and psychologists.

As County Executive, Johnny will prioritize government and law enforcement accountability and transparency. He will identify waste in our government, and allow working people to have a say in how our county runs by holding work sessions in the evenings and holding community-based meetings about budget priorities. Johnny expects police to treat all citizens with respect, and will expand community access to body camera footage.

Strengthening Baltimore County requires a strong working relationship with Baltimore City and surrounding counties. Johnny will partner across the County/City line on public safety, economic development, and transportation, and will take action to make water affordable.

**On the opponent:** Al Redmer has consistently prioritized big business interests and partisan politics. He actively supports the far-right immigration policies of Donald Trump.

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# B A L T I M O R E C I T Y

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## Question E: **FOR** the amendment **Water is a human right**

Right now, half of Baltimoreans pay more than they can afford for water. JUFJ has been working since 2015 to make water affordable for everyone in Baltimore, and this amendment is an important step in that direction. In the past, the City has tried to sell our water to private companies that want to profit off our basic human needs. In other cities where this has happened, the private companies have raised prices and lowered the standards for water quality.

**Vote FOR Question E** to keep Baltimore's water public forever.

## Question F: **FOR** the amendment **A real check on city corruption**

No one in our city government should be allowed to abuse the powers of their office. The office of the Baltimore Inspector General is supposed to be an independent, internal watchdog agency. But the inspector general reports to the mayor, which means that the mayor or senior staff can interfere with investigations and shield corrupt officials from punishment. We need a truly independent Inspector General who can be a real check on powerful officials. This amendment will move the Inspector General's office out from under the control of any one political official and make them a truly independent voice for the people of Baltimore.

**Vote FOR Question F** to ensure that Baltimore's Inspector General can hold city officials to a real ethical standard.

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# B A L T I M O R E C I T Y

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## Question H: **FOR** the amendment Public financing of elections

Our elected officials should represent all residents, not just wealthy donors. When elections are publicly financed, regular people can run for office without being bankrolled by corporations and lobbyists. This amendment will create a fair elections fund to finance candidates for office who aren't relying on big money contributions, and make it easier for voters to elect regular people who aren't beholden to big business. JUFJ has supported similar efforts in Montgomery County and in DC.

**Vote FOR Question H** to reduce the power of money in politics and help Baltimore elect officials who are less beholden to major donors and more ready to serve the people of Baltimore.

*For the full text of these and other charter amendments, visit [elections.maryland.gov/elections/2018/Ballot\\_Questions/index.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2018/Ballot_Questions/index.html)*

*The JUFJ Campaign Fund has not taken a position on any of the other local questions on the ballot in Baltimore City.*

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# OTHER ELECTIONS

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**Real policy change involves elected officials at all levels of local and state government.**

Your votes up and down the ballot help decide whether people in your county can access affordable housing and water, resist the brutal deportation tactics of ICE, or earn enough to support their families.

**In addition to JUFJ Campaign Fund endorsed candidates,** make sure you also make a choice in other races (not voting is a choice):

Comptroller

State Senator and Delegates

US Senator and Representative

County Councils

Boards of Education

State's Attorneys

Judges, Clerks, Registers of Wills, and Sheriffs

Your Congressional district, State district, County district, and school board district are **all different districts**. As you are learning about candidates, make sure you know your districts and which candidates are running in each race ([elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov)).

For more information on other races, check out the endorsements of our frequent allies at the **Maryland State Education Association** (MSEA) at [mdappleballot.com](https://mdappleballot.com).

Our partners at **Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle** reported which General Assembly members were 2018 Champions of Racial Justice, and which were Barriers to Racial Justice. They also rated the entire Baltimore City delegation. Download their report at [lbsbaltimore.com/2018-legislative-report-card](https://lbsbaltimore.com/2018-legislative-report-card).

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# ELECTION INFORMATION

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**We recommend voting early or by absentee ballot** so that you can volunteer with the JUFJ Campaign Fund on Election Day!

Visit [jufjcampaignfund.org/election-day](https://jufjcampaignfund.org/election-day) to sign up.

**Early voting:** Thursday, 10/25 - Thursday 11/1, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Vote early at **any early voting center in your county.**

To find one, visit [bit.ly/earlyvoteMD](https://bit.ly/earlyvoteMD)

Tuesday, 10/30: Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail/fax

Friday, 11/2: Deadline to download absentee ballot

## Tuesday, November 6: Election Day

Visit [elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov) for information about your registration, districts, and polling place. You can also register, update your registration, or request absentee ballots.

Montgomery County information: (240) 777-VOTE or [777vote.org](https://777vote.org)

Some useful sources of **state and local election news:**

[marylandmatters.org](https://marylandmatters.org)

[marylandreporter.com](https://marylandreporter.com)

[bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/Politics](https://bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/Politics)

[baltimorebrew.com](https://baltimorebrew.com)

JUFJ Campaign Fund newsletter: [jufjcampaignfund.org/get-updates](https://jufjcampaignfund.org/get-updates)

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**Join us to take action at  
[www.jufjcampaignfund.org](http://www.jufjcampaignfund.org)**

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