



FAQs

Raising our voices to protect Maryland's environment

Is Maryland LCV a 501(c)3 organization?

No. We do political action and accountability work, including elections and endorsements, and that's what makes us such an important player in Maryland politics. It also means we are a 501(c)4 organization, so gifts to Maryland LCV are non-tax deductible. Our sister organization, the Maryland LCV Education Fund, is a 501(c)3 and can accept tax-deductible contributions.

I'm a member of National LCV. Why should I support Maryland LCV?

We are an independent state league that works in partnership with national LCV. National LCV focuses on national issues and congressional work. We concentrate on issues directly affecting Maryland's air, land, water, and communities. To be effective on environmental policies, one must work at the federal, state, and local levels. An investment in Maryland LCV will go to influencing elected officials and policies throughout Maryland.

Where does Maryland LCV get its funding?

More than 60 percent of our funding comes from individuals who are concerned about the environment. Donations are not tax-deductible for political work. The remaining funds come through grants and the business community. As a 501(c)4 organization, we can not receive direct foundation money, so support from individual donors – large and small – is critical to our mission.

What is your success rate in elections?

We endorse and actively support candidates who believe in improving the environment. We only endorse candidates who meet our stringent criteria, and in 2018, 86% of the candidates we supported won their races in the general election.

Does Maryland LCV only endorse Democrats?

No, we are nonpartisan and we endorse candidates who vote for smart and effective environmental policies, regardless of party affiliation. We actively encourage candidates in both parties to be pro-conservation, and we have a history of endorsing candidates from both political parties. We actively encourage all candidates to participate in our endorsement process, and our Board of Directors is comprised of both Republicans and Democrats.



MARYLAND LEAGUE
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What work does Maryland LCV do during non-election years?

Every year we engage in the 90-day Maryland General Assembly session. We also work throughout the year on priority issues through legislative workgroups and advocacy campaigns. We publish a [yearly scorecard](#) holding state legislators accountable for their voting records, and we [grade the governor](#) every two years.

How does Maryland LCV determine its legislative agenda and priorities?

We work very closely with the Maryland's environmental community. Maryland LCV supports the consensus environmental agenda and its priority legislation set by the community. We generally choose strategic legislation with broad community buy-in and strong grassroots support. With the support of our Board of Directors, we will occasionally engage in important legislation even if the larger environmental community does not view it as a priority.

What goes on Maryland LCV's scorecard?

Maryland LCV reviews all legislation and scores the bills that have the most impact on the environment or represent particularly important policy decisions. We use a two-step internal process that includes both our political committee and full Board of Directors.

We score both committee votes and floor votes as well as note key bills that are not brought to a vote. During the general assembly, to ensure legislators know our position on key pieces of legislation, we outline and distribute the most important environmental legislation in our weekly [Hot List](#).

Please join the fight to make a difference now.



MARYLAND LEAGUE
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ABOUT US

Raising our voices to protect Maryland's environment

- WHO WE ARE** For more than 40 years, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters (Maryland LCV) has been the strategic and political voice of the environment in Maryland. We are a state-wide, nonpartisan organization that uses political action and education to protect our air, land, water, and communities.
- WHAT WE DO** We help elect people get people elected who are committed to improving Maryland's environment.
- We are the leading legislative watchdog in Annapolis, advocating for smart and effective environmental policies.
- We hold elected officials accountable for their votes through our scorecards and report cards.
- Maryland LCV has been a part of nearly every major state environmental policy since our founding in 1979.
- WHERE WE ARE** Maryland LCV works across the state, from the mountains of western Maryland to the beaches on the Eastern Shore – and everywhere in between. You will find our members wherever families and communities are fighting for a clean and healthy environment.
- WHY WE DO IT** Nothing is more important than protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land on which we live, and all these issues have become even more urgent because of the climate crisis. We are working to ensure a healthy future for all our communities, neighborhoods, and families.
- HOW WE DO IT** We endorse and work to elect pro-conservation candidates. Once elected, we hold them accountable through our annual [scorecards](#) and report cards. We advocate for smart and effective environmental policies that protect our environment and benefit Maryland families and communities. Our record of success has made us the trusted voice for the environment in Maryland's political landscape.
- WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED** We have been a part of nearly every major state environmental policy accomplishment since 1979, including the Critical Areas Act, the Healthy Air Act, the Bay Restoration Fund, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, Hydraulic Fracturing Ban, Pesticide Protection Act, and more. We use our scorecards to hold elected officials accountable and judge actions rather than rhetoric. Because of our reputation, elected leaders and decision-makers seek our guidance and insight on key environmental issues.

OUR KEY ISSUES

Maryland League of Conservation Voters focuses on critical issues. We work during the Maryland General Assembly legislative session to pass strong environmental policy. We also work throughout the year to advance environmental policies at local levels.

Climate Crisis

The science is clear: *the climate is changing*. With over 3,000 miles of shoreline, Maryland is especially vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels and temperatures. We focus on getting candidates elected that will work tirelessly to address the climate crisis. We also work to advance policies that will stem the impacts of the climate crisis, especially on communities that are unduly burdened by the climate crisis.

Clean Water and Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is an integral part of the history and culture of Maryland. Unfortunately, the health of the Chesapeake is far from where it should be. All Marylanders deserve fishable and swimmable waters in our local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. We advocate for policies that clean and protect Maryland's rivers, streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Community and Government

To fully protect the environment, we need a transparent and open government. We work to ensure public access and engagement in politics, and we educate Marylanders on issues and candidates so they can be informed voters.

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KEY STAFF

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Ed Hatcher, Board Chair
Maris St. Cyr, Vice Chair
Michael Davis, Treasurer
Hon. Virginia Clagett
Stuart Clarke
Candace Dodson-Reed
Verna Harrison
Melanie Hartwig-Davis
Lynn Heller
Hon. Steve Lafferty
Bonnie Norman
Katharine Thomas

Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

Chuck Porcari, Board Chair
Joy Blackwood
Beth Blauer
Lance Davis
Larissa Johnson

Kim Coble
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Kim Coble, Executive Director

Kim is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs, and strategic plan of the organization. In addition to leading and managing, Kim's other key initiatives involve fundraising, marketing, and community outreach.

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Ramon Palencia-Calvo, Deputy Executive Director

Ramon oversees Chispa Maryland, a Latinx outreach and organizing program created to ensure that Maryland Latinx families and community leaders are a powerful voice in protecting our air, land, water, public health, and future.

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Kristen Harbeson, Political Director

Kristen directs Maryland LCV's lobbying and political outreach program.

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Ben Alexandro, Water Program Director

Ben is Maryland LCV's water policy expert and the Maryland lead for the regional Choose Clean Water Coalition.

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Dannielle Lipinski, Communications and Outreach Manager

Dannielle oversees the organization's communications, grassroots, outreach, press, and internship and volunteer activities.

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Kristyn Kuhn Eckel, Development Associate

Kristyn is a fundraising officer for Maryland LCV.

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