

## MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



**What? MAJR General Meeting**

**When? October 16, 7pm**

**Where? Zoom**

**Why? Help select our MAJR focus for 2021**

Register for this Zoom meeting [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## 2021 Legislative Initiatives

### ***Front Door:***

**Police powers and oversight:** MAJR strongly supports Maryland General Assembly leaders' proposals to restore public confidence in police action by retraining police and prioritizing nonviolent services whenever possible.

Other initiatives include:

- **Prosecutorial Discretion**
- **Marijuana Legalization**
- **Citations for Misdemeanors**
- **Education Reform**
- **Felony Murder Rule**

### ***Behind the Walls:***

**Correctional Ombuds Office:** The Ombuds concept has been endorsed by Gov. Larry Hogan. Cutting through layers of bureaucratic review now required, Maryland could join several other states with an independent Ombuds to publicly report and recommend improvements as to prisoner's needs, as well as those of prison volunteers and families.

Other initiatives include:

- **Model Prisons**
- **Rewarding Educational Milestones**
- **Solitary Confinement Initiative.**
- **Removing the Governor from the parole process**

***Back Door:***

**Re-entry Programs:** Prisoner reentry is the process by which prisoners, once released, return to the community. Endorsed by DPSCS Secretary Rob Green, a state Reentry Council would bring together representatives of state prisons, local jails, nonprofit providers, and families to more promptly connect returning citizens with resources in their home communities to help them succeed.

Other initiatives include:

- **Women's Pre-Release Center**
- **Expungement**

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## **Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Baltimore County's Criminal Justice System**

“Maryland is the worst state in the nation when it comes to incarcerating people who are Black,” the **Justice Policy Institute reported** in late 2019. “This is a racial justice crisis that Maryland's leaders must tackle head on.”

**Panel Discussion – Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 7pm**

Join us for another panel discussion via Zoom. We are excited to have on this next panel:

Scott Shellenberger, Baltimore County State's Attorney



Julian Jones, Baltimore County Council Member, District 4



Gail Watts, Director, Baltimore County Detention Center



Troy Williams, Esq., Chief Diversity Officer, Baltimore County Executive Office



Sheila Ruth, Maryland's House of Delegates, District 44B

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**We urge you to vote in the upcoming election on November 3.**

Why vote? Simply put, it is our responsibility to vote because our freedom to pursue liberty depends on having a functional, representative democracy. The system only works if we participate in it. Vote, and then go out and keep working toward the world you want to live in.

To help here are a few links:

- [Voting Rights for Pretrial Detainees and Returning Citizens](#), MdDems
- [Voter guide: How to vote in Maryland's November election](#), Baltimore Sun
- [How to register to vote in Maryland](#), ABC News
- [How to vote in Maryland](#), Washington Post
- [Here's What You Need To Know About Voting In Maryland](#), WAMU
- [Maryland Election Information](#), Election Protection
- [5 Reasons Why You Should Vote!](#), Altamed
- [Why Vote?](#) Trade Schools
- [Everything You Need to Vote](#), Vote.org
- [2020 General Election](#), Maryland.gov


**THE JUDGE ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR.  
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**BE CURIOUS. BE COURAGEOUS. BE COMPASSIONATE.**

**MARYLAND'S BROKEN  
PAROLE SYSTEM:  
THE COST OF INACTION**

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL WEBINAR ON  
**OCTOBER 22, 2020  
4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM EST**

For an overview of the barriers to parole, the impact on people trapped in the system, the impact on their families, and legislative efforts to address the problem.

**[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)**

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:**







MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over fifty community organizations and churches with members in every part of the state, formed to support justice reinvestment. Individual

supporters include judges, attorneys, corrections professionals, as well as returning citizens, victims, and service providers.

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