LOCAL Maryland is a coalition of advocacy organizations committed to protecting the ability of local elected officials to pass laws that support healthy families, a clean environment and good jobs. We pay special attention to legislation being considered at the state level that would take away the ability of local governments to protect their residents’ health and quality of life. We are calling for local and state partners to support our coalition in its efforts.

Our coalition envisions a Maryland where every local government has the ability to pass laws that support healthy families, a clean environment and good jobs.

Increasingly, state lawmakers are blocking our cities, towns and counties from passing laws that support healthy families, a clean environment and good jobs. This is called preemption and special interest groups are behind it. When special interest groups push state lawmakers to block local laws, it hurts the health, safety and paychecks of our families, neighbors and friends.

State interference with local community needs can put the health of our most vulnerable residents at risk, including children, the elderly and communities of color. By blocking local laws, state lawmakers make it harder for people in these groups to have better opportunities for good health, a clean environment and good jobs.

We must protect the ability of our cities, towns and counties to pass laws that keep our families healthy, our environments clean and create good jobs.
How Can You Help?

✓ Join LOCAL Maryland.
  • You can join the coalition on our website – localmaryland.org/join-the-coalition.
  • Follow us on Twitter – @local_maryland.
  • Follow us on Facebook – @LOCALMaryland1.
  • Submit testimony during state legislation hearings.
  • Attend a community meeting.
  • Share your story.

✓ Spread the word!
  • Let other groups who care about healthy families, a clean environment and good jobs know about our coalition and why it's important to join.

State Preemption Laws by the Numbers

• 31 states (including Maryland) prevent local communities from passing laws that reduce smoking.
• 20 states (including Maryland) prevent local governments from passing laws that promote paid sick leave.
• 43 states (including Maryland) prevent local governments from passing laws to reduce gun violence.
• 25 states prevent local governments from passing higher minimum wage laws.
• 12 states have laws that prevent local governments from passing laws that encourage more nutritious food policies.

Sources: Grassroots Change, CDC.gov, NELP