



LOCAL MARYLAND: Let Our Communities Act Locally



What is LOCAL Maryland?

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.

What is the vision?

Our coalition believes that every Maryland community has the right to healthy families, a clean environment and good jobs. We want to ensure that every local government has the ability to make that happen.

Why be concerned?

Maryland is a vibrant state and its residents have diverse needs. One size does not fit all when it comes to creating state laws.

However, special interest groups are increasingly blocking cities, towns and counties from passing laws that meet the needs of local residents. This is called preemption – and is hurting the health, safety and paychecks of our families, neighbors and friends.

What is the solution?

Good ideas often start locally. For example, local governments were the first to pass child bike helmet laws, no smoking laws and paid sick laws in Maryland. These laws have since inspired changes at the state and even national levels.

We must protect the ability of local governments to pass these types of laws, which is why we need to prevent special interest groups from blocking them.

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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](https://twitter.com/local_maryland).
- Follow us on Facebook – [@LOCALMaryland1](https://www.facebook.com/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.
- 23 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.
- 14 states have laws that prevent local governments from passing laws that encourage more nutritious food policies.
- 14 states preempt local control over nutrition and food policy.

Sources: *Grassroots Change*, *CDC.gov*, *NELP*

