MLAW
Maryland Legislative
Agenda for Women

OUR *STATE!*
OUR *VOICE!*
OUR *AGENDA!*

MLAW LEGISLATIVE AGENDA CONFERENCE

November 14, 2026

The Meeting House • Columbia, MD

AGENDA

Registration, Networking, and Continental Breakfast

Welcome and Greetings
Michaele Cohen, President, MLAW Board of Directors
Delegate Stephanie Smith, President, Women Legislators of Maryland

Keynote Speaker
Delegate Dana Jones, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

Presentation of Awards to Retiring Legislators
Maryland Commission for Women and MLAW

Legislative Presentations
Questions will be taken at the end of each group

Group 1 – Presentation of Proposals
Facilitator: Angela McDaniel

Group 2 – Presentation of Proposals
Facilitator: Elizabeth Joyce

Group 3 – Presentation of Proposals
Facilitator: Tahira Mussarat Hussain

Group 4 – Presentation of Proposals
Facilitator: Cassandra Freemen

Wrap-Up
Wandra Ashley-Williams

Adjourn

MLAW
Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

1994-2026

32 YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN'S AND FAMILY ISSUES

32 years ago MLAW was established to **harness the collective power of women** and to **create a statewide, non-partisan, independent coalition of groups and individuals to advocate for progressive legislative initiatives that promote and protect the well-being of women and their families in Maryland.**

This call to action for legislative change has resulted in a coalition almost unique in the United States. The annual legislative conference and other activities have energized thousands of women - and male allies - to become engaged in advocacy for important issues affecting Maryland women and families.

The annual Legislative Agenda has included a broad diversity of issues and the organization's advocacy and collaborative efforts have resulted in the **passage of 129 pieces of legislation enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in the last 32 years.**

This extraordinary success has made **a significant difference for women and families.** It has established MLAW as a **powerful voice for women and their priorities in Maryland.**

MLAW provides visibility for legislation affecting women and families. The fall conference develops our MLAW Legislative Agenda and a legislative briefing during the legislative session introduces the Agenda to advocates and legislators. These events focus legislators' attention on our issues and raise their visibility throughout the state. We distribute the annual Legislative Agenda to every Maryland legislator. In collaboration with our advocacy partners, we submit testimony, advocate for bills, provide information, updates and legislative alerts, and promote our Agenda through our large e-mail list, website, and Facebook page.

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women is proud of its achievements during the last 32 years, but there is more to be done. **Join us and help us continue to make a difference for Maryland women and families.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

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Lee Bachu

Sandy Bell
Maryland NOW

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League of Women Voters, Baltimore County

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M. Elizabeth Joyce

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Angela McDaniel, *Vice President*

Stephanie McGencey
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WECAN)

Shuchi Sharma

Nicole Smith

Aubrey Jackson Soller

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jessica Morgan, *Chief Operating Officer*

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mdlegagendaforwomen.org

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MLAW1994

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mdagenda4women.bsky.social

SPEAKER BIO

DELEGATE DANA JONES

Delegate Dana Jones represents District 30A, an area that includes the city of Annapolis and surrounding areas within Anne Arundel County. In 2026 Delegate Jones was named Deputy Speaker Pro Tem. She currently serves on the Appropriations Committee, where she is the Vice Chair of the Health and Social Services Subcommittee, and a member of the Oversight Committee on Pensions. Most recently, she concluded two years as President of the Maryland Legislative Women's Caucus. In those two years the Caucus passed more legislation than any other year in their history.



DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEM

Initially appointed to the House of Delegates in 2020, Delegate Jones was subsequently elected to a full four-year term in 2022. In the six sessions she has served, she has been one of the most productive members of the General Assembly, passing 41 bills, including legislative work on education, election law, and civil rights. Her leadership includes The Freedom to Read Act, a historic piece of legislation that makes Maryland the first in the nation to protect books from authoritarian bans, protects our library spaces and librarians from censorship, punitive action, and harassment. Additionally, she has done expansive work on election law to protect our democracy, broadening access to telehealth services for students, and supporting firefighter and EMS personnel. She supported legislation in 2023 to establish a right to reproductive freedom in the Maryland Constitution. During her tenure, Delegate Jones has also championed legislation affecting children, health care, small businesses, and food insecurity.

Dana Jones was born, raised, and educated in Maryland. Before joining the Maryland Legislature, Delegate Jones spent 23 years working with elected officials, including serving as a Legislative Assistant to then-Congressman Benjamin Cardin, as a Senior Researcher at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Senior staff at EMILY's List, and partner in her own national consulting firm. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology at Towson University. Delegate Jones is married and has a son.

SPEAKER BIO

DELEGATE STEPHANIE SMITH



PRESIDENT, WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND

Delegate Stephanie Smith represents Baltimore City's 45th Legislative District. During the 2026 legislative session, her colleagues selected her to serve as President of Women Legislators of Maryland. She serves on the House Appropriations Committee as Chair of the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee and as a member of the Capital Budget Subcommittee.

A first-generation college graduate, Delegate Smith is committed to expanding access to quality education and meaningful workforce training as pathways out of poverty. She has successfully passed more than three dozen laws advancing public safety, economic justice, health care, environmental sustainability, and educational equity.

Outside the legislature, Stephanie Smith is Assistant Director of the Baltimore City Department of Planning, where she oversees equity planning, communications, sustainability, food policy, and data analysis. Her prior federal policy experience includes work as a Capitol Hill staffer and lobbyist advancing public health, voting rights, affordable housing, and environmental justice. She also serves on the boards of the Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore Center Stage, and the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore.

Delegate Smith is a proud graduate of Hampton University (B.A.), the University of Delaware (M.A.), and Howard University School of Law (J.D.). A proud public-school parent, she lives with her husband, two sons, and mother in a formerly vacant East Baltimore rowhome.

IN MEMORIAM

This past year, MLAW lost two significant founding mothers. We mourn their loss while we honor their contributions.

ELIZABETH FRAN JOHNSON

Elizabeth Fran Johnson helped to organize the conference in 1993 that established the Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women. She continued her support and in 2004, when MLAW became an independent organization, Elizabeth became a donor and sponsor. She continued her financial support until her death last year at the age of 97.





CAROLYN BATES

Carolyn Bates was a co-founder of what was initially called the Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (LAMW) that became the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). MLAW exists today because of her vision and commitment.

Planned Parenthood® | Maryland



Health care for every body

Without advocates for women and their rights, Planned Parenthood of Maryland wouldn't be able to serve the 40,000+ patients who come to us annually for compassionate, high-quality care.

Thank you, MLAW, for making our work in Maryland possible!

AARP Maryland

Get the family caregiving help you need in Maryland.

The AARP Family Caregiver Resource Guide for Maryland helps family caregivers access key programs, services and agencies in their community.

To order a copy of the guide, call the AARP Family Caregiving Resource Line at **1-877-333-5885** and request the AARP Family Caregiver Resource Guide for Maryland. Or view it online at **aarp.org/CaregiverResources.**

LEARN MORE

/aarpmd
@AARPMD



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SERVICES OF GREATER WASHINGTON
STRONG GIRLS • BRIGHT FUTURES • THRIVING COMMUNITIES

PROUD SILVER SPONSOR

Congratulations,
Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women!

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington is proud to be a Silver Sponsor of MLAW's Annual Fall Legislative Conference.

We are proud of the work you all do to advance the rights of girls, women and families in Maryland.



OUR MISSION

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington equips teen girls to overcome obstacles, make positive choices, and achieve their goals through programs in schools throughout the Greater Washington area.

Sheena Foster
PRESIDENT & CEO
CRITTENTON SERVICES
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

crittentonservices.org



"I am honored to be a part the Annual Legislative Briefing hosted by Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. I deeply respect MLAW's mission of uplifting our community through legislation that supports women and families. Thank you to everyone who has worked to make this amazing event possible!"

– Nicole Williams
Maryland State Delegate

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS
DELEGATE • DISTRICT 22

NicoleAWilliams.com
Nicole@NicoleAWilliams.com

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF NICOLE A. WILLIAMS

CHRISTOL HAIR

christolhair.com





charlotte CRUTCHFIELD
DELEGATE, DISTRICT 19

"Consider that you radiate. At all times. Consider that what you're feeling right now is rippling outward into a field of is-ness that anyone can dip their oar into. You are felt. You are heard. You are seen. If you were not here, the world would be different. Because of your presence, the universe is expanding." Danielle LaPorte

Thank you, MLAW, for your commitment to women being felt, heard, and seen, in the halls of government.

Bonnie Cullison



HEALTH VICE-CHAIR

BONNIE CULLISON

Authority: Friends of Bonnie Cullison, Pamela M. Pinkett, CPA, CGMA, Treasurer

WLB

Women's Legislative Briefing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2027

The Universities at Shady Grove



WOMEN SHAPING THE FUTURE

Advocacy.
Action.
Accountability.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

LEARN MORE → https://bit.ly/4hTrTrG

MELISSA CURTIN

Andrea Johnson

Maryalnd Coalition Against Sexual Assault

MCASA

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Working to end sexual assault in Maryland

Who We Are

Our Work

- Public Policy
- Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)
- Community Outreach
- Education & Training
- Technical Assistance & Expert Advice

Training & Technical Assistance

301-328-7023
info@mcasa.org

SALI Legal Services

301-565-2277
Toll-free: 877-496-SALI

mcasa.org



Montgomery County
Business and
Professional Women

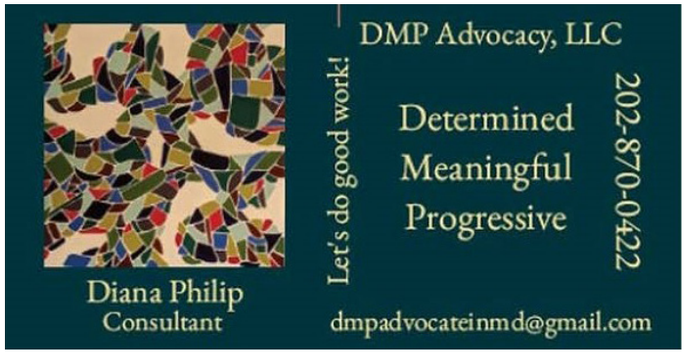
WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SUCCEED

Business and Professional Women advocates for working women, equal pay, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

All are welcome to join us in the fight for equality through local and national advocacy efforts.

For more information, contact Susan Horst
susanhorst@yahoo.com

Thank you, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, for your consistent and committed advocacy in promoting gender equity, reproductive rights, and healthy families since 1994.



MARYLAND
LATINOS
UNIDOS

https://marylandlatinosunidos.org/

AAUW Anne Arundel County *celebrates its 60th year promoting higher education and equity for women and girls.*

AAUW
Anne Arundel County

MARYLAND
Health
Care FOR All

We appreciate MLAW's long-time advocacy for quality, affordable health care!

thank you

MARYLAND
COMMISSION for WOMEN

Announcing Our 2027 Plan!



2027 Priority Policy Areas:

- Care Economy
- Women in the Workforce
- Women's Health & Safety

2027 Programs:

- Closing the Gender Pay Gap
- Menopause Education Across the State
- Women's Representation in Elected Office

www.marylandwomen.org

Women's Law Center of Maryland

JUSTICE FAIRNESS EQUALITY

The Women's Law Center provides critical free legal services for survivors of intimate partner violence and drives systemic change for future generations of Maryland women.

Our Services

- Protective Orders
- Immigration
- Employment Law Hotline
- Divorce & Custody
- Family Law Hotline
- Judicial Selections
- Legislative Advocacy

To join us in fighting for the bodily autonomy, economic security, and physical safety of survivors, consider making a year-end donation today:

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Tax ID Number is: 52-1238912. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. at 102 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100, Towson, MD 21204. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, Annapolis, MD 21401 for copying and postage costs.



MLAW
Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

Congratulations on Celebrating 32 Years of Advocacy
for Women's and Family Issues
and the
Fall Legislative Agenda Conference
November 14, 2026

Michaele Cohen
President, MLAW Board of Directors

AAUW
Maryland

Celebrating Empowered Women who Empower Change

https://harfordcounty-md.aauw.net

NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN, INC.
NCBW 100
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN CHAPTER

mnadv
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence is pleased to partner with MLAW to make Maryland better and safer for women all across our State.

OUR MISSION

To lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence.

OUR VISION

That one day Maryland will be a state where families and relationships thrive on mutual trust and respect and where there is no place for violence.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION





AWARENESS AND EDUCATION



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

WWW.MNADV.ORG

info@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Pkwy
Suite #300, Annapolis, MD 21401

301-429-3601

AAUW
Maryland

Empowering Women.
Shaping Maryland's Future.

Visit aauw-maryland.aauw.net to learn more

Tiffany Boiman

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Celebrating

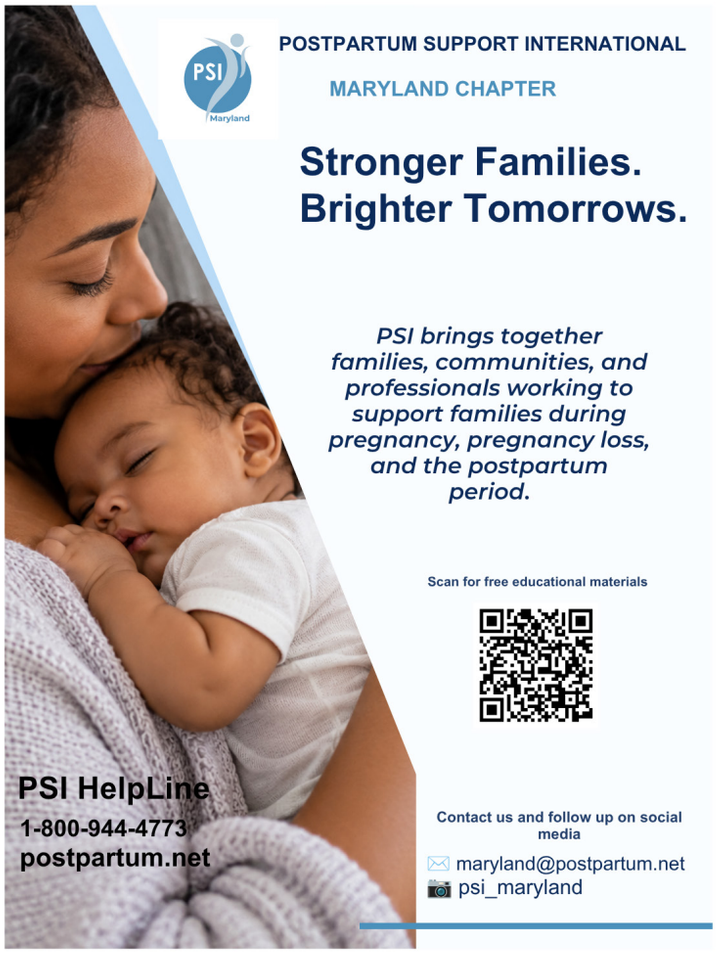
MLAW's

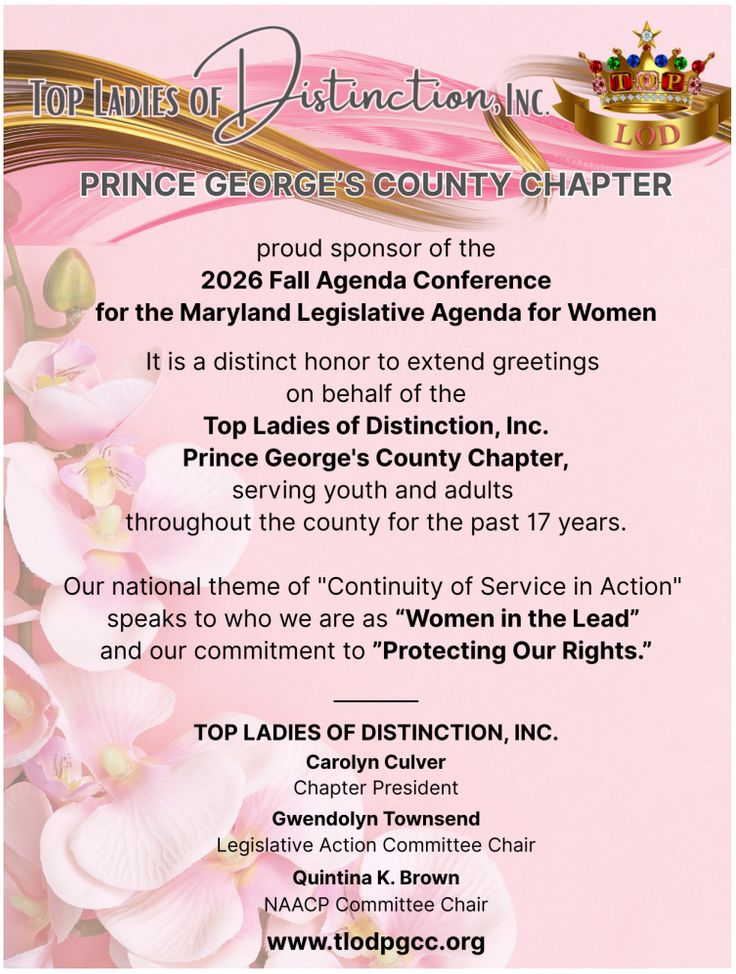
advocacy for legislation and policies that strengthen women and our families.

WDC stands with you!

www.WomensDemocraticClub.org
facebook.com/mcwdc • womensdemclubmoco.bsky.social

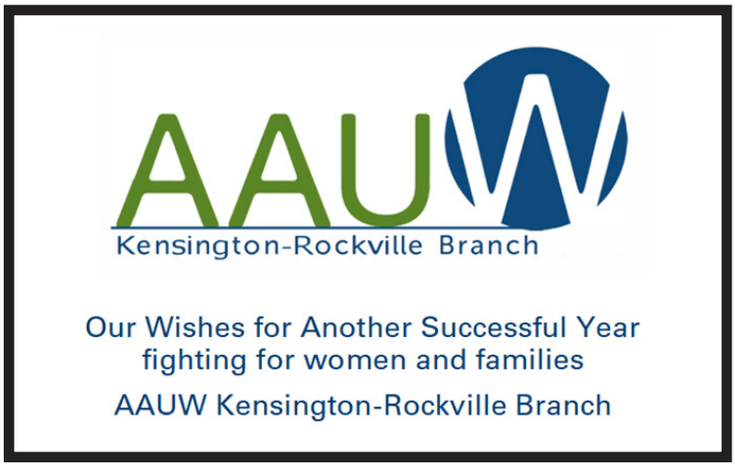
By authority of the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, Deborah Williams, Treasurer.

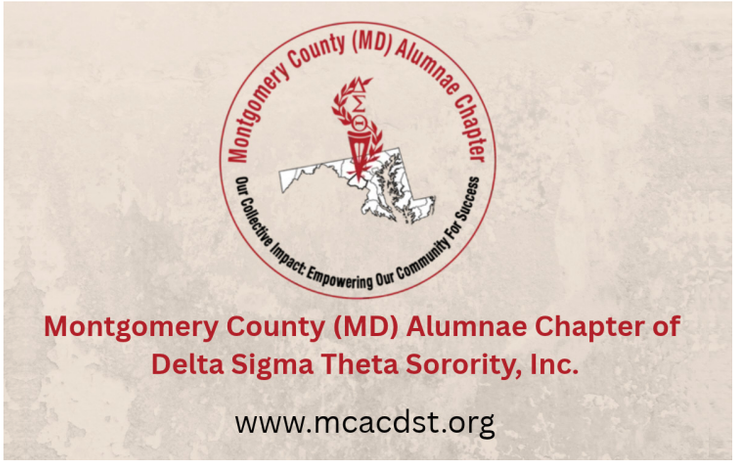

POSTPARTUM SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL
MARYLAND CHAPTER
Stronger Families.
Brighter Tomorrows.
PSI brings together families, communities, and professionals working to support families during pregnancy, pregnancy loss, and the postpartum period.
Scan for free educational materials
PSI HelpLine
1-800-944-4773
postpartum.net
Contact us and follow up on social media
maryland@postpartum.net
psi_maryland


Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
TOP
LOD
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER
proud sponsor of the
2026 Fall Agenda Conference
for the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women
It is a distinct honor to extend greetings
on behalf of the
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Prince George's County Chapter,
serving youth and adults
throughout the county for the past 17 years.
Our national theme of "Continuity of Service in Action"
speaks to who we are as "Women in the Lead"
and our commitment to "Protecting Our Rights."
TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
Carolyn Culver
Chapter President
Gwendolyn Townsend
Legislative Action Committee Chair
Quintina K. Brown
NAACP Committee Chair
www.tlodpgcc.org


Kate Stein


Maryland State Child Care Association
MSCCA
https://mscca.org/


AAUW
Kensington-Rockville Branch
Our Wishes for Another Successful Year
fighting for women and families
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch


Montgomery County (MD) Alumnae Chapter
Our Collective Impact: Empowering Our Community For Success
Montgomery County (MD) Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
www.mcacdst.org



Fort Washington Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Sends Best Wishes to the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women on a successful

2026 Fall Legislative Conference

"Our State, Our Voice, Our Agenda"

Thank you for advocating on behalf of Maryland women and their families.

Nichole Richmond Pinkney, President
Michelle V. Dacanay, First Vice President
LaShawn K. Dobbins, Second Vice President
Erin Brown, Third Vice President

Fort Washington Alumnae Chapter
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

We are proud to serve in
The East!

SISTERHOOD
SCHOLARSHIP
SERVICE
SOCIAL ACTION

www.dstfwac.org

Forward With Purpose: United. Committed. Ready To Serve!

Congratulations to
MLAW for 32 years of
powerful advocacy.

Elizabeth Joyce
Member of the
Board of Directors

ZONTA
CLUB OF
ANNAPOLIS

BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

RANKED
CHOICE
VOTING
MARYLAND

NOTES

MLAW
Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

Celebrating 32 Years of Advocacy: 1994-2026

2026-2027 Membership Form

MLAW's membership year is July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

I Want to Make a Difference!

I Want to be an MLAW Member

Type of Membership *(check only one)*:

- ❑ **$40 - Individual**
- ❑ **$75 - Organization revenue under $25,000**
- ❑ **$125 - Organization revenue over $25,000**
- ❑ **$25 - Student**

If you are joining as both an individual and an organization, please complete a separate form for EACH membership.

I Want to Do More by Making an Additional Donation

❑ **$500** ❑ **$250** ❑ **$100** ❑ **$50** **Other** _____

Payment:

❑ **A check for $_____, made payable to MLAW, is enclosed.**

❑ **I want to pay through Zeffy*. Go to the MLAW website at: http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org or scan the QR Code below.**

Individual or Organization: _____
Please spell out organization name. No acronyms.

Contact Name *(for organizations only)*_____
Mailing Address: _____
_____
Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

IMPORTANT! *Please include an email address. Most of the business of MLAW will be conducted via email.*

Mail this completed form to:
MLAW
102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100
Towson, MD 21204

Scan to pay with credit card, bank account or ApplePay.

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (MLAW) is a 501(c)4 organization.
Because we engage in legislative advocacy, contributions to MLAW are not tax-deductible.
**Zeffy service charge is suggested. You may adjust the suggested optional fee to any amount.*



mdlegagendaforwomen.org