

Safe & Healthy Communities

Our children have the right to grow up in a safe & healthy environment. The reality is that unseen toxic chemicals in basic consumer products too often put our children's health at risk.

Maryland PIRG supports legislation that:

- **Phases out the use of deca-BDE**, a toxic chemical most commonly found in electronics.
- **Restricts the use of the chemical BPA** (Bisphenol-A) in baby bottles, food containers and other products made for children.

Sound Budget & Tax Policy

A fair tax system relies on everyone paying their fair share. Unfortunately, multi-state corporations are able to use accounting tricks to avoid paying their fair share in Maryland, leaving individuals and small businesses to bear the brunt of the tax burden.

Maryland PIRG supports legislation that:

- **Establishes 'combined reporting'** to eliminate many corporate tax-avoidance schemes.

Increasing Civic Participation

The influence of wealthy special interests in the funding of campaigns has eroded public trust in our political system and has discouraged civic participation.

Maryland PIRG supports legislation that:

- **Creates a public campaign finance system** for political candidates that agree not to accept large contributions from donors AND establishes a matching program for individuals that give small contributions.
- **Welcomes voter registration on Election Day** to ensure all eligible citizens are able to vote.

Protecting Consumers

Consumers should have protections in place that will minimize the rate of foreclosures and help prevent financial scams and fraud.

Maryland PIRG supports legislation that:

- **Ensures third party foreclosure mediation** is available for homeowners attempting to renegotiate loans with their banks prior to foreclosure.
- **Prevents deceptive and costly practices** from debt consolidators.

Encouraging Transit, Not Traffic

Investing in public transit reduces the number of cars on the road and creates long-term jobs. Ridership on public transportation is increasing, yet the state continues to prioritize the construction of new roads and highways.

Maryland PIRG supports legislation that:

- Ensures a predictable and transparent system for the spending of state transportation dollars.
- **Funds transit expansion projects** including the Purple Line in PG & Montgomery Counties, the Red Line in Baltimore, and the Corridor Cities Transitway to Frederick; AND funds expanded MARC service along existing routes.

Comprehensive Energy Planning

Maryland lacks a statewide energy plan to meet our long-term energy needs while achieving cost stability. Currently, proposed energy projects are reviewed and approved on a first-come basis.

Maryland PIRG supports legislation that:

- **Establishes a comprehensive energy plan** that ensures new energy projects are prioritized based on the public's interest: long term cost stability and service reliability.