

# FREE STATE LIBERTIES

**ACLU**  
Maryland

SUMMER 2024

## WAITING FOR MEDICAL PAROLE SHOULD NOT BE A DEATH SENTENCE

No one ill enough to be eligible for medical parole should die of illness awaiting a release decision from the Governor. Yet, five people whom the Maryland Parole Board recommended for medical parole died while waiting for the Governor to act. In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly passed important

legislation to make the Maryland Parole Commission the final decider in parole, instead of the Governor. However, medical parole was mistakenly omitted from the bill.

This kind of parole is arguably the most important for the Commission to process thoroughly

and act on expeditiously. A six-month waiting period from the Governor can be the difference between dying among family members and friends and dying alone in a prison cell.

Together with our partners, the ACLU of Maryland continues to work to pass this vital change.

↳ Go to our website to watch Maryland Parole Project (MPP) Leader Bobby Stewart talk about “Medical Health & Elders Inside,” the first of our “Life After a Second Chance Series.” Stewart is pictured above with Senior Staff Attorney Sonia Kumar. Photo credit: Nicole McCann. Learn more about MPP: [aclu-md.org/mpp](https://aclu-md.org/mpp)

## ELECTION PROTECTION

The ACLU of Maryland’s Election Protection campaign educates voters about their rights, advocates for equitable and accessible voting options, assists residents with questions and concerns, and addresses issues through investigations and legal advocacy.

↳ Learn more: [aclu-md.org/vote](https://aclu-md.org/vote)

### YOUR VOTING CHECKLIST

ACLU MD

- ✓ REGISTER TO VOTE! You can register to vote in Maryland: online, by mail, or in person.
- ✓ CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION! Double check your information and poll location.
- ✓ VOTE! There are several ways to vote in Maryland: by mail, in person during early voting, or in person on the Primary & General Election Days.

#### ELECTION PROTECTION

Get your Maryland election checklist, more details about voting rights, and other key resources → [aclu-md.org/vote](https://aclu-md.org/vote)  
Problems at the polls? Call our Election Protection Hotline → (877) 219-2625

Give online or use enclosed envelope to support the ACLU of Maryland’s work: [aclu-md.org/donate](https://aclu-md.org/donate)

# FREE STATE LIBERTIES

The newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland and the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland.

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**WEBSITE:** [www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org)

**SUBSCRIPTION:** With membership, \$20 or more donation per year.

**BOARD PRESIDENT:**

Corey Stottlemeyer

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Dana Vickers Shelley

**Read about our Board of Directors, Staff, and other Team Members on our website:** [aclu-md.org/staff](http://aclu-md.org/staff)

**EDITOR:** Meredith Curtis Goode

**WRITER:** Neydin Milián

**DESIGNER:** Nicole McCann

Documents and information filed under the Maryland Solicitations Act may be obtained from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401.

## 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT



In the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session, every action alert you signed, every phone call and email you sent to legislators, every meeting or rally you attended to demand better for all Marylanders, made a difference.

Thank you for raising your voice in support of stopping bad bills that would have violated our rights, like legislation to repeal the new law banning stops and searches based solely on the smell of marijuana, or to repeal the *Child Interrogation Protection Act*. Our priority bill the *Second Look Act* did not pass, but in its first year, it got much further than expected, with an ever-growing coalition of impacted families and community leaders. And shamefully, the

legislature passed HB 814 to throw more 10- to 12-year-old Black children in jail, though we pushed hard for Governor Wes Moore to veto the bill.

The ACLU also supported partners to pass important bills, like the *Access to Care Act* to expand healthcare for immigrants in our state, and the *Freedom to Read Act*, which protects against book banning campaigns. And we supported our partner CAIR after an anti-free speech bill tried to remove them from the state's Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention over the organization's advocacy for Palestinian people.

↳ **Read our 2024 legislative report:** [aclu-md.org/legislation](http://aclu-md.org/legislation)

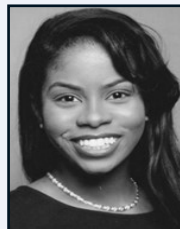
## Welcome!

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

↳ Learn more about our newest staff members: [aclu-md.org/staff](http://aclu-md.org/staff)



**SHAWN  
ESSIEN**  
Director of People  
& Culture



**REBECCA  
M. PHILLIPS**  
Donor Relations  
Officer

↳ **ABOVE:** We joined the Maryland Youth Justice Coalition at a Care Not Cages rally in Annapolis to demand that Governor Moore veto HB 814. Photo credit: Meredith Curtis Goode. Learn more: [aclu-md.org/mdga24](http://aclu-md.org/mdga24)

# ✓ BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Below is the **Summer 2024 Ballot of Nominees** for the ACLU of Maryland Board of Directors. These nominees were considered by the ACLU Nominating Committee, were provisionally approved by the Board, and are submitted now to ACLU members for a vote. **After voting “yes” or “no,” please clip the ballot and send it in the enclosed envelope (preferred), or mail it to the ACLU of Maryland, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 200, Baltimore, MD 21211. Votes must be postmarked by June 30, 2024.** Periodically, ACLU of Maryland will post on our website an application for interested Marylanders to nominate themselves to the Board.

Read more about the nominees:  
[aclu-md.org/board](http://aclu-md.org/board)



## KALI-AHSET AMEN

Baltimore City

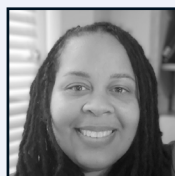
YES  NO



## YASMIN BEHRAM

Anne Arundel County

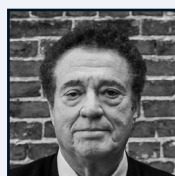
YES  NO



## ERIN CHAPMAN

Montgomery County

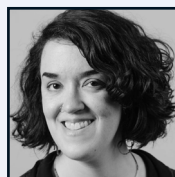
YES  NO



## MICHAEL DAVID

Howard County

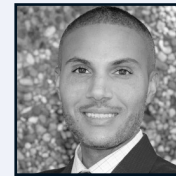
YES  NO



## SARAH DWYER

Howard County

YES  NO



## JORDAN HOWLETTE

Affiliate Equity Officer  
Howard County

YES  NO



## BRANDON JOHNSON

Governance Chair  
Charles County

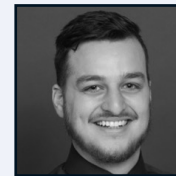
YES  NO



## OPRAH KEYES

Baltimore County

YES  NO



## DAVID MANNING

Montgomery County

YES  NO



## CARLA PAISLEY

Development Chair  
Baltimore City

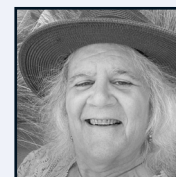
YES  NO



## KISHA PETTICOLAS

Dorchester County

YES  NO



## BONNIE SMITH

Baltimore County

YES  NO

## MUSIC FOR THE PEOPLE



Check out the playlists staff members from the ACLU of Maryland put together for heritage and celebratory months.

Read about the playlists on our blog and listen on Spotify and YouTube: [aclu-md.org/blog](http://aclu-md.org/blog)

- ▶ Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim & South Asian Heritage Month
- ▶ Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- ▶ Black History & Futures Month
- ▶ Latinx/e Heritage Month
- ▶ LGBTQ+ Pride Month

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland  
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland



Maryland

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**WHAT CAN YOU DO? >>>**

**RENEW YOUR  
SUPPORT TODAY**

**YOU CAN COUNT ON ME** to defend the Constitution and Bill of Rights!

with a tax-deductible donation to the ACLU Foundation of:  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

with a new or renewal membership to the ACLU of:  \$100  \$75  \$50  \$35  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed.  I am interested in including the ACLU in my will or estate plans.

\*Name

Address

City  State  \*Zip

\*Email  Phone

Please charge my contribution to  VISA  MC  Amex  Disc

\*Account #  \*Exp. Date  \*CVV

\*Signature  Date

**\*This information is required to process your credit card transaction.**

Please complete this form and return it in the envelope provided or give online at [www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org).

Your personal commitment and strong support will make all the difference in the fight for civil liberties in 2024.

**Renew your support of the ACLU today.**



SCAN ME