

# Maryland Federation of Republican Women

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### ECONOMY – ENERGY

- 1) Support balanced energy policies that provide citizens multiple, reliable, and affordable energy choices.
- 2) Repeal annual Consumer Price Index increases to Maryland’s motor fuel tax.
- 3) Fair share allocation of transportation construction and maintenance costs – electric vehicles vs. gas and diesel vehicles. A replacement (not additional) funding source is needed for the gas tax.
- 4) Revise/extend timelines for implementing Maryland’s climate control legislation to develop energy resources and infrastructure. The requirements are excessively costly; unfairly limit citizens’ rights to choose their living arrangements; and, may damage agriculture and manufacturing.

### EDUCATION

The *Blueprint for the Future* adds extra layers of bureaucratic control and does not require that students perform at grade level in reading and math. It limits parental involvement and does not require parental consent for education, social and health services.

#### 1) SUPPORT

- a. Fewer administrators: more teachers - fewer consultants: more tutors.
- b. Education reform — Every child performing at grade level in reading and mathematics. Proficiency rates for students for the 2022-2023 school year:
  - Language arts -- 47% MCAP proficient -- students in grades 3-8
  - Mathematics -- 25% MCAP proficient -- students in grades 3-8
  - Reading -- 31% NAEP proficient – all Maryland students
  - Science -- 35% MCAP proficient -- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students
- c. School choice (vouchers, charter schools, home schooling).
- d. Girls’ competitive sports limited to biological girls in accordance with Title IX requirements.

Transgender girls are biological males with an unfair competitive advantage (disproportional muscle mass, etc.).

- 2) OPPOSE teaching, counseling or promoting gender transition in schools, including agreements between Boards of Education and hospitals or clinics for “gender-affirming” counseling, treatments or surgeries for children under 18 years of age.

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### ELECTION INTEGRITY

- 1) SUPPORT
  - a. Government-issued photo ID requirement for voter registration and voting
  - b. Vote count accuracy and security
- 2) OPPOSE -- Ranked choice voting

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Support for law enforcement and safety in our communities.

- 1) Increased training for police officers in non-lethal methods of restraint and control of individuals or groups, including training for de-escalating tense or potentially violent demonstrations.
- 2) Development and implementation of effective tests for drug intoxication, distinct from alcohol intoxication. Statistics need to separate drug from alcohol intoxication.
- 3) Strengthened penalties for persons who:
  - a. Physically attack bystanders, police, or other protesters.
  - b. Set fires, destroy private or public property with graffiti or physical destruction, or participate in looting and theft during protests, demonstrations, or riots.
  - c. Use lasers or projectiles with the intent to obstruct or harm others.
  - d. Use firearms in the commission of a crime while younger than 13 years of age.

### RESPECT FOR LIFE

- 1) SUPPORT
  - a. Protection for pain-capable unborn children as a compelling interest of the state.
  - b. More effective treatment (vs. incarceration) for opioid addiction.
- 2) OPPOSE
  - a. Physician-assisted suicide or “death with dignity” legislation.
  - b. Constitutional amendment to establish a right to reproductive liberty.
    - i. Allowing minors to choose irreversible gender surgery.
    - ii. Allowing perinatal death due to a failure to act.

Note that existing MD law allows abortions up to 26 weeks and thereafter for mental or physical health reasons.