



Maryland – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2024

Summary

The eleventh edition of the Maryland CPAC Scorecard **analyzes 31 critical votes in the Maryland House of Delegates and 32 bills in the Maryland Senate.** Senate Republicans earned a **respectable 70% average**, while **Senate Democrats lagged at 4%**, yielding a **total Senate average of 22%.** In the House, Republicans averaged 77%, while Democrats posted a weak 4%, producing an overall House average of 24%. These results expose a sharp divide between the parties, with **Republicans largely defending taxpayers, freedom, and constitutional rights, while Democrats pushed forward a progressive agenda of big government and cultural radicalism.**

The 2024 legislative session was marked by an aggressive **expansion of state bureaucracy** and social engineering. Maryland Democrats advanced sweeping measures to **codify gender ideology, expand welfare programs, funnel taxpayer funds into abortion clinics and climate initiatives, and impose onerous restrictions on the firearms industry.** Republicans in both chambers stood as a bulwark against these efforts, though the Democratic supermajority ensured passage of nearly every major progressive priority. The data make clear that conservatives face a **relentless campaign to entrench far-left policies into every corner of Maryland law.**

Maryland has become a testing ground for progressive priorities that other states may soon face. Initiatives to establish “Just Communities,” **elevate DEI mandates** across public institutions, and create new taxpayer-funded grant programs demonstrate the Left’s determination to **redistribute wealth, cement racial identity politics, and erode personal liberty.** These policies come at the expense of fiscal responsibility and constitutional freedoms, **forcing hardworking Marylanders to shoulder the burdens of failed welfare experiments and radical cultural experiments.** In this climate, Republican legislators deserve credit for maintaining strong alignment with conservative principles. Their 70% and 77% averages show that, even in a state dominated by Democrats, there remains a principled resistance to government overreach, wasteful spending, and assaults on liberty. **The Maryland CPAC Scorecard underscores that the fight for freedom is ongoing, and that conservative lawmakers continue to defend the values of limited government, free enterprise, and individual liberty even when vastly outnumbered.**

Key Takeaways

Democrats United Behind Radical Leftist Policies

With both chambers' Democrats posting a dismal 4% average, the session revealed near-total alignment in favor of progressive causes. From codifying gender ideology and expanding abortion subsidies to creating new DEI bureaucracies, Democrats consistently voted to erode constitutional rights and empower big government. Their record demonstrates unwavering hostility to fiscal restraint and individual freedom.

Republicans Stand Firm Despite Hostile Terrain

Republicans earned strong averages of 70% in the Senate and 77% in the House, demonstrating their resilience in one of the nation's most progressive states. They consistently opposed bloated spending, welfare expansion, and restrictions on the Second Amendment. Their principled opposition ensured that conservative values remained represented in debates, even when vastly outnumbered by the Democratic supermajority.

Massive Growth of Bureaucracy and State Power

The session was marked by the relentless creation of new agencies, programs, and grant schemes. From establishing a Tenants' Bill of Rights bureaucracy to inventing new DEI offices in higher education and state pensions, Democrats pursued policies that expand the scope of government control over daily life. These measures increase the regulatory burden on citizens while entrenching Leftist ideology in state institutions.

Direct Assaults on Constitutional Rights

Legislators pursued aggressive measures targeting fundamental liberties, especially the Second Amendment. Bills banning firearm accessories, mandating "reasonable controls" on manufacturers, and funding abortion clinics with taxpayer dollars showcase the Left's disregard for constitutional protections. These attacks highlight the danger of unchecked Democratic dominance in Maryland's policymaking.

Taxpayer Dollars Funneled into Progressive Experiments

A recurring theme throughout the session was the misuse of public funds to advance the Left's priorities. From subsidizing climate-tech startups and equity-driven art programs to bailing out union constituencies and housing schemes, taxpayers were forced to underwrite initiatives that do little to serve the broader public. These programs reflect a redistributionist agenda that prioritizes political allies over fiscal responsibility.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 119 – Codifying Protections for Gender Mutilation Surgeries

This bill transforms all “gender-affirming treatments” into “legally protected healthcare activities. CPAC opposes the castration and mutilation of people and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 5, 2024 by a vote of 33-13 and the bill later became law.

HB 333 – Constructing an Orwellian “Election Disinformation” Reporting System

This bill requires the State Board of Elections to maintain a portal that allows the public to report “election disinformation” to the State Attorney General. CPAC opposes this suspicious new surveillance tactic and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on April 6, 2024 by a vote of 101-35 and the bill later became law.

SB 308 – Experimenting with New Socialist Community Designations

This bill allows the Governor to designate certain areas of the state as “Just Communities.” These “Just Communities” will be prioritized for state funding in order to advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity. CPAC opposes racist decision making in government processes and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 8, 2024 by a vote of 35-12 and the bill later became law.

HB 810 – Imposing a Total Ban on Certain Firearms Accessories

This bill completely bans auto-sears within the state of Maryland and prohibits individuals from even transporting such an accessory through the state. CPAC opposes attacks on Second Amendment freedoms and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on April 8, 2024 by a vote of 98-37 and the bill later became law.

HB 678 – Ingraining DEI Into the Purpose of Public Universities

This bill makes it a goal and function of the Maryland university system to promote “diversity and inclusion” by graduating particular types of students. It then requires universities to perform outreach to specific subsets of the population favored by the state government. CPAC opposes racist decision-making processes at the highest levels of the federal government, recognizes that DEI facilitates the making of these racist decisions, and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 115-23 and the bill later became law.

Trends and Observations

Progressive Ideology Embedded Across Policy

The 2024 Maryland session demonstrated how deeply Democrats are committed to embedding progressive ideology into the state's governing framework. Nearly every major policy advanced by the Democratic majority reflected cultural radicalism and Leftist priorities, from codifying gender ideology and subsidizing abortion clinics to mandating DEI in universities and state offices. These bills were not isolated initiatives but part of a coordinated effort to reshape Maryland's political culture in the image of the national progressive agenda. Conservatives recognize that Maryland has become a test case for policies that other blue states will quickly replicate if left unchallenged.

Expansion of Bureaucracy and State Control

Another dominant theme of the session was the relentless growth of bureaucracy. Democrats passed bills establishing "Just Communities" with special funding preferences, a new Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs, and DEI positions embedded into the state pension system. They also poured taxpayer dollars into housing authorities, climate-tech startups, and arts programs. Each of these policies increases government's role in private life while creating layers of bureaucracy that entrench progressive decision-makers in powerful posts. Rather than promoting innovation or self-reliance, the session doubled down on dependency and state micromanagement.

Direct Attacks on Constitutional Rights

Perhaps most troubling were the repeated assaults on constitutional rights. The legislature advanced a sweeping ban on firearm accessories, imposed new liability requirements on manufacturers, and expanded surveillance under the guise of "election disinformation" monitoring. These measures chip away at the Second Amendment and threaten free expression, confirming that Maryland Democrats view constitutional guarantees as obstacles to their agenda. This trend highlights the danger of unchecked one-party dominance: freedoms once taken for granted are now openly undermined in the name of political expedience.

Conservatives Hold the Line Despite Supermajorities

Although outnumbered, Republican legislators demonstrated strong fidelity to conservative principles. Their averages of 70% in the Senate and 77% in the House underscore their consistent defense of taxpayers, free enterprise, and personal liberty. Even in hostile terrain, they continue to provide principled opposition to Maryland's radical Democratic majority.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

None

Conservative Excellence - House

Nino Mangione - 97%

Lauren Arian - 94%

Mark Fisher - 94%

Kathy Szeliga - 94%

Robin Grammer - 93%

Ryan Nawrocki - 93%

Brian Chisholm - 91%

Matthew Morgan - 91%

Terry L. Baker - 90%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Johnny Mautz - 85%

Justin Ready - 80%

Conservative Achievement - House

William Valentine - 87%

William Wivell - 87%

Jesse Pippy 84%

Steven Arentz - 81%

Teresa Reilly - 81%

Chris Tomlinson - 81%