

# POLICE REFORM



## KEY PARTNERS

ACLU  
NAACP Legal Defense Fund  
CASA  
Out for Justice  
Campaign for Justice Safety and Jobs  
Silver Spring Justice Coalition

## THE PROBLEM

Maryland laws have created a system that prevents the public from holding accountable police officers who brutalize and mistreat people.

## THE PEOPLE

People hurt by police, particularly Black and Brown individuals, immigrants, LGBTQI+ people, and those experiencing mental health crises.

## THE LEGISLATION

- Remove legal barriers that prevent public access to records of police misconduct.
- Ensures public participation in holding police officers accountable for abuse and brutality.

## THE LEGISLATORS

- Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, Chair: Bobby Zirkin (Baltimore County)
- House Judiciary Committee, Chair: Luke Clippinger (Baltimore City)
- Expected Champions: Delegates Erek Barron (Prince George's) and Gabriel Acevero (Montgomery); Senator Jill Carter (Baltimore City)

While legislative details are still being determined, we expect police reform to be an important issue for our partners in 2020.

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## JUFJ'S ANALYSIS

Law enforcement should serve and protect all Marylanders, not target them with violence and over-policing. When police commit acts of violence, they should be accountable to the people. Under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) disciplinary records of police may not be released, which prevents effective accountability and discipline for police officers.

- Opportunities this legislative session:
  - In 2019, MPIA legislation got further than ever before. A group of legislators is working on this issue between sessions.
  - The ACLU says that reforming the MPIA will be a priority this session. California's law can be a model for categorizing disciplinary records as “may be released.”
  - Montgomery County and Baltimore coalitions are working together on police reform for the first time since 2016, and a Prince George’s County coalition may join the efforts as well.
- Challenges this legislative session:
  - Changes to the MPIA will have to go through the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. In the past, Committee Chair Senator Bobby Zirkin has blocked efforts to reform the MPIA.
- JUFJ’s Role:
  - JUFJ is one of two organizations, along with CASA, that is part of both the Montgomery County and Baltimore police reform coalitions, putting us in a position to support statewide collaboration on this issue.

## NOTES