

Before You Vote:

Where Maryland’s Gubernatorial Candidates Stand on Climate & Energy Policies

Issue	Governor Larry Hogan’s Position	Challenger Benjamin Jealous’ Position
<p>Pipelines for fracked gas</p>	<p>Larry Hogan supported and signed into law a statewide ban on fracking in Maryland in March 2017.</p> <p>A few months later, he championed a \$103 million fund to "kick-start a natural gas expansion" in Maryland. In a settlement to make way for the merger of AltaGas and Washington Gas and Light, Hogan and the companies settled on a \$33 million Gas Expansion Fund and up to \$70 million from ratepayers to pay for new fracked-gas infrastructure.</p> <p>Hogan also approved with limited review TransCanada’s plan to build a fracked-gas pipeline under the Potomac River near Hancock to carry fracked gas from Pennsylvania to West Virginia.</p>	<p>Ben Jealous helped fight for the fracking ban in Maryland, and as president & CEO of the NAACP, he helped fight the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines.</p> <p>Ben Jealous calls the Potomac Pipeline <i>“a threat to our environment and to our public health.”</i></p> <p>Jealous has also signed the No New Fossil Fuel development pledge that urges public officials at all levels to oppose any proposals to construct new significant infrastructure that would extract, transport, or combust fossil fuels in Maryland.</p>
<p>Clean air and renewable energy</p>	<p>In 2015, hours after he was sworn in, Hogan blocked clean-air regulations that would have reduced pollution from coal-fired power plants. In 2016, Hogan signed legislation to reauthorize the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, setting new targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions statewide to 40 percent below 2006 levels by 2030. At the same time, though, Hogan vetoed the Clean Energy Jobs bill, labeling it a “sunshine tax.” In January 2017, the General Assembly overrode the veto. The law requires energy companies to buy more electricity from renewable sources (25 percent renewables by 2020, up from 20 percent by 2022) and helps create demand for solar energy jobs. Hogan has retained Maryland’s membership in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). He signed a bill that requires any Maryland governor to get permission to leave RGGI. He criticized President Trump for deciding to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Agreement. He had Maryland join the U.S. Climate Alliance. The Hogan Administration is suing the federal Environmental Protection Agency for rejecting the state's demands that it do more to limit coal power plant emissions in upwind states. The Hogan Administration is requiring three coal power plants to limit the amount of mercury, arsenic</p>	<p>At the NAACP, Jealous started the organization’s climate justice program to support people of color and lower-income people hit hardest by flooding, extreme weather, and air pollution. During a WYPR radio interview, Jealous said: <i>“The best thing any of us can do in these times is to make sure that our jurisdiction – our county, city our state – is doing everything it can to stop climate change. As governor of Maryland, I’ll make sure we get to 100 percent reliance on clean and renewable energy as quickly as possible. We have the will to do it as a state.”</i> On his website, he says: <i>“I know that protecting our planet is not just a moral imperative, it is an economic opportunity that Maryland can take to propel our state forward. As governor, I will expand the use of renewable power and create good-paying jobs in the process.”</i> Jealous has the endorsement of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, Friends of the Earth Action, Bill McKibben, 350.org, and Phil Radford of Progressive Power Lab.</p>

	<p>and other toxic metals they release into the Potomac and Patuxent rivers starting in 2020, amid uncertainty over whether the federal government will address the discharges. Maryland is the only state in the country to require these stricter limits.</p>	
Transportation	<p>Larry Hogan has proposed a \$9 billion project to add two express toll lanes in each direction to the I-495 Capital Beltway, I-270, and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway. Private companies would build and maintain these toll roads through public-private partnerships. Hogan canceled the Red Line, an east-west light rail subway in Baltimore, calling it a “wasteful boondoggle.” He approved the Purple Line in the Maryland suburbs, but with fewer stops and less state funding. He initially proposed that Maryland would give \$125 million a year for four years to the Metro system if Virginia, D.C. and the federal government each did the same. Later, he backed the General Assembly’s plan to give \$167 million annually.</p>	<p>Jealous’ Great Cities plan restores the Red Line in Baltimore. His plan also includes a Smart Growth Investment Fund. This plan says: <i>“To stop urban sprawl that strains both physical and natural infrastructure and is a major driver of climate change, Jealous will follow the recommendation of a recent report of the Smart Growth Workgroup and develop a smart growth investment fund to marshal private and public resources together to invest in high-impact projects.”</i></p>
Fracking	<p>In March 2017, Hogan backed legislation to ban fracking. He said, “The possible environmental risks of fracking simply outweigh any potential benefits.” Alternatively, he has spearheaded a plan to “kick-start” and incentivize expanded infrastructure for fracked-gas use and transport through Maryland, spurring fracking drilling in surrounding states.</p>	<p>As president and CEO of the NAACP, Jealous supported the fracking ban and worked for its passage: <i>“We don’t have any disposable streams, we don’t have any disposable wells like the ones my kids drink from every day. We don’t have any disposable children or families or communities or counties. ... Sure, when you frack in Western Maryland, you endanger our neighbors’ drinking water, but you also threaten sea level rise in Baltimore.”</i></p>
Energy Efficiency	<p>In 2017, Hogan allowed the EmPower Maryland program to be extended without his signature. It requires energy utility companies to reduce per capita energy use. Under the program, utility customers are charged a fee that pays for incentives and assistance for homeowners, renters, and businesses to save energy in homes or workplaces.</p>	<p>Part of Jealous’ Great Cities plan is to create a revolving loan fund to finance purchase and installation of energy efficiency upgrades. He also has plans to identify opportunities to create public/private partnerships for upgrades to aging state facilities.</p>