



Martin O'Malley: The Clear Choice for Governor...

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Priorities</div>	Martin O'Malley 	Robert Ehrlich
Address Worsening Traffic Congestion	<p>O'Malley is committed to building new roads (such as the ICC) and new transit (such as the Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway). Under his leadership, the state government will – for the first time – develop a regional growth management strategy to keep growth in line with transportation capacity.</p>	<p>Ehrlich has raided \$500 million from Maryland's transportation trust fund. Other than supporting the ICC, Ehrlich has no vision or strategy for adding the roads and transit needed to serve new growth. He does not believe the state government should play a meaningful role in managing growth.</p>
Reduce School Overcrowding & Improve K-12 Education	<p>O'Malley is deeply concerned about worsening school overcrowding and the increasing reliance on "portable classrooms." He will implement State Treasurer Nancy Kopp's plan to fund new schools and to expand existing schools. O'Malley has been endorsed by Maryland's teachers.</p>	<p>Ehrlich has left unfunded \$200 million of highly urgent school construction. And, under his leadership, Maryland's teacher pension rates were the absolute lowest in the nation.</p>
Protect the Environment	<p>O'Malley will develop and implement a meaningful plan to reverse the continuing demise of the Chesapeake Bay. He will step up enforcement of environmental regulations in order to protect Maryland's precious natural resources. O'Malley has been endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club.</p>	<p>Ehrlich has no vision or strategy for addressing the Chesapeake Bay's worsening pollution and dead zones. His "flush tax" – which only minimally addresses the Bay's problems – has been revealed to be a stimulus for new development in environmentally sensitive areas. Ehrlich has allowed our state's environmental protection laws to go under-enforced.</p>
Preserve Open Space	<p>O'Malley will restore Program Open Space, a very successful program that preserves and protects Maryland's open space. He will identify new opportunities to preserve additional land in partnership with local governments.</p>	<p>Ehrlich gutted Program Open Space and sharply curtailed other state government efforts to preserve open space. He attempted to sell state-owned land to developers for private gain, before being stopped by the state legislature.</p>

(over)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Priorities </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> Martin O'Malley  </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> Robert Ehrlich </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Keep Energy Prices Reasonable & Protect Consumers</p>	<p>O'Malley is determined to bring competition and consumer choice to Maryland's electric market in order to bring residents the lowest electricity prices possible. He will completely revamp the Public Service Commission to ensure residents' interests will be protected in the future.</p>	<p>Ehrlich backed the utility companies when they raised electricity prices by 72%. His appointees to the Public Service Commission have maintained close relationships with electric utility executives, even asking them for personal favors like securing tickets to President Bush's inaugural ball.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Make Health Care Accessible & Affordable</p>	<p>O'Malley will pursue a detailed plan that includes: creating a health insurance pool for small businesses, expanding health care coverage for children, and creating a statewide prescription drug discount program.</p>	<p>Under Ehrlich's leadership, the number of uninsured Marylanders has increased to over 800,000 people. Ehrlich lacks any sense of urgency on the issue and has failed to take action.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Expand Educational & Career Opportunities</p>	<p>O'Malley will make college education affordable for all Marylanders. He will also strengthen our state's community colleges, vocational schools and technical training to ensure everyone has an opportunity for a bright future.</p>	<p>Ehrlich supported the recent 40% increase in tuition prices at Maryland's universities, earning our state an "F" for college affordability in a recent national survey.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Protect Workers</p>	<p>O'Malley strongly supported the recent \$1 increase in Maryland's minimum wage. He implemented living wage legislation in Baltimore.</p>	<p>Ehrlich vetoed the \$1 increase in our state's minimum wage (to \$6.15 per hour). His veto was overridden by the state legislature.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Improve Community Safety</p>	<p>O'Malley led the 40% reduction in Baltimore's violent crime rate. He was named by Time Magazine as one of America's "Five Best Mayors" for his leadership in making Baltimore safer.</p>	<p>Ehrlich broke his promise to end parole for violent offenders. And, he has failed to address the state government's ineffective juvenile justice system.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unify Maryland</p>	<p>O'Malley believes that diversity and multiculturalism are among Maryland's greatest strengths.</p>	<p>Ehrlich derides Maryland's diversity by stating his belief that "multiculturalism is bunk."</p>