



So, you want to support Baltimore Abortion Fund?

Do you want to raise money for Baltimore Abortion Fund (BAF), get your friends talking about reproductive justice and abortion access, and have a great time?

With the overturn of Roe v. Wade, many folks in your network are likely concerned, angry, and re-energized in the fight to secure safe abortion access for all. Hosting a fundraising party is a great way to get your friends together for a values-centered event that supports the good work BAF does for abortion access in Maryland.

Sometimes managing the logistics of fundraising can feel a little daunting. This guide will help kick-start your planning and provide you with the resources you need to throw the best party possible.

(Note: this guide focuses on in-person events, but here is a resource guide for [virtual event ideas](#).)

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Planning the Fundraiser

Let Us Know!

If you haven't already, please [fill out this form](#) to let us know you are interested in hosting a fundraising event to benefit BAF.

Values Alignment

BAF's values are at the center of all we do. Please read through our [organizational values](#) as you begin thinking about event details like the guest list, location, activities and more. By fundraising on behalf of BAF, you are agreeing to uphold our organization's values.

Values-aligned ideas for an inclusive event:

- Honoring Humanity:

- Begin the evening by establishing Norms & Agreements around language. Please review BAF's [Say This, Avoid That language guidance](#) and these resources: [NPR Guide](#) // [ACLU: Why We Use Inclusive Language to Talk About Abortion](#)
- Intersectionality:
 - Begin the evening by acknowledging your/your audience's positionality:
 - Abortion bans perpetuate an unjust system where people who already experience discrimination and disparate health outcomes – especially Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, young people, and people living on low incomes – are prevented from accessing essential health care.
 - What are the racial/economic/gender/sexuality demographics of your invitees? Are they aware of the impact mentioned above?
 - Review BAF's [Say This, Avoid That language guidance](#) and structure your talking points in alignment.
- Collective Power:
 - Center the demographics of those most harmed by abortion bans: Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, young people, and people living on low incomes
 - Host your event at a venue owned/operated by BIPOC/LGBTQ/disabled folks. In Baltimore, for example, you could look into:
 - *Red Emmas Cafe and Bookstore*
 - *Terra Cafe*
 - *Melanie's at Griffith's*
 - *sweet27*

- Financial access: ensure your guests know that all dollar amounts or time donated is an accepted and appreciated way of contributing. Let your guests know they don't have to donate beyond their capacity, and that spreading the word about BAF and signing up for the BAF newsletter are powerful ways to become involved.
- Due to an influx of interest, BAF is currently at capacity for volunteers. Your guests can fill out [an interest form](#) if they want to get involved in the future. **We're in this work for the long haul.**

Guest list

Who should you invite? Everyone you can think of! Consider asking a friend who you know is or will be supportive of BAF and asking them to co-host. Start with friends, acquaintances, and friends of friends; make a list of everyone you know who might want to come. Remember, an invitation doesn't obligate anyone to attend—someone can always just say no. You don't have to guess what their response will be ahead of time! When in doubt, add them to the list.

Date and location

There's never a perfect time to have a party. Someone will always have a conflict. Pick a day and time that works for you and your co-host and don't sweat it if everyone can't come.

You can't have a party without somewhere to host it! Pick a spot that's comfortable for your invitation list and the right size for your party. A house does not need to be fancy or even that big to host a successful fundraising house party, but if you're not able or don't feel comfortable having folks to your home consider a brewery, bar, or restaurant where you can reserve a back room or quiet spot. You may even find the business is willing to offer a drink special or make a donation! Be sure to include directions or

information about parking and notes about accessibility information, masking requirements, etc. if folks are unfamiliar with the party location.

Drinks and snacks

Everything is easier with snacks! Food and drink gives folks something to do with their hands and something to focus on if they feel uncomfortable or shy. It's helpful to keep common dietary restrictions in mind: are there gluten-free and dairy-free options? Do you have snacks for vegetarians? Perhaps snacks should be individually wrapped to be germ-conscious? Again, this all depends on your crowd.

Whether you provide alcoholic beverages will depend on your budget and your friends. If you do serve alcohol, be sure to also provide non-alcoholic options for sober guests. Fancy sodas, seltzers, or sparkling juices are always good options.



Invitations

Writing the invitation can be one of the toughest parts of throwing a party. How do you communicate to your friends that you're inviting them to a party where you expect them to give money?

Even if it seems awkward, make it crystal clear in your invite that the goal of the party is to collect donations for Baltimore Abortion Fund. Letting people know this up front helps avoid surprises in the room!

You can briefly explain why you feel the Baltimore Abortion Fund is such a great organization to donate to, and maybe why your friends in particular might want to support as well. You can link to relevant articles about abortion funds, as well as to the [Baltimore Abortion Fund website](#) so people can learn more about the organization.

You can create a special online donation page just for your party through [GiveButter](#); consider including your custom link in the invitation for people who want to donate but can't attend the party.

Here are a few templates that might help jumpstart your invitation:

Join us for drinks, snacks, and merriment as we raise money for the Baltimore Abortion Fund, which provides financial assistance to pregnant people who need help paying for abortions. You can read more about the Baltimore Abortion Fund on their [website](#). Bring yourself, any friends who want to support abortion access, and a donation (cash, check or credit card). We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

Why donate to the Baltimore Abortion Fund? The overturning of Roe v. Wade has amplified attacks on abortion access, but they all are part of a larger trend that BAF has been resisting for years. If planned abortion restrictions are enacted in nearby states, Maryland will become an even more important destination for care. We are one of the most southern states with the strongest legal protections for abortion access. Our region is also home to two of only four clinics nationwide that perform specialized, later abortion procedures. The number of calls from people traveling to Maryland for care has already increased from 42% of all requests in 2020 to 50% in 2022. And we expect that number will continue to grow.

Join us for a potluck to raise money for Baltimore Abortion Fund which provides financial assistance to pregnant people who need help paying for abortions.

Why donate to the Baltimore Abortion Fund? Abortions are time-sensitive health care that cannot be delayed. When you make a gift to Baltimore Abortion Fund, you are helping individuals exercise their reproductive autonomy and professing your belief that health care is a human right. Your donation helps ensure that no one is forced to carry a pregnancy to term from lack of insurance, money for childcare, or transportation to the clinic.

Bring a friend or family members, a snack or side dish and a donation (cash or check or credit card) for the Baltimore Abortion Fund.

It's helpful to send electronic invitations with an app that lets you track responses, so that you know who's coming (always helpful for planning drinks and snacks). Consider sending a Facebook invite or using [Paperless Post](#) or [Evite](#). Be sure to explicitly ask people to RSVP in the invitation—it increases the chances they actually will.

Preparing for the party

Once you've got the guest list made, the invitations sent, and the snacks planned, what else is there to do?



What to talk about

You get to set the tone of your party: maybe it's a push-back-the-couch-dance-all-night-affair, maybe it's hot chocolate and working on a craft project with a small group, maybe it's a dinner party with a guest chef.

Regardless of the type of event, guests generally want to learn more about abortion funds: what they are, how they work, who they serve, why we need them. They also want to learn more about the Baltimore Abortion Fund specifically—both where their donated money goes and how they can get more involved. A party like this is also a great time to talk about why you and others support abortion and abortion access, how abortion access relates to racial justice and economic justice.

You can also use the [Heart-to-Heart Abortion Conversation Cards](#) published by the National Network of Abortion Funds to help jumpstart conversation.

Here's an example of what a house party agenda could look like:

1. Welcome, introduction, icebreakers.
2. Share literature about the BAF mission, work BAF has done, and BAF's necessity.
3. Discussion around why you and others in attendance support abortion access. Can be a time to share personal stories/anecdotes, discuss the various ways pregnant people of all identities will be impacted.
4. Another activity. Can be a documentary screening, a dance party, a card game
5. Wrap up the night with an ask. Solicit pledges or on-the-spot donations. (If you're getting pledges, make sure to follow up in writing in the next day or two).

Collecting donations

Asking for money can feel awkward to some, but the whole point of the party is to raise money to help fund abortions! Telling your guests about Baltimore Abortion Fund and the work we do is often a great segue to asking for donations.

Options for Collecting Donations:

- Create a personalized fundraising page for your party using BAF's [Givebutter link](#) or the below [Donation QR code](#). Then have your friends donate through your event's customized link or QR code- you'll be able to easily keep track of the total amount. (We highly recommend this option, especially for events that require a donation for entrance).
- Collect donations in cash or via a mobile payment app, then make a lump donation to BAF online at <https://www.baltimoreabortionfund.org/donate> or [Givebutter](#).
- Collect check donations made out to Baltimore Abortion Fund and mail them to:
Baltimore Abortion Fund
822 Guilford Avenue #1864
Baltimore, MD 21202

Email development@baltimoreabortionfund.org so we can be sure to look out for donations from your event.



Odds and ends

If you've invited a large group or people who don't already know each other well, name tags and markers are a good idea.

Encourage people to sign up for our mailing list with the [Newsletter QR code](#) below which you can share in your event materials. Or place a [Baltimore Abortion Fund email sign up sheet](#) in a prominent location so that attendees can stay up to date with the fund (we don't send a ton of emails, promise!). If you collect emails on a paper sign up sheet, we ask that you put the info into an [excel spreadsheet](#) before emailing it to BAF.

GET CONNECTED

Join the Baltimore Abortion Fund's newsletter to hear about community events and opportunities for support!



Learn more at baltimoreabortionfund.org

Follow up with a thank you to folks who were able to attend. A quick email or note from Paperless Post or Evite works great, and handwritten cards are even better!



Questions? Comments?

Is there something we should add to this document? Have some tips about how to host a kick-ass fundraising party? Want to share your awesome invitation template with others? Have questions that didn't get answered here? Send us an email at development@baltimoreabortionfund.org.

Funding abortion is an act of community resistance and love!

Further reading

[Long overstretched, abortion funds in D.C., Maryland and Virginia mobilize for an uncertain future \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Roe v. Wade has never been enough to ensure abortion access | GUEST COMMENTARY \(Baltimore Sun\)](#)

[The Racist History of Abortion and Midwifery Bans \(ACLU\)](#)