



Maryland Forward Party

Candidate and Affiliate Pledge

The Forward Party's guiding principles are Free People, Thriving Communities and a Vibrant Democracy. As a Forward Party Candidate or Forward Affiliate in the state of Maryland, I pledge to campaign and govern according to the following values and commitments:

- Practice **grace and tolerance** in communications and interactions with others.
- Embrace **bottom-up solutions** for local communities, rather than dictating a rigid, top-down policy platform.
 - **Engage regularly with constituents** and **listen** to learn how to best serve them and their communities.
- Encourage **diverse thinking**. Welcome new ideas and fearless conversations around the issues of the day, through respectful debate.
 - Commit to conversation with those who hold opposing views and **find common ground** to effect **compromise** where possible.
- Commit to **Free People** by revitalizing a culture that celebrates difference and individual choice, rejects hatred, and removes barriers so that each of us can rise to our full potential.
 - Strongly oppose **all acts of dehumanization** because **We Are All Marylanders**.
- Ensure **Thriving Communities** by reinvigorating a fair, flourishing economy and open society where everyone can live a good life and is safe in the places where we learn, work, and live.
 - Display actions and language of **unity** and be a leader for the whole community.
 - Commit to **solving problems** and use data to analyze approaches and results.



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- Create a **Vibrant Democracy** by reforming our republic to give Americans more choices in elections, more confidence in a government that works, and more say in our future.
 - Commit to **providing more choices** for voters through **nonpartisan primaries** and **voting reforms**, such as Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), Approval Voting, or other alternatives to the current first-past-the-post method.
 - Support **independent redistricting commissions** or similar solutions that counter gerrymandering.
 - Commit to **transparency** while campaigning and when in office through public disclosures of affiliations, financial contributions, conflicts of interest, and meetings with special interest groups and lobbyists.
 - Conduct oneself with **dignity** and abstain from derogatory strategies. **Positive campaigning** is encouraged whenever possible.
 - Commit to supporting the **Constitution of the United States** and the **Constitution of Maryland**, as they exist, and amending them as needed only through the process provided for therein.
 - Avoid adopting campaign rhetoric and materials that divide communities and entrench tribalism.
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The Maryland Forward Party will offer support to Candidates and Affiliates in a combination of the following ways, subject to federal, state and local campaign finance and elections rules:

Public Support:

The Forward Party will publicly support your work as an elected official, providing you with the backing and credibility needed to make a significant impact.

Surrogate Training:

The Surrogate Training program is specifically designed to enhance your public speaking and communication skills when talking about the Forward Party and your involvement.

Grassroots Community Connections:

Connectivity is key to success. Our party will facilitate direct access to our dedicated network of grassroots leaders in your area. By tapping into this vibrant community, you'll gain people who can support your work, and add valuable insights, resources, and support from those who share our collective mission.

Volunteer Support:

Our party will actively organize people to support your work as an elected official, engaging volunteers to assist with crucial activities such as outreach, phone calling, and attending public meetings. This concerted effort will maximize your outreach and strengthen your connection with the community.

Involvement in the FWD Community:

You will be invited to actively engage with the vibrant Forward Party community. Attend our events, participate in discussions, and connect with like-minded leaders who share your dedication to progressive change. By joining our community, you will have a support system to rely on.

National Communications Support:

Our national team, depending on your situation, can provide communications support ensuring your message reaches a wider audience. Through strategic media outreach we can help generate positive coverage, highlighting your work and the issues you champion.



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Effective Digital Media Channels:

We will leverage our vast communication channels to amplify your visibility. From blast emails to social media posts, our network will help spread your message far and wide, connecting you with potential voters, supporters, and influencers.

National Influencer Support:

The Forward Party has many nationally prominent members, including co-Chairs Andrew Yang and Governor Christie Todd Whitman. Forward leaders have frequently engaged in public conversations with these individuals, through social media, online events, and other channels.

Policy Freedom:

Maryland Forward Party commits to policy freedom for candidates, aside from expecting candidates to support non-partisan primaries, voting reform, and countering gerrymandering.

Pledge Review:

Maryland Forward Party commits to meeting with candidates to review the candidate commitments and discuss any clarifications or concerns prior to signing this pledge.

Can. Signature: _____

Date: _____

8/30/23

Name: Ashwani Jain

Title: Candidate - Congress

MD FWD Signature: _____

Date: _____

8/30/23

Name: _____

Matthew L. Beyers

Title: _____

Chair, MD FWD Party