

COMPARE *the* CANDIDATES for GOVERNOR



ELECTION DAY:
NOV. 3, 2026



EARLY VOTING:
OCT. 22-29, 2026



Former State Delegate
Jan. 2019– Sept. 2023

Governor of Maryland
Jan. 2023– Present

DAN COX (R)

WES MOORE (D)

Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

A 2024 study from the Maryland Population Research Center at the University of Maryland confirmed that greater availability of public funds for abortion contributes to greater numbers of abortions. Public opinion polls consistently show that a majority of Americans opposes their tax dollars being used to pay for abortions.

Dan Cox opposes using tax dollars to pay for elective abortions.

While serving in the House of Delegates, Cox offered budget amendments which would have removed state taxpayer funding for elective abortions and abortion providers. If elected governor, Cox has pledged to end the use of Maryland taxpayer dollars to fund abortions for out-of-state visitors who travel to Maryland with exemptions for women requiring medically necessary interventions to save their lives.

Wes Moore supports using tax dollars to pay for elective abortions.

Since taking office in 2023, Moore has used state tax dollars to pay for abortions, stockpile abortion pills, train new abortionists, subsidize abortion facility upgrades, and more. In 2025, Moore approved a new grant program to provide funding for abortions. His 2027 budget alone is projected to spend more than \$50 million taxpayer dollars on abortions, abortion providers, and abortion-related programs.

Abortions Late in Pregnancy

Maryland is one of only 11 states (plus DC) that permit abortions for any reason throughout pregnancy, all the way until birth. At least 2 Maryland facilities advertise abortions at or beyond 35 weeks, by which time unborn babies have beating hearts, detectable brainwaves, the ability to feel pain, and a strong likelihood of survival if born prematurely and given proper medical care. Less than a quarter of Americans (23%) believe abortion should be legal in all cases, according to a 2026 Pew Research Center poll.

Dan Cox supports protections for unborn babies and their mothers from unlimited abortion until birth.

Cox is a proponent of legislation to protect unborn babies from abortions late in pregnancy based upon the unborn baby reaching notable developmental milestones such as viability, the capacity to feel pain, and/or the detection of a heartbeat.

Wes Moore supports a policy allowing unlimited abortion for any reason until birth.

In his 2022 campaign, Moore pledged that Maryland would be a “safe haven for abortion access” during his tenure as governor. He strongly supported the passage of an amendment to enshrine abortion without limits in the state constitution.

Conscience Protections

Free speech and the free exercise of religion are fundamental rights to which every American is entitled according to the U.S. Constitution. However, these freedoms have increasingly come under threat in Maryland in recent years, particularly for medical professionals, government workers, and people of faith who hold pro-life views.

Dan Cox supports conscience protections for medical professionals and faith-based hospitals opposed to abortion.

As a State Delegate, Cox introduced the *Health Care Freedom of Conscience Act* (HB 1364), which would have prohibited discrimination against medical professionals in Maryland who object to performing or participating in abortions due to their deeply held moral or religious beliefs.

Wes Moore does not support conscience protections for medical professionals or faith-based hospitals opposed to abortion.

In 2026, Moore signed legislation (SB 169 / HB 372) which will compel Maryland hospitals and medical professionals to perform or participate in elective (non-emergency) abortions even if doing so violates their deeply held moral or religious beliefs.

Parental Involvement for Minors

Parental involvement laws can safeguard minors from sexual abuse, trafficking, and coercion. When facing an unexpected pregnancy, young women need guidance and support. Parents can play a vital role in helping to ensure their minor daughters have the information and resources needed to make life-affirming decisions.

Dan Cox believes parents should be involved or at least informed when their minor daughter is facing an unexpected pregnancy and considering abortion.

In 2022, Cox introduced the *Maryland Parental Rights Act* (HB 618) in the House of Delegates, which would protect young women under 18 years of age from being taken for secret abortions without the knowledge or consent of a parent or legal guardian.

Wes Moore opposes strengthening Maryland's parental involvement laws, which currently do not require abortion providers to obtain parental consent prior to performing an abortion on an unmarried minor.

On his campaign website, Moore states that he “opposes any efforts to (limit abortion).” Studies show that robust parental involvement policies may contribute to fewer abortions being performed.