GET MONEY OUT - MARYLAND, INC. (GMOM) is an all-volunteer force seeking to get big money out of our political system and make our elections fairer. By working to pass Maryland's Democracy Amendment Resolution, we are pursuing a U.S. Constitutional amendment to guarantee every citizen's right to vote, reserve Constitutional rights for human beings, and regulate money in politics.

Breaking News: Get Money Out - Maryland (GMOM) will be participating in a **Car Caravan and Rally in Annapolis on tomorrow - July 22 - at noon**. **RSVP here**.

We will join allies led by Chesapeake Climate Action Network to demand that Governor Larry Hogan drop his expensive, confusing, and complex plan for the election in November. RSVP here. There is not much time left for Maryland to plan a successful election. You can bring a decorated car or just come in person to hear socially distanced speakers.

Will a Corrupt Congress Help the People and Save the Election?
It's up to Us

The next two or three weeks look to be a turning point in the history of our nation. We could lose what's left of our our prosperity and our personal safety - for those of us who have them. And our democracy could crumble. The U.S. Senate convenes today after a ridiculously long July 4 vacation and must make key decisions on extending aid at a time when 32 million of us are collecting

unemployment aid, economic production is down an estimated 35%, state and local revenues are tanking while demands on services are skyrocketing, and the the U.S. Postal Service may soon close up after 245 years.

Most critically, states need $3.6 billion in federal aid to conduct accessible, safe, secure, and fair elections. Otherwise, there could be the kind of chaos we expect to see only in under-developed nations.

We at GMOM have set the following benchmark for the election: Every voter must have a choice of voting by postage-paid mail, dropping off a ballot at a secure drop box, or voting in person over several days, including Election Day.

Here in Maryland, Governor Hogan has ordered an expensive (if not impossible) in-person-preferred election with unnecessary red tape. Our mail-in-preferred proposal would require far fewer poll judges on election day and allows voters to select the method of voting to maximize their safety, convenience, and confidence. If the Governor diverts the money to pay for his more expensive plan, those funds would be better spent to prevent evictions or shore up the public schools.

> *The vote is the most powerful non-violent tool that we have.* - John Lewis (1940-2020)

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Take Action Now

- *First and Foremost* - Call Senators Cardin and Van Hollen and tell them that election funding cannot be negotiated away.

CALL NOW

- *Second* - Call Governor Hogan at 410-974-3901 and tell him to switch to a mail-in-preferred election.

- *Third* - If you have not already done so, click the box below to sign our comprehensive pandemic relief petition.

ACT NOW

CLICK HERE to tell Congress: Human Need, Not Corporate Greed - and Fair Elections, Too

Why does our petition require your address and phone number?
Our petition instantly emails your message to the Congressperson and Congress requires this information. We do not share your information with anyone.

Gory Details of Possible Election Chaos

Here in Maryland, the specter of a failed election looms as a result of Governor Hogan's decision to try to open 2,000 polling places and to require double paperwork for those who want to vote by mail. The *Baltimore Sun* has laid out some of the implications as explained by the following examples. The Baltimore City Board of Elections chief says that he needs 3,000 workers to staff 200 polling places under the Governor's order. Howard County's chief needs 1,200, but only 400 have come forth. Most of the seniors who staff the polls are unwilling to serve this year. In all, Maryland will need 25,000 poll workers.

In Maryland's June primary, 97% chose to vote by mail. But officials mailed actual ballots to the vast majority of voters for that election. Under the Governor's order for November, millions of people will have to request mail-in ballots, and then local elections staff will have to mail out millions of ballots. Here is a rough estimate of some of the major costs:

Pay $500 per day instead of the usual $200 to recruit 25,000 poll workers	$7.5 million
Send 2 million additional mail-in ballots at $2 each	$4 million
Deep clean 2,000 polling places after Election Day at $3,500 each	$7 million

These are my rough estimates to show that Maryland will have to spend an extra $20,000,000 or so to implement the Governor's decision. Otherwise, a spectacular failure may occur. Maryland and all states must also have funding for physical and cybersecurity needs. For example, each dropbox must be guarded 24-7.

The national implications are even more grave since most of the states have never tried a mostly-mail-in election. That's why it is imperative that Congress provide an additional $3.6 billion in election aid to the states. That is about $16 per voting-age citizen. States have to find and select vendors to print and mail election documents very soon. TIME IS RUNNING OUT to plan and implement all the new procedures and voter education needed for fair national elections.

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Other Pandemic News

As of mid-July, there were [32 million people on unemployment insurance](#) plus others who [never got](#) what they were entitled to.

Dee Tani, a former cashier on the Las Vegas Strip who was laid off during the COVID-19 pandemic, outside his home on Tuesday, July 7. He never received his unemployment insurance benefits, but the state erroneously notified him that he was overpaid in 2014, and that he must pay back $30,000 he never got.

Now that the Senate is drafting a pandemic relief bill, President Trump wants to make sure it [does not include](#) money for testing and tracing or for supporting the Centers for Disease Control.

In testimony before the House, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [supported blanket forgiveness](#) for Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans below some unstated amount. He would also welcome expanding the PPP program again with a revenue test to make sure loan recipients have been harmed by the pandemic. He says he wants aid for low- and middle-income households.

The lack of oversight calls into question the leadership of both House and Senate. The Congressional Oversight Commission still has no chair almost four months after the CARES Act passed. It issued its [second report](#) on June 10. Commission member Bharat Ramamurti quotes analyst Amanda Fischer: "[The PPP] was a successful liquidity backstop for firms that may have needed marginal help meeting payroll during the worst of the mandatory lockdowns, but it did not prevent layoffs." With the present level of joblessness and lack of accountability, how could the public support blanket forgiveness?

Mr. Ramamurti commented on Mnuchin's idea of expanding and extending the PPP loans. "To the extent the program continues to work through banks, it should not offer banks higher fees for processing bigger loans. That pushes banks to serve bigger businesses first. A flat fee per loan makes more sense." The government could have made these loans directly, but it chose to go through banks and create an incentive for larger loans. No wonder that minority businesses have been denied a fair share.

Bonus Resources

- Investigative journalist Greg Palast has published his [new book](#) cataloguing various voter suppression techniques and how they might swing the 2020 election.
- The Supreme Court [has refused four times](#) this year to protect voting rights.
- The Koch brothers main interest in funding political campaigns is to undermine the idea of government regulation. Financial analysts Pam and Russ Martens argue that President Trump has [followed the Koch line](#) on exiting the Paris Accords, deregulating the EPA, and cutting taxes for corporations and the wealthy. Now he has denigrated mask-wearing to to advance their *laissez faire* agenda

Previous issues of Corruption Busters - for news about holding power accountable and assuring fair elections

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[Corruption Busters #5](#)   [Corruption Busters #2](#)

[Corruption Busters #4](#)   [Corruption Busters #1](#)

GMOM Teleconference
Monday, July 27, 7:30 pm

Two ways to join the conference
1) Dial 1 301 715 8592, meeting ID: 931 3066 2622. Call 410-624-6095 for the password.
2) **Click** on your device if you have downloaded the app from Zoom.

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Charlie
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