

GET MONEY OUT *Maryland*



May 6, 2020

[GET MONEY OUT - MARYLAND, INC.](#) is a group of volunteers who are trying to get big money out of our political system and make our elections fairer. Through our work on 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 big money in politics. In the wake of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, we are focusing on fair elections and on exposing large-scale corruption that is a result of our pay-to-play campaign finance system.



Pandemic response to date by the Federal Reserve totals \$2.26 trillion. The U.S. Treasury expects to borrow \$3 trillion in the April-June quarter. Together, that averages over \$16,000 in new money created for every person in the U.S. But is it going to the right people?

Speaker Nancy Pelosi has kept the House of Representatives home while front-line workers go without protective equipment, get sick or die, lack food, and face housing crises. Observers question her commitment

to real oversight of the bailout. The President continues to resist oversight.

At the same time, the fairness, accessibility, safety, and security of the November election and primaries are in grave jeopardy. Election officials are begging for help.



[Click here to tell Congress: Human Need Not Corporate Greed - and Fair Elections, Too](#)

NEWS OF INTEREST

Pelosi Diddles while Virus Burns

While front-line workers take all the risks, Speaker Pelosi decided that it was too dangerous for the House of Representatives to meet. The National Nurses United [demanded action](#). Meanwhile, President Trump, Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and many others in Congress [will benefit](#) from the recent real estate tax break for millionaires that was hidden in the CARES Act.

Democrats in the House say that they favor election assistance for the states, a rescue plan for the U.S. Postal Service (vital to the election), and other aid to states for public education and health services. But the House is not even holding hearings. Meanwhile, McConnell's priority is to give businesses [immunity](#) from liability for harm to workers. OSHA has not acted to issue workplace standards for COVID-9.

Bharat Ramamurti, member of the Congressional Oversight Panel, says the panel has a unique responsibility to assess whether bailout programs are helping families. But it is [not operating](#) and has no staff or chairperson. It is reported, though, that Pelosi and McConnell are considering



Sheila Bair, a Republican, who distinguished herself during the 2008-9 financial crisis as a friend of the working person.

Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren [teamed up](#) to pressure Pelosi and her Oversight Panel pick (Rep. Donna Shalala) to be more active on accountability. While their op-ed is ostensibly aimed at President Trump, it takes this shot at Shalala, who owns millions of dollars worth of individual stocks: "Both of us
Clockwise from upper left: Ramamurti, Bair, Warren, and Biden. **have long refused to own ... individual stocks while in office, and this should be a requirement ... for members of Congress and other government officials responsible for the recovery programs."**

Federal Reserve and U.S.

Treasury Actions

Paycheck Protection Program funds come from the U.S. Treasury via the Small Business Administration. Abuse has been exposed quickly and effectively by many journalists, causing something of a retreat by big corporations and the U.S. Treasury. A credible critic thinks that [the program is working well overall](#). Reports indicate that almost 4 million loans have been made with an average amount of about \$138,000.

Well-connected [fossil fuel companies got aid](#) from the Paycheck Protection Program. [Recent poll](#): Marylanders favor green energy over fossil fuels by 80% to 20%.

The Fed Reserve [will report monthly](#) on its transactions, a welcome action for transparency.

Federal Reserve loans to big corporations [will not limit](#) corporate pay, buybacks, or dividends.

Threats to Elections

Election officials are [begging for help](#): "Implementing mail-in voting can take upwards of three years, but Ohio election officials did it in just 30 days, said Michelle Wilcox, president of the Ohio Election Officials Association ... "We need federal funding immediately to cover the cost...." In this

same article, we learn that certain voting machines are prone to malfunction if voters use disinfectant wipes on them, raising the specter of delays.

The Brennan Center [explains](#) why we need 10 times the financial assistance to states that Congress has yet provided.



Relief is barely trickling out to workers as unemployment insurance bureaucracies buckle under the weight of millions of applications. The most basic foundations of our democracy are cracking. We must be vigilant and active in demanding that Congress rebalance its programs and funding to protect workers, children, and seniors; ensure adequate oversight of the bailout; and strengthen our election process in all 50 states.

[Sign Here: Meet Human Needs and Assure Fair Elections](#)

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Follow [@BharatRamamurti](#) on Twitter

How much [corruption](#) cost us *before* the pandemic crisis

GMOM Teleconference, *Monday, May 11, 8:30 pm.*

Two ways to join the conference: Dial 1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 512 862 260. Or [Click](#) on your device if you have downloaded the app from [Zoom](#).



Agenda: 1) Our continuing campaign to expose corruption and win fair elections; 2) Using the Congressional campaign to promote a Democracy Amendment to the Constitution.

[Click here to tell Congress: Human Need Not Corporate Greed - and Fair Elections, Too](#)

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