

MARYLAND YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION

June 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the June 2026 MYJC newsletter! Each month we assemble all the latest need-to-know news about MYJC and what's happening for youth across Maryland. Please share your community events, local news, needs, and actions with us by emailing gail@advancemaryland.org. Feel free also to forward this newsletter with your network and encourage them to sign up to receive their own copy [here](#).

Did you miss our previous newsletters? Find all of our newsletters [here](#).

Not yet a member of MYJC? Email gail@advancemaryland.org today to join.

HIGHLIGHTS

Our annual MYJC Retreat is approaching! Join us on July 8 as we reflect on our 2026 achievements and build a shared vision through 2030. Breakfast snacks and lunch will be provided, and the event is free! **All you need to do is** [RSVP here](#).

Day-at-a-Glance:

- **Morning:** Celebrate 2026 wins, hear from impacted youth, and vision together for 2030
- **Midday:** Rotate through priority stations on defending wins, new policy opportunities, and youth

AHEAD

Stay tuned for updates after our July 8th retreat for what MYJC has planned for the rest of the year. Expect information about interim workgroups, opportunities for networking, and learn more about the members of our coalition.

IN THE NEWS

Youth Charging Reform Act 'ensures that hundreds of Maryland youth are directed toward support and services within the juvenile system'. On May 26, Gov. Wes Moore signed the Youth Charging Reform Act into law, removing five offenses for which 16-17-year-olds are automatically charged as adults. The law will go into effect on October 1, 2026. [Read more from the Baltimore Beat.](#) (June 16, 2026)

Summertime youth curfew takes effect in Laurel. Laurel Mayor Keith Sydnor issued the executive order on June 11, to be in effect seven days a week until September 8. Under the order, no one under the age of 18 can remain in a public place within the city of Laurel between the hours of 10PM and 5AM (with few exceptions). [Read the summary from Patch.](#) (June 11, 2026)

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall once advocated for the Cheltenham boys. Marshall, as an NAACP lawyer, advocated for a group of Black boys in legal trouble during their incarceration at the House of Reformation for Colored Boys at Cheltenham. [Read about it in The Sentinel.](#) (June 3, 2026)

Safe Streets Baltimore program associated with reduced youth gun violence, study says. A new study led by researchers at the John Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions has found that overall, Baltimore's Safe Streets violence prevention program is associated with a 42% reduction in homicides involving youth aged 15 to 24 and a 21% reduction in youth nonfatal shootings at the neighborhood level. [Find the study here](#), and [read the Medical Xpress article here.](#) (June 2, 2026)

Bates, Tolentino debate if Maryland is ready for youth justice overhaul. Baltimore City State's Attorney Ivan Bates and Maryland Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Betsy Fox Tolentino remain divided over the Youth Charging Reform Act. But during a televised town hall in late May, both officials delivered the same message: Maryland's success will depend on agencies working together. [More from the Baltimore Sun.](#) (June 1, 2026)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MYJC Annual Retreat

Wednesday, July 8, 9:30AM–4PM

Annie E. Casey Foundation, 503 N. Charles St.

[RSVP here](#)

Save the date on your calendar for our annual retreat on July 8! Join us as we celebrate our collective wins, set our priorities for the future, and strengthen our movement for youth justice across Maryland. The event is free to attend, just [click here to RSVP](#).

Have an upcoming event you want us to highlight in the next newsletter?

Email gail@advancemaryland.org.

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