

**Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour  
Calvert County**

College of Southern Maryland – Prince Frederick, Maryland  
November 17, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by the Calvert County Commission for Women, the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour traveled to the beautiful campus of the College of Southern Maryland Prince Frederick where a enthusiastic and well-informed crowd of more than 30 people gathered to talk to the Maryland Commission for Women about the concerns of women and girls in their community.

The evening began with welcoming remarks by Inez Claggett, Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women, and quickly became an open forum on the challenges facing women in this southern Maryland region.

The attendees at the forum included individuals and representatives of women's and community advocacy organizations. They identified a wide range of issues and challenges for the women of Calvert County, selected those they thought were most important, and discussed possible remedies.

The attendees listed a total of 33 challenges facing the women of Calvert County. Each participant was given five "votes" to place beside the issues they thought were most important. At first count, three issues emerged with the most votes, and then four were tied for third place. The participants then voted on just those four to identify the next two on their list. From that process, five issues were identified as top priorities. The group then discussed actions that could be taken to address those top five issues:

- 1. Lack of women, including minority women, in elected office**
  - a. Offer programs like "Girl State" that encourage girls to seek leadership positions
  - b. Build visibility for women candidates, give them a platform
  - c. Provide state-funded non-partisan training on running for office
  - d. Create leadership opportunities for girls in schools
  - e. Conduct gender/ethnicity analyses of the participants in existing Leadership Programs (Leadership Maryland, for example)
  
- 2. Affordable housing**
  - a. Study best practices in other jurisdictions
  - b. Increase funding
  - c. Study the needs first
  - d. Provide incentives for developers who include affordable housing
  - e. Develop programs that help first time homebuyers with funding
  - f. Encourage rehabilitation of existing housing stock

- 3. Industrial pollution of the environment, especially fracking** *(Defined by Wikipedia as: “the high-pressure injection of ‘fracking fluid’ ...into a wellbore to create cracks in the deep-rock formations through which natural gas, petroleum, and brine will flow more freely.”)*
  - a. Ban fracking throughout the state
  
- 4. Sextortion** *(Defined by Wikipedia as: “the broad category of sexual exploitation in which abuse of power is the means of coercion, as well as to the category of sexual exploitation in which threatened release of sexual images or information is the means of coercion”)*
  - a. Provide education and information about what sextortion is and why it is wrong
  - b. Provide severe penalties for perpetrators
  - c. Create a public register of offenders
  - d. Ensure the term is specifically defined in criminal law
  
- 5. Transportation, especially in rural areas**
  - a. Increase availability of bus transportation
  - b. Develop light rail
  - c. Study existing but underutilized right-of-way designations for possible development of light rail
  - d. Increase funding for public transportation in rural areas
  - e. Explore use of out of service school busses for public transportation

The chart on the next page lists all the issues that were identified during the course of this public forum and shows the number of votes each one received from those in attendance as they considered the priority level of each issue in comparison to the others.

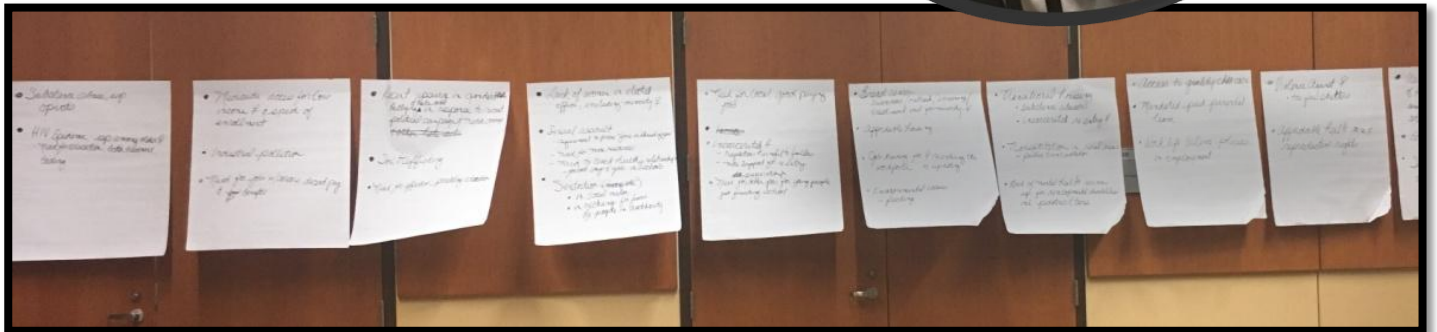
<b>Number of Votes</b>	<b>Issue</b>
9	Lack of women, including minority women, in elected office
6	Affordable housing
6	Industrial pollution of the environment, especially fracking
5	Sextortion
5	Transportation, especially in rural areas
5	Substance Abuse – Especially opioids
5	Mandated Paid Parental Leave
4	Sex trafficking
4	Need for better preparation of young people for current job market opportunities
4	Equal pay for minority women
4	Voter Registration
3	Sexual Assault – requirement to prove force or threat of force
2	Recent upsurge in gender bullying and hate acts in response to recent political campaign and media coverage
2	Transitional housing for substance abusers and incarcerated women re-entering the community
2	Lack of mental health services, especially for developmental disabilities, including pediatrics and teens
2	Too few public roads named after women
2	Title IX Implementation
1	Violence Against Women
1	Affordable health care and reproductive rights
1	HIV Epidemic among older women
1	Need for local good-paying jobs with benefits and career ladder
1	Incarcerated women – need support for family bonding, re-entry
1	Job training for women re-entering the workforce or updating their skills
1	Women Entrepreneurs – access to funding for start up businesses
0	Access to quality child care
0	Work/life balance policies in employment
0	Medicaid access for low income women and speed of enrollment
0	Need for effective parenting education
0	Breast cancer awareness, outreach, screening, treatment, especially for minority women
0	Support for women starting businesses
0	Recognizing women’s contributions: Use Calvert County example of History Day to encourage similar action around the state
0	Gender Equity in the Schools, Title IX Expansion
0	Support for women starting businesses
77	33 Issues

November 17, 2016

# Calvert County: Voices of Maryland Women

## Photo Album





• Schedule some up spots  
• W. System, esp. on way out of town for women, like school, taking

• Flexible work in low cost, for a month of a treatment  
• Flexible position  
• How to get better deal for 1 year long

• Don't leaving in complete future, but to be response to local political situation, there are many things to do  
• In talking  
• How to get better deal for 1 year long

• Work of women in related effort, including security & support  
• Involvement  
• Support system  
• How to get better deal for 1 year long

• How to get better deal for 1 year long  
• Involvement  
• Support system  
• How to get better deal for 1 year long

• Support system  
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