

O'MALLEY-BROWN: PUTTING OUR FAMILIES AND KIDS FIRST

Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown are fighting for Maryland's hardworking families during these difficult economic times. As our country faces its most serious economic crisis in a generation, everywhere you turn middle class families are struggling to find a way forward through the national recession. Bills are piling up and family budgets are being stretched thin. Americans who have worked hard and played by the rules their entire lives are having the rug pulled out from under them.

Now more than ever, our families need leaders who are willing to stand up and fight for them. That's why **Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown are fighting every day to put our families and kids first:** working to strengthen our core priorities around the values we share as Marylanders and as Americans.

Together with the people of Maryland, the O'Malley Brown Administration is putting our Families First by fighting to strengthen and grow the ranks of Maryland's upwardly-mobile **middle class**, including our family-owned businesses and farms. We are putting our Families First by **improving public safety and public education** in every part of our State. And, we are putting our Families First by fighting to **expand opportunity** – including the opportunity to learn, to earn, and to enjoy the **health** of the people we love and the **environment** we love.

“I have never felt more energized, more positive about or more committed to the tough work ahead. And the work that we do has never been more needed than it is today by Maryland's families.”

Governor Martin O'Malley
State of the State Address, January 29, 2009



These are our shared priorities. This is our mission. From our first days in office it has always been our mission. It is a mission which has guided us these past two years to:

- ▶ Put our Families First by making the **largest investments ever in our #1 ranked, best-in-the-nation public schools**;
- ▶ Put our Families First by **making the dreams of a college education a reality for more middle class families**;
- ▶ Put our Families First by **making our streets and neighborhoods safer for our families**;
- ▶ Put our Families First by **protecting our working families** as they seek to find a way forward through the national recession;
- ▶ Put our Families First by **expanding health care coverage** to more Marylanders;
- ▶ Put our Families First by putting our planet first – **protecting our environment** and promoting sustainability to preserve our State's beauty and character for future generations;
- ▶ Put our Families First by returning **fiscal responsibility** to our state government.

For as long as we are privileged to serve the people of Maryland, we will continue to fight to put our **Kids and Families First**.