Governor Hogan believes we urgently need a common sense and all of the above approach to keep our communities safe.

We have to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. It means taking the same approach Governor Hogan did during his eight years in office—taking action to support law enforcement and hold criminals accountable, while advancing the long-term reforms to ensure every Marylander has access to a world-class education, good-paying jobs, and economic opportunity.

Crime is top of the minds of Marylanders and Americans, but—like most pressing issues of the day—Washington politicians only offer platitudes and point fingers. That must change. We can no longer allow politics to get in the way of public safety. There are bipartisan common sense solutions the federal government can adopt that have the potential to make a real difference. In the Senate, Governor Hogan will make it a top priority to bring people in both parties together to get this done, support our law enforcement, and make our communities safer:

1. Take Repeat Violent Criminals Off The Streets

In the Senate, Governor Hogan will continue to support increased criminal penalties for violent offenders.

Governor Hogan will support federal law enforcement and their partner and task forces in our communities to curb violent crime just like he did as governor. In 2022, Governor Hogan showed that this could be done effectively in Baltimore City. He worked with the U.S. Attorney for Maryland to deploy strategic federal assets to get the job done, providing millions of dollars in state funding to support additional prosecutors and staff, including 10 additional Special Assistant United States Attorneys for the Baltimore Office. These prosecutors used the “Al Capone model” of pursuing federal firearms, fraud and other criminal charges against individuals known to be repeat violent offenders.

Starting in August 2022, murders in Baltimore began to decline compared to the prior year. We must adopt this proven approach at the federal level as a critical tool in our crime-fighting toolbox. On day one in the Senate, Governor Hogan will get to work to ensure Maryland has access to resources to hire federal prosecutors who will focus on breaking up these carjacking gangs and other organized crime.
2. Get Guns Out Of The Hands Of Violent Criminals And The Mentally Ill

As Governor, Larry Hogan worked to get guns out of the hands of violent criminals and the mentally ill, leading the nation on passing red flag laws. In the Senate, he will push for common sense protections to get guns out of the hands of violent criminals and the mentally ill, including universal background checks. He will make sure we are proactive about leveraging the federal laws on the books, such as increased penalties for firearms in school zones and other federally-designated locations, to get guns out of the hands of repeat violent offenders.

3. Respect And Re-fund Police And Law Enforcement

Too often, our police do not get the respect and support they deserve. When calls to “Defund the Police” broke out across America, Governor Hogan was one of the first leaders to speak out in support of our police. Instead, Governor Hogan passed landmark Re-Fund The Police legislation, which provided a 50 percent increase of half a billion dollars more in state aid to local police to provide salary increases, hiring bonuses for state police agencies, and greater funding for de-escalation training, and equipment.

In the Senate, he will lead the fight to Re-Fund our police at the federal level with greater training for law enforcement, more school resource officers, and funding to solve violent crimes, including the VICTIM Act that would provide critical resources to help law enforcement solve the most violent crimes. In addition, he will work to reverse cuts on flexible and highly used programs that police around the nation depend on, like Byrne Grants, that fund overtime for drug investigations, technology upgrades, and necessary equipment.

4. Let Law Enforcement Do Their Jobs

Law enforcement already has a hard enough job, but the federal government makes it even harder by tacking on unreasonable requirements and tying needed funding and tools to their political agendas. Federal resources are too micromanaged by Congress and federal bureaucrats. Congress should provide federal, state and local law enforcement with the funding and flexibility to do their jobs.

5. Hold Prosecutors And Senate Confirmed Nominees Accountable

We’ve seen too many of our US cities suffer crime spikes because rogue prosecutors have failed to do their jobs. Tragically, juvenile crime has been surging in Maryland and Washington, DC, because of the failure to provide real accountability and rehabilitation. As Governor, Larry Hogan fought for and passed the Judicial Transparency Act to provide more transparency for the public to hold judges and prosecutors accountable. In the Senate, Larry Hogan will press for more accountability for those who fail to enforce the law. He will hold Senate confirmed appointees accountable and ensure they will uphold their duty to enforce the law.
6. Stop Reckless DC Policies That Are Hurting Marylanders

Congress has a constitutional responsibility to provide oversight on local legislation passed by the District of Columbia’s City Council. This is critical for Maryland families who border Washington and feel the destructive impact of soft-on-crime policies.

All too often, DC leaders have been promoting and passing legislation that decriminalizes serious crimes and has resulted in a crime wave impacting the District and Maryland suburbs. While crimes like carjacking have increased in the District and Maryland suburbs, the DC Council has tried to pass legislation that would have eliminated sentencing requirements and significantly reduced the penalties for nearly all offenses. This would include even violent crimes such as carjackings, armed robberies, and even homicides. If elected, Larry Hogan will hold these leaders accountable who fail to enforce the law and keep the citizens of the region safe.

7. Dismantle Drug Trafficking Cartels

Fentanyl and other dangerous drugs have caused an unprecedented amount of harm in Maryland and throughout the nation. As Governor, Larry Hogan created the first state-level coordinating agency to tap the resources of the entire state to provide a balanced approach to curbing demand via treatment and prevention while supporting law enforcement to go after volume dealers. In the Senate, Governor Hogan will make sure the federal government is a partner providing the needed resources to work across state and county lines to take these violent organized criminal enterprises apart. The failure to secure the border has become a perfect storm of chaos for criminal cartels that are profiting from a surge in human trafficking, fentanyl, and other drug smuggling. He will work across the aisle to finally secure the border by fixing the asylum process, sending more resources to law enforcement on the border with more Customs and Border Patrol agents, increasing the number of immigration judges, and dismantling the criminal cartel networks.

8. Dignity, Respect, And Resources For Victims Of Crime

Every act of violent crime leaves behind victims and their families, who are all too often re-victimized during the criminal justice process. That’s why Governor Hogan’s administration always prioritized victim’s rights. While Congress reduced funding for key programs that support rape victims and domestic violence, Governor Hogan made up the difference and funded these critical programs. As Senator, Larry Hogan will fight to increase funding for these important programs that victims and their families depend on.
9. Help Those Who Have Served Their Time Re-enter Society

As Governor, Larry Hogan led the nation in enacting the Second Chance Act to help people who had paid their debts successfully re-enter society. He also enacted the landmark Justice Reinvestment Initiative that prioritized prison sentences for violent offenders, and job training and drug rehabilitation programs in prisons. As Senator, Larry Hogan will continue his efforts at the federal level and support important legislation like the federal Second Chance Act to help communities and returning citizens successfully reintegrate into society.

10. Provide Mental Health And Substance Abuse Treatment For Those Who Need It

Governor Hogan dramatically increased treatment in our communities, jails, and prisons. He made sure that returning citizens have access to treatment upon release, ensured access to medication-assisted treatment in Maryland correctional facilities, and funded lifesaving projects. In the Senate, Governor Hogan will build on this critical work to support Maryland’s recovery community and affected families, and make sure those who need mental health and substance abuse treatment have access to these lifesaving resources.