



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

LOCAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

**Community Meeting on
Charter Amendment "Question H" for Local Control of BPD**



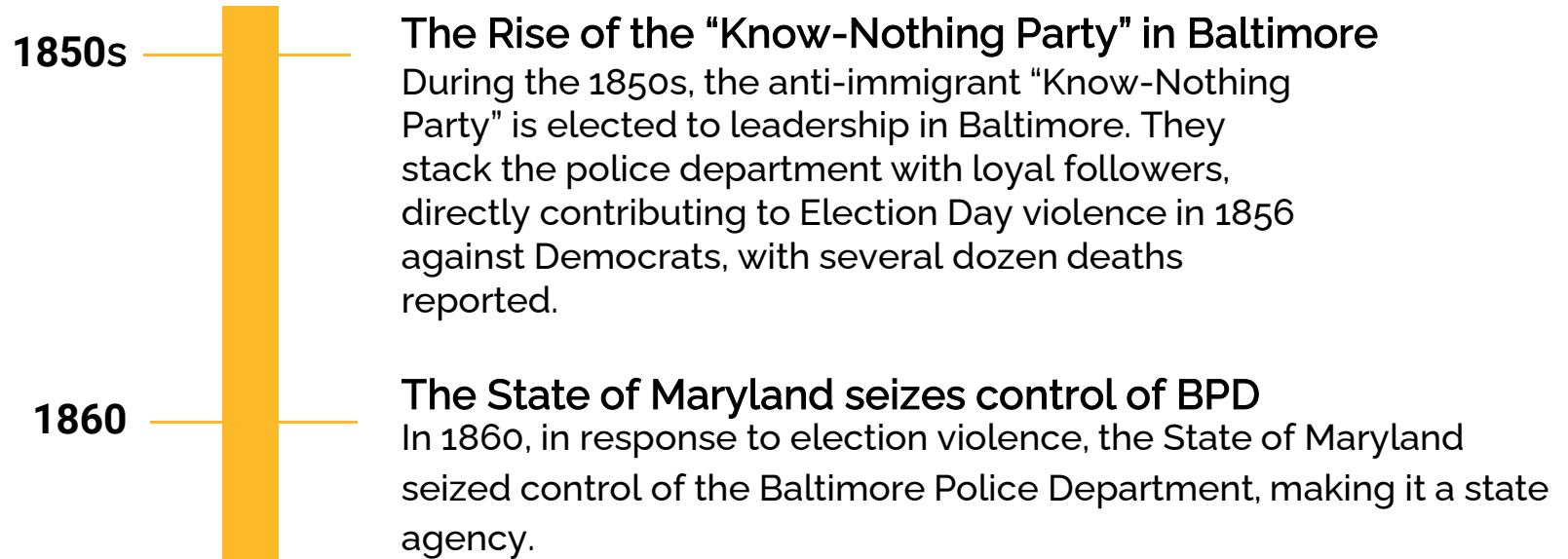
Baltimore is the
only municipality in
Maryland that doesn't
control its own police
department.

As a result...

Unlike other jurisdictions whose local council can make changes, ordinances regulating Baltimore Police Department policy – such as the use of force policies or surveillance technology – can only be implemented by executive action of the Mayor and Police Commissioner or passed by the General Assembly, where elected officials not accountable to Baltimore City residents can alter the legislation.

...Baltimore often goes to the General Assembly for legislation related to BPD.

What Happened?



Where are we now?

1976

Mayor regains the power to appoint the Commissioner
After intense lobbying by Black leaders who were concerned that the Commissioner was unresponsive to Baltimore citizens, the General Assembly returns the Mayor's power to appoint the Commissioner.

2021

The Maryland General Assembly approves local control
Sen. Cory McCray, Del. Melissa Wells, and Mayor Brandon Scott draft and submit legislation to return local control of BPD to Baltimore. The General Assembly passes the referendum with broad support and send the bill back to the voters of Baltimore.

2022

Baltimore citizens weigh in on local control

This November, Baltimore voters will vote whether to approve a Charter Amendment that will return control of BPD to Baltimore City.

How BPD is governed will still be an open question. The Local Control Advisory Board is tasked with getting the community's input and making recommendations for how local control could work in Baltimore after the Charter Amendment is approved by voters.

What can “local legislative oversight” look like?

Police Conduct:

DC City Council passed The First Amendment Rights and Police Standards Act of 2004, which sets “rules of engagement” for police interacting with demonstrators.

Tactics and Use of Force:

Councils in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore County have banned or limited the use of chokeholds. Baltimore County passed legislation limiting the use of no-knock warrants.

Weapons and Technology:

Seattle City Council passed legislation requiring SPD to gain prior authorization from the Council before buying and using any new surveillance technology.

Civilian Oversight:

Councils across Maryland passed legislation to create Police Accountability Boards in accordance with the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021.

Data and Reporting:

Montgomery County Council passed legislation requiring their PD to report data on searches, arrests, citations, stop-and-frisk, and use of force, disaggregated by race, gender, and other factors.

This November,
Baltimore City Voters
will have the
opportunity to
**vote FOR Charter
Amendment
Question "H"**
to make BPD a city
agency instead of a
state agency.

Sample Charter Amendment Ballot

**Question H
Charter Amendment
Baltimore City Police Department**

Resolution No. 02-03 is for the purpose of establishing a Baltimore City Police Department, the head of which is the Police Commissioner.

- For the Charter Amendment
- Against the Charter Amendment

What **DOES** passing Question “H” mean?

Returning Local Control of the Police Department to Baltimore City can happen this November **IF** a majority of voters in Baltimore **vote FOR Question “H.”**

In the future, if it is determined that a change to the model of BPD local governance (legislative oversight) should occur, that will require further legislation. However, **Question “H” must pass first!**

Passing Question “H”

DOES NOT mean...

Returning control of the Baltimore Police Department to Baltimore City does **NOT** violate the Federal Consent Decree.

Local control will **NOT** affect Baltimore’s compliance with the Police Accountability Act of 2021.

Local control will **NOT** change BPD’s budget or cost Baltimore City more money.

WHY is passing Question “H” important?

Passing Question “H” means:

Baltimore Police Department **WILL** be a City Agency.

The City **WILL** be on a path toward local legislative oversight.

Residents **WILL** play an active and engaged role in the future of local control.

The Local Control Advisory Board

(LCAB) is responsible for

gathering community input and

researching models for local

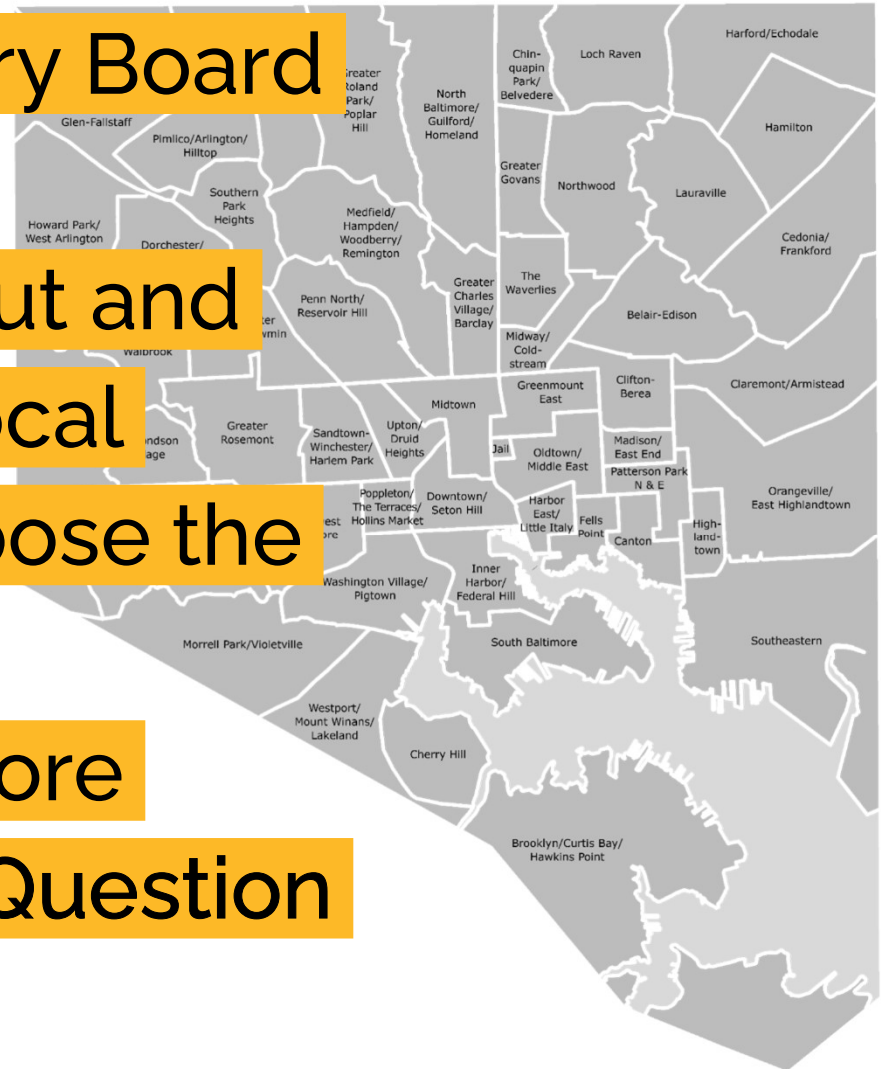
control so that it can propose the

best structure for local

governance of the Baltimore

Police Department once Question

“H” Passes!



Where Can I Learn More?

Join a meeting and follow our progress

The Local Control Advisory Board meets virtually most Fridays at 11:00am, where we hear from guest speakers and learn more about other models of local government. There is also an “Outreach Committee” which meets virtually most Tuesdays.

Visit our website <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/bc/boards/local-control-advisory-board> to learn more about these meetings and to see our discussions so far!

Look out for our Final Report at the end of 2022!

The Local Control Advisory Board released an interim report <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/files/lcab-interim-report-mga-12121pdf> in December 2021 summarizing its work so far.

Let's Hear From You!

What considerations should the Local Control Advisory Board make when spreading the word about Question H?

What questions should we be asking other cities about their police department?

What questions or comments do you have for us?