

# KRISH

FOR MARYLAND



# Campaign Prospectus



# Krish's Story

Krish served in the Obama White House as Policy Director for First Lady Michelle Obama and at the State Department as Senior Advisor under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State John Kerry.

Krish has committed her career to public service because she knows how different life could have turned out. Krish was 9-months old when she and her family escaped a country on the brink of civil war and built a life in Maryland. Her parents came to this country with no jobs and \$200 in their pockets.

The Maryland where Krish grew up gave her parents opportunities to serve as public school teachers in Baltimore City. But Baltimore schools were more than an employer for Krish's parents; they became part of the family, as teachers and principals alike helped new immigrants navigate a new country and become part of a new community as neighbors. Her mother started teaching at Poly High School, while her father, who retired this past spring, taught for over 50 years, including 37 years in Baltimore City public high schools (including Edmondson, Frederick Douglass, Digital Harbor and Western).



Krish's parents emphasized education her entire life. A product of public schools, Krish graduated from Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County and then attended Yale College, where she earned a Master's degree in Political Science and a B.S. in Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She was a Marshall Scholar at Oxford University, where she received an M.Phil. in International Relations, before returning to Yale Law School, where she served on the Yale Law Journal.

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Paid for by Krish for Maryland, Teresa Guzman, Treasurer



Krish's interest in public service and grassroots organizing began at an early age. In elementary school, Krish went knocking door to door with her mother in support of Senator Barbara Mikulski when she won her historic first race for the Senate. In college, Krish worked for another great public servant when she spent her summer back from college working for Senator Paul Sarbanes.

Krish recently finished serving as Policy Director for Michelle Obama and led the First Lady's signature Let Girls Learn initiative. Before the White House, she served as Senior Advisor at the State Department under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State John Kerry. During the Obama Administration, Krish managed and led White House and State Department programs related to entrepreneurship, private sector investment, infrastructure, women's issues, engagement with youth and religious communities, climate change, and budget development and execution.

Before joining the White House, Krish worked at McKinsey & Company, where she consulted for Fortune 100 companies, practiced law at Jenner & Block in Washington, DC, clerked for Chief Judge Michael Boudin on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and taught at Georgetown University as an adjunct. An advocate of women and girls, Krish has spoken widely on this subject, including to young women at Western High School in Baltimore as well as at Hood College where she recently delivered the commencement address at Hood College, which was recognized by BuzzFeed as the #4 Most Inspiring Speech of 2017.

Krish and her husband, Collin O'Mara, got married on the Eastern Shore, along the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Her husband is a conservationist and sportsman who serves as CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. This past June, they welcomed a new baby girl, Alana.



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# Policy Priorities

## What matters most!

### Core vision for Maryland

As Governor, I will focus on what matters most—improving schools, increasing wages, investing in infrastructure, alleviating traffic, reducing crime, treating drug addiction, and protecting our treasured natural resources. To accomplish all this, we need a new generation of leaderships—politics as usual is not enough.

## Education

### Making Maryland public schools the best in the U.S.

Every Maryland child must be afforded every opportunity to succeed from cradle to career. To accomplish this, I will guarantee universal Pre-K, ensure access to quality affordable childcare, rectify statewide K-12 funding inequities, ensure world-class STEM education in every school, and provide free community college.

## Economy

### Creating well-paying private sector jobs

Maryland would have the highest unemployment rate in the nation if it weren't for 300,000 federal jobs. We must grow our private sector by expanding our innovation economy (biotech, cybersecurity, informatics), making it easier to start and grow small businesses, investing in public transit and reducing traffic, and guaranteeing access to high speed internet.

## Environment

### Protecting our treasured resources

Maryland has been called "America in Miniature." Now more than ever we need to safeguard our environment, make Maryland the foremost leader for clean energy in the United States, restore the Chesapeake Bay & Maryland's treasured waterways, and invest in Maryland's outdoor economy.

## Working Families

### Ensuring all Maryland families have a shot at the American Dream

No family should have to choose between putting food on the table and caring for their children. As Governor, I will make Maryland the first state to guarantee three-months of paid family leave, achieve pay equity, and ensure that quality healthcare is affordable for all Marylanders.



# How We Win

## Let's make history!

**65% of Democratic Primary voters will be female and they are excited to elect the first female Governor of Maryland. Democrats have also never elected a woman of color to be Governor, in contrast to Republicans, who have elected Nikki Haley & Susana Martinez.**

While the other candidates in this crowded field are going to be fighting over small regional fractions of the pie, we are going to focus in on the 65% of voters who will be female, the 50% who will be people of color, and the 15% who are immigrants. Her history of delivering results for First Lady Michelle Obama and message of ensuring that all Maryland children have a chance to live the American dream appeals to a larger share of voters than any of our opponents.

## Geographic advantage

**Krish has strong ties to key Maryland regions that will amount to over 67% of the vote share**

Over 67% of likely voters in the democratic primary reside in Montgomery County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Prince George's County. Krish has the strongest ties to the Baltimore area and resides in Montgomery County. Additionally, Montgomery County has the largest share of voters from South Asia - 43%,

## Donald Trump's worst nightmare

**Maryland's Republican governor Larry Hogan and Donald Trump don't want to be running against a candidate like Krish**

When Krish first announced, an article ran that Donald Trump's Worst Nightmare is Running for Governor. Krish is also Larry Hogan's worst nightmare. If Democrats are going to come back into power in 2018, we need candidates that are going to excite large coalitions of voters, especially women, people of color, immigrants, and youth. Krish represents a new generation of leadership in the Democratic Party because she speaks to the core of what all Americans want - a fair shot to achieve the American dream if you work hard and follow the rules. Krish has proven she can unite moderate and progressive Democrats

## Top 10 Gubernatorial Race in 2018

**The Washington Post listed Maryland as 1 of 10 gubernatorial seats in play**

"Any seat Democrats win back is critical for the future of the party. Many of the governors will be able to veto electoral maps drawn by state legislatures with new census data in 2021. And because Republicans also currently control a majority of state legislatures, the governor's mansion may be the only way for Democrats to stop maps that lock them out of power for the next decade." [...] "Anti-Trump sentiment in this liberal state [Maryland] may be too strong for even a politically skilled [Republican] governor like Hogan to overcome."

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# See Krish in Action

Watch the WBAL (NBC-Baltimore) newscast of our campaign launch event - 1:55



Watch Krish's CNN interview where she discusses her plan to reduce sexual harassment and violence - 2:36



Watch Krish's CBS News interview discussing the need to elect more women to office-- particularly in states like Maryland where there are no women elected to statewide or federal office - 5:11



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# National Coverage

**The Washington Post**

August 9, 2017

## Michelle Obama's former policy director enters race for Maryland governor

"No woman holds any of Maryland's four statewide elected executive positions. And since the retirement of longtime U.S. senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D), the state has no women serving in its congressional delegation — a first in 76 years."

**COSMOPOLITAN**

August 17, 2017

## She Ran "Let Girls Learn." Now She's Running for Governor.

"Her campaign for the Democratic nomination is focused on a promise to revitalize the state's economy and education system, as well as making the environment 'the pride and joy for generations to come.' But her campaign is also about being a woman, a mom, and an immigrant in the age of Trump."

**GLAMOUR**

September 7, 2017

## This Obama White House Alum Wants to Be the First Female Governor of Maryland

"Vignarajah worries about the opportunities available to kids today, especially in Maryland, since Governor Hogan, she says, reallocated funds away from the neediest public schools. She herself attended Woodlawn High School in Baltimore, a poorly ranked public school. But government investments in STEM at her school as well as her parents—who were both teachers—helped her make it into Oxford and Yale Law School. She is working on education policies that she says will give more kids that kind of a shot."

**VICE  
IMPACT**

December 5, 2017

## This Candidate for Maryland Governor Wants to Make #MeToo Accountability Into Law.

"But Vignarajah lays out a path forward in the third component of her plan. Through education and prevention, she hopes we can raise a new generation that understands what's unacceptable and what's not."

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# Regional Coverage

THE BALTIMORE SUN

September 19, 2017

## Krishanti Vignarajah, the only woman running for Maryland governor, launches campaign

"Political scientist Todd Eberly said that Democratic primary voters 'are going to be eager to find and elect women,' which creates an opportunity for Vignarajah to stand out from the six men who also are seeking the Democratic nomination."

THE BALTIMORE SUN

November 8, 2017

## Vignarajah to unveil education proposal, including 1% student loans

"Vignarajah, one of the five first-time candidates in the eight-candidate Democratic field, bills her program as one that will 'expand opportunity for Marylanders from Cradle to Career.' 'Maryland's schools were once the envy of the nation,' she said. 'Today they're headed in the wrong direction.'"



September 19, 2017

## Democrats eager to unseat Maryland Republican governor after 1 term

"She is young, dynamic and energetic," said Kurtz, who says Vignarajah could be an 'attractive alternative' to the more established candidates in the race."



September 20, 2017

## Generational, Game-Changing Talent Joins Race to Take on Hogan

"Vignarajah pitched policy proposals across many different focus areas, including the economy, environment and education. Among them: requiring three months of paid leave for new mothers and fathers; universal high-speed internet access; creating 250,000 private sector jobs in four years and easing the process of starting a small business in the state; and embracing infrastructure and new technologies to tackle Maryland's traffic problem, including building the Baltimore Red Line."

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