

Delegate Anne Healey
MARYLAND DISTRICT 22

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement: Delegate Anne Healey Will Not Seek Re-Election in 2026

Annapolis, MD — After much thought, I have decided that I will not seek re-election to the Maryland House of Delegates. I will continue to serve the remainder of my term, bringing to a close nine full terms representing the residents of District 22 and the State of Maryland.

I was first elected in 1990 and entered the Maryland House of Delegates in January 1991 after three years on the Hyattsville City Council. Before entering politics, I worked as a journalist—an experience that shaped how I listen, how I ask questions, and how I approach public policy. I learned the importance of paying attention to people’s stories and understanding how the decisions made in Annapolis affect real lives.

“Over my 35 years in the legislature, I have seen our community grow more diverse, and I am proud to support policies that reflect and respect that diversity. Bringing people together across differences has been among the most meaningful parts of my work, and it has been an honor to serve this community.”

Throughout my tenure, I have been honored to hold numerous leadership positions, including Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee from 1997 to 2006, Chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) from 2007 to 2013, and President of the Women Legislators of Maryland in 2022. I currently serve as Chair of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

My work in the General Assembly consistently focuses on opportunity and dignity for all. I am a strong advocate for working people—supporting increases to the minimum wage, enacting paid sick leave, and standing with state employees, tradespeople, union members, and low-income workers.

A defining feature of my career has been my steadfast support for organized labor. I have championed the right to join a union and bargain collectively, expanded collective bargaining eligibility for public employees, support the use of union labor on state projects, and the advanced workplace safety legislation such as the “Move Over” law to protect state highway workers.

This commitment is deeply personal to me. I come from a multigenerational union family: my mother was a member of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), my father president of Branch 162

of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) in Pittston, PA., my father-in-law was president of the Lehigh Valley Musicians Union (American Federation of Musicians Local 45), and my husband was also a member of that musicians' local. My daughter is a former employee of AFSCME Council 3, and my son is currently a member of IBEW Local 26.

My husband and I are both natives of Pennsylvania and are descendants of coal miners—my grandfather became a breaker boy at age eight, when his dad was killed in a coal mine cave-in. We know the importance of organized labor. My belief in fair wages, benefits, and safe working conditions is rooted in that lived experience. When it comes to organized labor- I have had their back, and they have had mine.

During my tenure, I have also cast historic votes that reshaped Maryland law, including repealing the death penalty and legalizing civil marriage equality. These moments reflect my long-standing commitment to civil rights, human dignity, and justice.

I am a steadfast advocate for those most vulnerable advocating for those who are most vulnerable, including people with disabilities and their families, senior citizens, immigrants, and individuals who have interacted with the legal system. This work includes addressing waitlists for disability services, investments in transportation safety and accessibility, restoring voting rights, promoting second chances, and protecting civil rights. I advocate for low-income families to have access to health care, support services, and economic opportunities.

My legislative agenda consistently emphasizes equitable investment in public education, including the construction and modernization of schools throughout Prince George's County. These efforts resulted in more than a dozen new schools serving students in District 22. I worked to ensure that major state education funding formulas (Thornton and Kirwan Commissions) benefited Prince George's County by prioritizing children in vulnerable communities, students with special needs, and English language learners.

I also champion access to quality health care, including mental health and behavioral health services—regardless of income or immigration status. Among my most notable legislative achievements was serving as the primary sponsor of the Fair Share Health Care Act, landmark legislation that sought to hold large employers accountable for contributing to employee health coverage. While the law was ultimately struck down by the courts, it had a lasting impact: employers began to change their behavior, and a key provision was later replicated in the Affordable Care Act. Large employers began to change their behavior, and a key provision of the legislation was later replicated in the Affordable Care Act.

Over the past 35 years, I have had the privilege of helping shape the transformation of Prince George's County. When I was first elected, much of the economic development that now defines the county did not yet exist. Through sustained advocacy and collaboration, we have seen growth and revitalization across the county, including the Route 1 Arts District and National Harbor—projects that have reshaped the county's economic landscape and created new opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

Environmental protection has also been a priority throughout my career. I was proud to be the lead sponsor of the Pollinator Protection Act and to support policies that safeguard the Chesapeake Bay, protect our forests and trees, and reduce pollution in our communities.

In 2020, while undergoing treatment for breast cancer, I chose to speak publicly about my diagnosis to encourage people not to delay preventive care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Early detection made a critical difference for me, and I believed then, and continue to believe now, that taking care of our health cannot wait, even during uncertain times.

That commitment to health and service did not begin with my own diagnosis but grew out of earlier personal experiences that underscored the importance of prevention, community support, and action. Moved by a family member's health crisis, and with the encouragement and support of my colleagues, I began sponsoring an annual blood drive in Annapolis during the legislative session. What started as a personal response to a moment of need has become a yearly effort embraced by legislators, staff, and the public to support patients across Maryland and give back in a tangible way.

As I prepare for my final year in office, I am confident that District 22 remains in strong hands. I fully support our current delegation—Senator Alonzo Washington and Delegates Nicole Williams and Ashanti Martinez—who continue to advocate for the district's priorities. I also recognize and appreciate the contributions of former members of the delegation, including former Senators Thomas Patrick O'Reilly and Paul Pinsky, and Delegates Richard Palumbo, Tawanna Gaines, Rushern Baker, and Justin Ross, all of whom helped establish a strong tradition of teamwork and effective representation.

I also take immense pride in the evolution of the Maryland House of Delegates. I was honored to support the historic election of Delegate Adrienne Jones as the first woman and first African American Speaker of the House. Today, I am honored to serve under the leadership of my close friend and supporter, Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk, the first Afro-Latina and first immigrant to hold the position. Together, their leadership reflects a General Assembly—and a Maryland—that is more inclusive, experienced, and representative of the people it serves.

I am deeply grateful to my mentors, including former Delegates Timothy Maloney, Charles "Buzz" Ryan (deceased), and Sheila Hixson (deceased) and the late presiding officers she served with, including Speakers Clayton Mitchell, Casper Taylor, and Mike Busch, and Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.

Above all, I am grateful to my family, whose love and support have made my public service possible. My son, Robert, a graduate of Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, is an electrician with IBEW Local 26. He and his family, Hana Scibetta and their son, TJ, bring new joy and perspective as I look ahead. My daughter, Teresa Healey-Conway, a graduate of Salisbury University and a resident of Annapolis, was inspired to pursue a career in advocacy and now works to advance the interests of physicians and patients in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Howard Counties, continuing a family commitment to service in a new way.

Finally, I reserve my deepest thanks for my husband of 47 years, Neal Conway. Neal's life is also a life of service. After a career as a percussionist in the President's Own United States Marine Band, Neal became executive director of Community Legal Services of Prince George's County and continues his service as a deacon at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Hyattsville. His unwavering support has made my public service possible.

Serving the people of District 22 has been the honor of my life. I am grateful for the trust placed in me, proud of the work we have accomplished together, and confident in the future of our district, the Maryland House of Delegates, and the State of Maryland.