

J. JOSEPH CURRAN

Lieutenant Governor of Maryland



J. Joseph Curran, Maryland's third Lieutenant Governor since the office was reestablished in 1970, brings more than twenty-four years of legislative experience to the State's second highest elected office.

Lieutenant Governor Curran began his career in public service in 1958, when he won election to the House of Delegates. Although it was his first entry into the political field and he was still a law student at the time, Mr. Curran received the largest number of votes cast for a House of Delegates candidate in Baltimore City. His election continued a long family tradition of public service. His father, the late J. Joseph Curran, Sr., served twenty years on the Baltimore City Council. A brother, Martin (Mike) Curran, was named to the Council vacancy created by the father's death in 1977 and has twice been elected to that post. During his term in the House of Delegates, young Joseph Curran served on the Education Committee.

In 1962 he was elected to the State Senate, where he quickly gained a reputation as a leader on educational and judicial issues. He served on the Judicial Proceedings Committee and was elected chairman in 1967, a position he held for sixteen years.

During Mr. Curran's tenure in the General Assembly, he sponsored or was the leading spokesman for a number of significant bills. In addition to working for the creation of the Court of Special Appeals and the District Court system, he consistently sought to improve the operation of the courts and the correctional system. He supported tougher drug laws and sponsored the bill outlawing drug paraphernalia. Mr. Curran consistently supported tougher drunk driving laws and sponsored the handgun permit law. An advocate of equal rights, Mr. Curran sponsored legislation to modernize Maryland's divorce and alimony laws as well as reforms for adoption and guardianship laws. He sponsored the law to protect victims of domestic violence. The Maryland Higher Education Loan Program, which Mr. Curran first sponsored as a member of the House, was passed under his leadership while he was a member of the State Senate.

As Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Curran serves as legislative liaison for Administration bills. Appointed by Governor Hughes, he chairs the Task Force on the Drinking Driver, the Task Force to Review the Defense of Insanity, the Committee to Study Flexibility for Higher Education, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the Task Force on Victims' Services. Consistent with his