



Request for Proposals

Maryland State Policy Consultant

Chesapeake Conservancy seeks an experienced Maryland policy consultant on an hourly engagement to advise and support the organization in advancing its policy priorities during the 2027 Maryland General Assembly's regular legislative session.

About Chesapeake Conservancy and Maryland Policy

Chesapeake Conservancy is the only watershed-wide organization focused on both land conservation and stream restoration to achieve a healthier Chesapeake Bay. We're creating, using and sharing the latest groundbreaking data and technology, including artificial intelligence, to determine where to focus conservation efforts to have the greatest impact with the most efficient use of resources.

Chesapeake Conservancy has a long history of actively supporting policy and advocacy at all levels of government in order to most effectively meet the organization's mission. Over the past few years, within Maryland state policy, Chesapeake Conservancy has led vital initiatives including helping create the Maryland Greenspace Equity Program, helping develop and pass the Maryland the Beautiful legislation (which includes a state 30X30 goal) and protecting vital land conservation funding.

Our Vision

We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure that should be healthy, accessible to everyone and its watershed a place where people and wildlife thrive.

Our Mission

To conserve and restore the natural and cultural resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. We serve as a catalyst for change, advancing strong public and private partnerships, developing and using new technology and empowering environmental stewardship.

Desired Services and Deliverables

1. Work closely with the Chesapeake Conservancy Senior Vice President of Policy and Communications and the CEO to shape and execute Chesapeake Conservancy's Maryland policy agenda.
2. Stay abreast of Maryland policy developments and keep Chesapeake Conservancy informed of situations or actions that could impact the organization or its mission.
3. Provide, as requested, policy briefs and other succinct informational briefs to inform Chesapeake Conservancy leadership on the backgrounds of various issues, elected officials, appointed officials, coalitions and more. Facilitate and schedule meetings with elected officials, appointed officials or legislative staff as needed and provide background and briefing materials for such meetings.
4. Represent the Chesapeake Conservancy in coalitions and collaboratives as needed or requested and help build and maintain strategic relationships with partners.
5. Review all bills introduced in the Maryland General Assembly's 2027 Regular Legislative Session for their applicability to the Chesapeake Conservancy mission and work with team members to track legislative activities.
6. Develop and routinely update a hyperlinked state bill tracking document that can be shared with Chesapeake Conservancy staff, board members, team members or partners.
7. Draft written and verbal testimony for Chesapeake Conservancy on bills of particular interest. Represent Chesapeake Conservancy for verbal testimony if leadership is not available.
8. Help Chesapeake Conservancy develop and advance an annual Maryland policy agenda, identify emerging policy opportunities and threats, and develop strategies to advance priorities that may include: ensuring full funding of Program Open Space/transfer tax conservation funding; helping secure conservation mitigation funds; and helping protect other state environmental budget line items as needed.
9. Help Chesapeake Conservancy be prepared to respond to other Maryland-based actions that affect Chesapeake Conservancy's mission.
10. Write a post-legislative session report that advises on interim activities and prepares for the 2028 Maryland General Assembly's regular legislative session.

Desired Qualifications

- Demonstrated experience working with the Maryland General Assembly and Maryland state agencies.
- Strong understanding of Maryland environmental, conservation, land-use and/or natural resources policy.
- Established relationships with Maryland legislators, legislative staff, state agencies and relevant advocacy coalitions.
- Experience developing legislative strategies, monitoring legislation and providing testimony.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with Chesapeake Conservancy staff and leadership.

Response Requested

If you are interested in being considered for this work, please submit a brief statement of your qualifications, your approach to policy and advocacy, and two references **by 5 pm on November 2, 2026**. Please include your proposed hourly engagement fee structure and anticipated expenses.

Proposals should be submitted via email to Chesapeake Conservancy Senior Vice President of Policy and Communications Jody Couser, at jcouser@chesapeakeconservancy.org.