

Our Revolution Maryland (OR-MD), Baltimore City Candidates Questionnaire

1. Please state the position you are running for. How does your experience, along with your life experiences, qualify you for the position?

I am running to represent the 43rd District in the Maryland State Senate. After serving seven years as State Delegate for the 43rd District, I feel my experience and talents are more valuable to my constituents as their State Senator. I have always been called to public service. I began my career as a teacher. Engaging students in the learning process was very rewarding. I moved to Baltimore to get my PhD in Sociology, but my passion is being engaged in my community to get things done. Long before running for the House of Delegates, I worked on the neighborhood and City level to address quality of life issues such as neighborhood parks, sustainable development and green jobs. I was president of my community association and a founding member of the Baltimore City Commission on Sustainability. I am an experienced lawmaker and community advocate. As a Delegate, I have worked with my colleagues the same way I work with my community, as partners working together to solve the pressing issues our State and district face. Currently, I serve on the Ways & Means Committee and am the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness. I am also a member of the Joint Committee on Children Youth and Families, the Regional Revitalization Task Force, and the Tax Credit Evaluation Committee. I was the Deputy Majority Whip in 2015-16 and sponsored and served on the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Task Force in 2013-14. I am a member of Women Legislators of Maryland and the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and an Associate Member of the Latino Legislative Caucus.

2. What will be the principles or values that guide your public service?

I am guided by the core values of community agency, transparency and partnership. I am dedicated to progressive and equitable change that serves to empower the people of the 43rd District and Baltimore City. I make a concerted effort to bring people together to work on issues to build a better Baltimore City. I believe that communities should have a seat at the table when solutions are debated. There is no room for back-door deals in a democracy.

CIVIL RIGHTS

3. Do you support the Trust Act? (Legislation that prevents a State/local Government Agent from using public resources for civil immigration enforcement; prevents law enforcement officials from stopping, arresting or detaining an individual simply to find out immigration or citizenship status; prevents the State from creating a registry for the purpose of immigration enforcement, and prevents state law enforcement officers from being deputized as immigration officers)

a. Yes

b. No

Explanation:

<p>Yes. I was a vocal and strong supporter of the Maryland Trust Act during the 2017 session and will strongly support it in the future. This legislation would have protected Maryland's 911,582 foreign-born residents, who comprise over 15 percent of our state's population, and protected the</p>
--

safety, educational opportunities, and well-being of their families. The bill would have protected immigrants from being stopped, arrested, searched, or detained solely to investigate an immigration violation. The House passed this legislation, but unfortunately the Senate did not. This is all the more reason to elect champions for comprehensive immigration reform to Maryland State Senate, and I have been and would continue to be such a champion.

4. Do you support Gov. Hogan's executive order to bar state business with companies that boycott Israel, that is, his order opposing BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions)?

No. Conducting a boycott is a fair and valid form of political expression. The state's ban on doing business with companies participating in the boycott of Israel is an unfair restriction of political expression.

5. Are you in favor of Baltimore's sanctuary city status?

Yes, until this nation fixes our broken immigration system, we have to have some refuge for those seeking a better life - particularly if they are escaping violence, extreme poverty, or war. Across the city, immigrants are helping to repopulate and revitalize some of our struggling communities -- and we need to do more to prompt new Americans to come to our city and build their lives (and our neighborhoods) here. Making Baltimore a sanctuary city sends a strong message of welcoming and acceptance.

6. How would you advance racial justice and social equality in Baltimore City?

The city's long history of segregation and racial discrimination leaves deep scars on our neighborhoods and on communities of color in Baltimore. We need to act strongly to reverse that legacy on a number of fronts including criminal justice, transportation, education, and housing/community development.

Policing and criminal justice: We must implement the consent decree with the Department of Justice that seeks to eliminate the racist and abusive practices of the Baltimore police that have for decades damaged African-Americans in Baltimore and undermined public faith and trust in the city police. We must dramatically reform the cash-bail system that has left too many African-Americans languishing in jail because they can't afford to make bail and a criminal justice system that puts too many in prison for too long, often for minor or non-violent offenses.

Transportation: Job opportunities exist in the city's core, but the families who live east and west of the city center have few transportation options to access those jobs. Baltimore's poor public transportation system makes it more difficult than it should be for many African-Americans in city neighborhoods to get where they need to go. We need to build the Red Line and take other steps to improve east-west transit mobility and greatly improve bus service and public transportation options.

Education: The city public schools most African-American families rely on are under-funded and don't do enough to meet the needs of our children and our city communities. I support implementing a community schools strategy that will do more to meet the challenges of children in high-poverty, high-needs communities and make our public schools a real resource for those

neighborhoods. I support the development of a new funding formula that makes sure city schools really do have the resources to give all our children the education they need to build a brighter, more positive future.

Housing and Community Development: Segregation and red-lining had a huge impact in determining what parts of Baltimore flourished and which areas have struggled. Many of the communities excluded by those practices continue to suffer from disinvestment and decay even as they are the homes to many of our city's people of color. Yet the city's investments in renewal -- including the TIFs and PILOTs the city has used to spur new commercial development over the last decade -- have too often focused on the waterfront and downtown areas while excluding the neighborhoods with the greatest needs. I support adopting strategies like the 20/20 Housing Vision (see more below) that mandate very significant investments in new housing and other amenities in those distressed communities. They can have a real impact in improving the communities where most of Baltimore's African-Americans live. We need to make these communities whole again.

EDUCATION

7. Baltimore city has a persistent problem of budget shortfalls (i.e., lack of needed funding) for its public schools. How do you propose to address this?

Funding public schools requires a multipronged solution. First and foremost, we must adopt a fuller and fairer funding formula. Locally, school funding comes largely from local property tax revenues. This of course disproportionately hurts African-American, Latino, and other ethnic-minority families who cluster in economically disadvantaged communities and the state funding that comes through for the schools many of their families rely on is simply not adequate.

One solution I support is to make more cost-effective education investments. For example, early childhood education is one of the highest-yielding investments we can make in a child's development. Enrolling more low-income children in pre-kindergarten programs is one way to achieve more results from our education dollars. Another solution I advocated for is to move toward fuller funding of the community schools model. A study of the Children's Aid Society community schools found every \$1 spent on community schools generates \$10-15 in value to society. When Cincinnati, Ohio, converted to community schools, the graduation rate rose from 51% to 82% and the racial achievement gap dropped enormously.

Lastly, we should implement a range of revenue sources and ways to control costs for our investments in our children, including using our cigarette tax to fund public schools and conducting an audit to uncover waste or misuse of textbook funding and capital in support of non-public education.

8. Do you support legislation providing free tuition at community colleges, vocational and trade schools and will you commit to using new tax revenue from those sectors better able to afford it?

a. Yes

b. No

Explanation:

Yes, I certainly support moving to cut tuition fees, and exploring the possibility of making at least some of our public higher education institutions tuition-free. While it may not be fiscally feasible to do that across our whole University System in the near future, we should begin by eliminating tuition fees for community colleges and two-year programs.

9. There is a deeply concerning persistent achievement gap in Maryland public schools that affects a large number of students in economically disadvantaged communities and minority communities. What will you do to help close that gap?

The achievement gap is real and we need to act immediately to address it. It's a complex issue but as stated above, I would emphasize two reforms: Implementing a community schools strategy and developing a new state funding formula that will more adequately support schools in high poverty and high-needs areas.

Community Schools: During my second term in the House of Delegates, as a member of the Ways & Means education subcommittee, I sponsored legislation that expanded the community schools strategy in Maryland and secured funding for this innovative and successful approach to the challenges that high-poverty and under-resourced systems face.

By making the school the hub of the neighborhood and combining top-quality academics with on-site health and social services, a community school can be a place where parents work with the school staff to strengthen the entire community and ensure children are physically, emotionally, and socially prepared to learn. Instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all curriculum, community schools take input from students, parents, and community members and implement some of their concerns to provide enriching and necessary classes and services for youth that are tailored to meet the specific needs of that community. Community schools also equip parents with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead not only our families but our urban communities.

Funding Formula: Budget cuts have created huge problems for most public schools in recent years. A 2016 study found Maryland public schools are annually underfunded by \$2.9 billion. That's an average of \$2 million in underfunding in each and every school in Maryland.

I support funding education and fully implementing Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI). Additionally, I will only support a funding formula that fixes the problem of the phantom wealth created by Tax Incremental Financings (TIFs). If wealth is to be used as a measure, "real" wealth, or personal wealth, must be considered. The Kirwan Commission will deliver its final recommendations in mid-2018 and the General Assembly will consider those recommendations, along with a new funding formula, during the 2019 legislative session. We should implement a new funding formula with a poverty index that must go beyond free and reduced meals to also include measures like homelessness, vacancy rates and persons on public federal assistance. I will be at the forefront of fighting for a significant increase in the resources and opportunities available to every student in Maryland.

However, this session, I am sponsoring legislation (HB 557) that will help the state make a down payment on filling our nearly \$3 billion "adequacy gap." In December I became the first Baltimore legislator to announce legislation to make sure gambling revenues actually boost funding for our

public schools, as Maryland voters were promised when they approved casinos and gaming in our state. This legislation could make another \$500 million available to our public schools.

As a State Senator, I will seek rapid implementation of funding reforms that will bring about more fair and equitable funding, especially for schools in high-need, high-poverty areas and ensure we can pay teachers like the high-level professionals they are. I will also continue to champion a community schools strategy so these schools will serve as resources not just for our children but for all the residents of our distressed communities. I will make sure gaming revenue really are used -- as Marylanders were promised they would be -- to give all our kids access to outstanding schools.

10. How would you improve Baltimore public schools?

We need to take many steps to strengthen city schools. I support three reforms: More adequate funding from both the city and the state; implementing the community schools model more fully; paying and treating city teachers and school staff like the professionals they are.

More adequate funding from the city and the state: Flat or declining state aid, a funding formula that penalizes public schools for rising city property wealth, and students with greater needs than their peers in most other jurisdictions have put the city schools in a very difficult financial situation. At the same time, for many years, the financially-strapped city government has spent much more on policing than on public education and has contributed a much smaller proportion of funding to local schools than the local governments of other Maryland jurisdictions do. The city needs to step up and make a stronger financial contribution to its schools as the state implements a fairer and more equitable funding formula. Our schools need more adequate resources to meet the exacting and extensive need of city children.

Community schools model: By making the school the hub of neighborhood and combining top-quality academics with on-site health and social services, a community school can be a place where parents work with the school staff to strengthen the entire community and ensure children are physically, emotionally, and socially prepared to learn. Instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all curriculum, community schools take input from students, parents, and community members and implement some of their concerns to provide enriching and necessary classes and services for the youth that are tailored to meet the specific needs of that community. Moving to implement this model in many more of our city schools can make our public schools be better resources both for our children and for our communities.

Fair pay for school staff: Our teachers need and deserve to be paid like the highly-educated professionals they are. Our children rely on their expertise; if we expect them to function at a high level we need to pay and train them in a way that makes that possible and brings talented instructors into our schools.

HEALTH CARE

11. Do you support a Maryland single-payer universal health care system, in absence of a national plan, to establish a single standard of quality, therapeutic care to all residents in the state? What do you see as the

greatest obstacles to enacting single-payer health-care legislation in Maryland? If you favor such a plan, what can you do to overcome those obstacles?

a. Yes

b. No

Explanation:

Yes. A single-payer system in Maryland would ensure everyone has access to health care throughout their life regardless of previous health status. One of the obstacles is the price of such a system. Single-payer overtime will pay for itself as it saves money by decreasing administrative costs, eliminating unnecessary expenses like large salaries and dividends. Additionally, it would enable negotiations for pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and hospital rates.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

12. What is your position on the bail reform imposed by the Maryland Court of Appeals? Do you support eliminating money bail, or other reform to prevent having anyone spend time in jail solely because of inability to pay bail?

a. Yes

b. No

Explanation:

Yes, I strongly oppose the cash-based bail system, and strongly opposed the high-profile efforts of some legislators to restore the broad use of money-based bail during the 2017 legislative session. Cash-based bail has left thousands of Marylanders stuck in jail for weeks or months while they await trial -- often on rather minor charges -- not because their alleged crimes pose a terrible risk to public safety but simply because they can't raise the money (even if it's just a few hundred dollars) to pay the bail they need to get out of jail, rejoin their families and keep doing their jobs as they await adjudication. In effect, they're forced to stay in jail because they're poor. That system enriches private bail bondsmen and some attorneys at the expense of Maryland's poor.

I was very pleased when Maryland's highest court changed the state's rules in Feb. 2017 to mandate bail be set only under the "least onerous conditions" so Marylanders don't end up languishing in jail because they're too poor to make bail. With the Black Caucus and other legislators, I worked hard to defeat efforts backed by the bail bond industry and other special interests to reinstate broader use of cash bail -- and was very pleased to see those efforts collapse (at least for the time being) last April. I will continue to support efforts to permanently eliminate cash bail in Maryland and move toward a fairer and more rational system of risk-based pretrial detention, in the rare case where pre-trial detention may actually be necessary to protect public safety.

13. What actions should be taken to address police violence and the constitutional rights violations of the Baltimore Police Department in the recent Department of Justice report?

Creating civilian review boards to handle officers accused of violence and misconduct can go a long way to empowering communities and ensuring only the best officers are on the streets. Officers should be trained regularly in meaningful cultural sensitivity classes, community policing

techniques, and de-escalation tactics. We need to make very sure the city implements the reforms mandated in the consent decree the city signed with the Department of Justice.

14. How will you de-escalate the recent surge in violence in Baltimore?

We must be committed to ending gun violence in our city. We need to reduce the number of illegal weapons on our streets and prevalence of drug-related crimes. In the short-term, we need to demand better performance and more accountability from the city police. We also must do more to fund and support violence-interruption initiatives like the Safe Streets program and Baltimore CeaseFire. That's why I'm working with other advocates to support CeaseFire and co-sponsoring legislation in Annapolis that would require the governor to add \$3.6 million in annual funding to the Safe Streets programs in Baltimore.

In the longer term, the only real solution to the violence is to make the kind of investments in our youth and our community that will build a stronger, more prosperous, safer society. By making sure our schools have the resources to provide all our kids a first-rate education, having an adequate supply of decent, safe and affordable housing, and providing other critical supports to at-risk children, we will enable them to build brighter, more prosperous, less violent futures for themselves and for our city. Families struggling with food insecurity and lack of employment will resort to crime to support themselves. We must have a living wage and job creation.

ENVIRONMENT

15. How would you help move Maryland to a 50% clean energy economy by 2030?

California has set a goal of 50% clean energy by 2030 (and New York state has as well) -- and leading energy officials there expect to easily surpass that goal by producing as much as 70 percent of the state's energy from renewable sources by the end of the next decade. While we're behind California at this point, Maryland can surely step up to meet a 50 percent clean energy goal. Indeed increasing our renewable energy standards is itself a powerful force pushing utilities and other important interests to boost their investment in clean energy; experts estimate 50 percent of increased renewable energy use since 2000 has come in response to raising RPS standards. That means we can take advantage of a virtuous cycle -- in which mandating clean energy prompts the very investments in wind, solar, and other renewable energy that enable us to meet that goal. To make this work, we also need to invest in a modern, smart electric grid and much better energy storage systems that will enable us to better store wind and solar energy -- so it can continue to power our grid when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing.

Investments like this will produce not only clean energy but good jobs and Maryland expertise in producing the energy of the future. Maryland's fast-growing solar industry already employs more than 5,000 people, and a 50 percent RPS standard is likely to add 20,000 new jobs to the industry by 2030.

16. How would you help move Baltimore to a 100% clean energy economy by 2035?

Here again, establishing the goal of 100 percent clean energy will help drive the investments in wind, solar and other renewables that can make this happen. Those investments will scale-up

renewable-energy production and drive down the cost. These goals can also be a force for job creation for Baltimore City residents.

17. The city of Baltimore and surrounding communities face great environmental challenges, from aging sewer systems and subsequent runoff into the Chesapeake Bay, to superfund sites like the 68th Street Dump and lead paint in homes. What are some of your ideas for addressing the unique environmental challenges in our city and state?

Protecting the environment is one of my core commitments, and these are some of the principles that drive the work I do on these issues:

- **Ensuring our efforts to protect and advocate the environment are rooted in a deep understanding of racial, social and environmental justice.**
- **Preserving and enhancing our State Parks and Urban Forests**
- **Supporting Green Job Training and Environmental Education programs to prepare the next generation of environmental advocates and natural resource management and protection professionals.**
- **Defending our existing environmental laws from extreme attacks at the state and federal level.**
- **Working to pass strong, practical solutions to address climate change and build a clean energy future at the local level.**

Key environmental issues I will focus on as a state senator include:

Water Quality, Quantity and Affordability

Providing safe drinking water is a basic responsibility of the government in order to protect the public health of its citizens. Effective environmental policies place a priority on protecting source water by paying careful attention to land use around the watersheds used for drinking water supplies. We must establish statewide incentives for local governments to protect source water as we work to see to it water is affordable for all Maryland families.

Environmental Enforcement and Access to Courts

Today the MDE can only adequately monitor and inspect a small percentage of agricultural producers because it lacks the funds and staff to enforce those rules. I will work to provide funds and resources for the MDE to enforce current environmental laws. As we watch in horror as the Trump administration guts the EPA's ability to enforce federal laws meant to protect the safety of our air and our water, it is more important than ever that Maryland's environmental regulators have the resources they need to enforce our state laws. I will also work to enable citizen-advocates to do more to enforce our environmental laws by authorizing citizen suit provisions in state environmental laws.

Climate Change and Protecting our Shorelines:

Maryland's huge stretches of low-lying coastline make the state particularly vulnerable to rising seas and other climate change threats, with the most vulnerable Marylanders living in waterfront

communities on the shore that economic change and the decline of the state's fishing industries have left economically troubled as well as environmentally threatened.

To limit the damage, we need to make a special effort to maintain and expand the coastal wetlands, forests and beaches that provide a barrier to coastal erosion. In some cases, we will also need to make resources available to help relocate members of threatened communities.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

18. Do you support raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour?

a. Yes

b. No

Explanation:

Yes, I strongly support a \$15 minimum wage. I would vote for a bill to mandate one in Maryland and to override a veto of such a bill. In the absence of such action from the state, local jurisdictions have the right and Montgomery County passed a \$15 wage. I encourage efforts by other jurisdictions to move toward a real living wage, like Baltimore City. I actively opposed the bill before the legislature in 2017 that would have prohibited local governments from raising the minimum wage above the minimum set by the state (HB 317). I was clear to leadership that, should this bill make it to the floor, not only would I vote against it, but I and other progressive members of the House would fight it on the floor.

I also favor indexing the \$15 minimum wage to inflation. One of the reasons low-wage workers have been struggling more than usual over the last decade is that the minimum wage nationally (and even in most states that have established their own minimum wage rates) has lost value in real terms because it has not been linked to inflation. Indexing the rate to inflation would make sure the nominal minimum wage maintains a real value that will, going forward, represent something like a living wage for working people, even if the legislature isn't willing to act to make sure that happens.

19. What is your position on unionization?

As a long-time union supporter and member of SEIU 500, I know each worker has the right to be part of an organization of their choosing to seek redress of grievances and fair compensation in the workplace. Every working person in the State of Maryland has the right to fair wages, safe working conditions and to be free from sexual and gender harassment and bias based on race, color, creed or sexual orientation in their place of employment – and to organize a union to help protect those rights.

The decline of private-sector unions over the last 30 years is an important part of the reason why real wages for working people have been stagnant or declining and why right-wing control over national policy has been growing. To reverse those destructive trends, we need to rebuild our unions and enable more working people to organize to protect their own interests.

20. Municipal water and sewage rates have more than tripled for Baltimore residents since 2000 and continue to rise in the face of huge costs for infrastructure updates and repairs. Do you support legislation

to cap water and sewage rates for low-income households in the Baltimore area, based on their ability to pay?

Yes, I certainly do. Water is a human right. In fact, for years I have worked hard to lead the fight to make sure that every Maryland family has access to affordable water -- and that no one loses their home or their church because of a tax sale prompted by overdue water bills.

No family should have to choose between paying rent or buying medicine and paying their water bill. While the city clearly needs to invest in upgrading its aging water and sewer system, we also need to protect low- and moderate-income families against the cost of rising water bills. That's why I have repeatedly sponsored legislation to cap an economically disadvantaged household's water bills at a reasonable and affordable percentage of their income. That approach not only makes water more affordable for families in need but saves our municipal water systems the money they would otherwise waste trying to collect much larger water bills from families that simply don't have the resources to pay them.

Philadelphia and other municipalities are using this kind of system to make water more affordable and water billing more efficient. Maryland needs to do so as well.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

21. Will you support legislation for Small Donor Matched Public Financing of elections?

- a. Yes**
- b. No**

Explanation:

Yes, I would strongly support a system of at least partial public financing and small-donor matches for elections in Maryland. I see this as a way to amplify the voices of small donors as we make our government work better and open public service up to many more people.

The current system also makes it very difficult for people without extensive financial assets and people from poorer communities to run for office -- as they often have to struggle to raise the resources they need to mount a viable campaign. Public financing and small-dollar matches would help level the playing field and give more people from poorer communities and women and people of color the chance to run effective campaigns.

22. Will you make a pledge to run without corporate and developer money in your campaign?

Of the 689 contributions my campaign received in the last nine months, almost all of them (675) came from individuals (98%) and 320 were at \$50 and below. We will continue to make principled decisions about the way we fund our campaign.

23. Will you support the legislation by Wolf-PAC/GMOM (Get Money Out of Maryland) to call for an Article V convention to get money out of politics?

While I admire the work of Get Money Out of Maryland to limit the impact of big money on our politics, I do not support their call for a Constitutional convention. Such a convention opens up troubling possibilities of re-writing our basic political arrangement in ways that very well could threaten some of the core democratic values protected by the Constitution -- including the clear separation of church and state and the insistence on the equal protection of the laws for all. I think there are things we can do now to limit the impact of money and politics. To make that happen, I favor moving toward public funding of elections, working to overturn the disastrous Citizens United decision through court action or perhaps by Constitutional amendment, doing more to limit abusive lobbying practices and spending, and taking strong steps to improve the transparency of legislative deliberations.

HOUSING

24. Do you support the 20/20 Vision for Baltimore City (See: http://www.unitedworkers.org/20_20)?

Yes, I do support the 20/20 housing vision that the Baltimore Housing Roundtable, United Workers and other housing and civil rights groups are advocating. The city's efforts to expand affordable housing have yielded very few added housing units and work to deconstruct vacant properties and replace the blight in many of our city neighborhoods with green spaces and other new amenities are long overdue. Mandating that the city put \$20 million in capital investment into affordable housing and another \$20 million into rebuilding troubled communities is a great way to re-direct public support for development into projects that will help the communities that most need public support and help make affordable housing much more widely available.

25. (Rent Court Reform) The Baltimore Sun recently affirmed that "The rent court system routinely works against tenants, while in many cases failing to hold landlords accountable." A reform bill agreed to by many landlords and tenants passed last year in the Maryland House, but was blocked by the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. What specific actions will you take to ensure Rent Court reforms are enacted?

I agree with The Sun and the many housing advocates working hard on the issue that the city Rent Court system is deeply unfair to tenants. We need to reform the system to cut the number of cases that go to rent court, make the courts do more to hold landlords accountable for lead poisoning and other substandard housing practices, and level the playing field by enabling more tenants to get legal help in dealing with the proceedings.

I strongly supported the rent court reform bill and voted for it in the House of Delegates. The fact that this bill failed in the Senate underscores just how badly we need more and more vigorous advocates of fair housing and tenants rights in the Maryland Senate. I will continue to work with advocates about sponsoring or co-sponsoring rent court reform legislation and will work hard with the advocates and the media along with my fellow legislators to get that done.

26. What other solutions do you have to alleviate Baltimore's housing crisis? Baltimore City faces a rising population of homeless individuals, and a paradoxically large number of vacant houses (16% of the city's homes according to the US Census Bureau). According to the Baltimore Sun, approximately 25% of

Maryland renters spend 50% of their household income on rent. What can be done to make housing more affordable and fill vacant properties?

I currently serve as the House Chair for the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness. From our work to better understand the causes and consequences of homelessness, it is very clear the lack of affordable housing and a living wage in the State of Maryland are drivers of this phenomenon in Baltimore City, as well as housing insecurity. We must build more affordable housing, and use public resources *not* to support tax increment financing (TIFs) and tax breaks for high-end developments and corporate headquarters, but to support low and middle-income housing in the communities where it is desperately needed.

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC SECURITY

27. While there are undoubtedly a wide range of policies you might wish to propose that you have not discussed above, what would be one or two additional policies or programs in particular that you will put forward that you would especially want to highlight – policies which you believe will create economic opportunity, employment, address income inequality in Maryland, assist low and middle income people in Maryland, bring social services to needy communities or create greater economic security for seniors?

Work to end homelessness among youth.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

28. Do you feel that the city of Baltimore needs to improve in accountability and/or transparency? If so, what are some of your ideas for improving both?

Yes, I think the city needs to act strongly to improve transparency and accountability. We all know the city suffers from chronic revenue shortages -- but it also suffers from the widespread perception that the city government doesn't manage its resources effectively.

We need to move quickly to fully audit the city's excessive police overtime expenditures, audit the spending of other city agencies and make those audits available to the public. We need to move to make the use of TIFs, PILOTs and other incentives that garnish public tax resources to encourage development much more transparent and readily understandable -- so the public can fairly evaluate whether we're using those resources wisely and how we might be able to redirect them to do more to help troubled city neighborhoods.

TRANSPORTATION

29. Do you support the development of the Red Line? If not, what alternatives would you support to improve public transportation in the Baltimore area?

Yes, I strongly support building the Red Line. Baltimore residents need a much more reliable public transportation system. The governor's redirection of funds intended to support the Red Line, mostly to build bigger roads in low-traffic rural and ex-urban areas was a disastrous mistake that has been a huge setback for badly-needed transportation improvements in the Baltimore area.

While the revised CityLink bus system has clarified and rationalized some of the area's bus routes in useful ways, service remains too slow, too unreliable, with too many people left waiting too long for too few buses. For the tens of thousands of city families who can't afford the high cost of keeping a car in the city, it still takes much too long to reach many of the region's job centers or simply get around the city to meet their needs.

We must work to revive the Red Line and other east-west transit connections -- that's critical to link low-income families in East and West Baltimore to the jobs and resources in the city center. We need to do much more to improve bus and rail connections between city neighborhoods and job centers both downtown and in the inner-ring suburbs. We need to build an integrated rail transit system that better connects Baltimore to the rest of the metropolitan area. To do all this, we need to reverse the governor's policy of focusing spending on building bigger roads and lanes for our Beltways, better fund the state's Transportation Trust fund and use those monies to invest much more adequately in public transportation.

Please certify by signing below that the above or attached answers reflect your policy views.

Print your name: Mary Washington

Signature:



Date: 01/31/2018