

Our Revolution Baltimore City/County

Baltimore City Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Stephanie Murdock

Office and District Running For: Baltimore City Council 14th District

1. What is your vision and plan for public safety and reform of the police and criminal justice system?

Addressing public safety, reform of the police department and reform of the criminal justice system will take a multi-pronged approach. I believe the first step is early intervention. There are a number of factors that may lead individuals to interactions with the criminal justice system but I believe that individuals who have access to quality education, affordable housing, excellent recreational and park opportunities and are surrounded by a strong family and community structure, are less likely to have interactions with the police.

I support Council President Scott's multi-agency violence reduction strategy to bring the agencies responsible for the systems listed above to the table to explore ways in which they can support the needs of Baltimore's citizens.

I support councilman Costello's proposed legislation to establish a private rebate program to homeowners willing to use their personal cameras to promote public safety. Community participation in the crime reduction strategy is essential.

Crime and grime are synonymous, people tend to act in a way that reflects their environment. If the environment is uncared for, people tend to act in a similar manner. It's no wonder that crimes occur near vacant buildings and abandoned lots. I will work with the Department of Housing and the Department of Public Works to expedite inspections and work orders for cleaning and boarding. I will work to make legislative changes at the State and local level to expedite the receivership process for nuisance houses.

I will work with BGE and the Dept. of Transportation to accelerate the transition to brighter, cleaner, LED lighting to illuminate our communities.

I will engage the police dept. to improve recruitment of hires that live in the City of Baltimore who will have an additional sense of stewardship of their communities. A young man I mentored waited close to a year to get through the interview process and eventually was forced to seek employment elsewhere.

I support expansion of the safe streets program.

2. What can you do, within the powers of the office you are running for, to improve education for all Baltimoreans and provide educational equity?

I support the full funding of the Kirwin Commissions recommendations to improve education and will advocate for funding at the State and City level to accelerate the plan for 21st Century Schools.

3. How will you address blight and revitalize communities while avoiding gentrification?

I will work with the Department of Housing and Community Development to address blight and revitalize communities and take steps to avoid gentrification by supporting the implementation and funding for the Community Development Framework. I believe supporting low-income homeowners is among the most efficient approaches to maintaining affordable housing. I will promote homeownership both by assisting current owners and attracting new buyers by promoting homeownership counseling, down payment assistance grants, the Live Near Your Work program and the Vacants 2 Value incentive programs. I will work to minimize the displacement that can occur with rising property values by supporting legacy homeowners through the LIGHT program for home repairs and by ensuring that affordable housing (both homeownership and rental) is incorporated into neighborhood revitalization plans. Homeownership is a powerful mechanism to disrupt inter-generational poverty, foster wealth-generation and stabilize neighborhoods. I will support training opportunities for citizens to create wills and update their deeds to ensure that assets remain within the family after the death of a family member.

Receivership is a code enforcement action. When an owner fails to make a vacant property code-compliant, the City sues to ask a judge to appoint a receiver to auction the property. By working at the State and local level I am committed to expediting the receivership process.

4. How will you ensure that communities in the Black Butterfly receive equitable investment?

I am committed to equitable community development that benefits all Baltimoreans by addressing the long-standing income- and race-based barriers that have devastated neighborhoods and disadvantaged people living in them. I am committed to making sure disinvested communities are leading the conversation when developing neighborhood visions and plans and maximizing their access to job and entrepreneurial opportunities. My plans include maintaining and expanding affordable housing, supporting and expanding homeownership and working with partners to establish opportunities for small, local and minority and women owned businesses to create meaningful job opportunities for individuals re-entering the workforce.

5. How would you improve transit, transportation, and the ability for people to get around in the city? Would you support the creation of a Regional Transit Authority to provide transit independence from the state?

I support the establishment of the Green Network Trail, the implementation of the Complete Streets Program and the expansion of the Charm City Circulator to ensure that all Baltimore residents have a variety of transportation options to meet basic needs such as job opportunities, access to grocery stores and other basic amenities.

6. How will you address the environment, climate justice, and the climate crisis locally, including not only reducing/eliminating greenhouse gas emissions within the city, but also protecting the people and infrastructure from the consequences of the climate crisis? Will you declare a state of climate emergency?

I will work to improve water quality, and support zero waste principles for Baltimore City. When I worked for City Councilmember Mary Pat Clarke I helped move landmark legislation through the Baltimore City Council to protect our citizens and the environment.

7. How will you improve public health within the city? Please address racial and economic health disparities and social determinants of health. Some things to consider:

The high asthma rate: I am committed to reducing the high asthma rate by working on the following issues; reducing mold in housing by working with the Baltimore City Health Department and the Dept. of Housing and Community Development to reduce mold in housing, supporting State efforts to move Maryland towards clean energy and working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to continue to study pollution controls and support the enforcement of nitrogen oxide limits for the Wheelabrator Baltimore Incinerator. I would like to help to move Baltimore towards a Zero Waste recycling and solid waste management plan.

Food insecurity and food deserts: I will work with the Baltimore Development Corporation to recruit grocery stores to the Baltimore area and identify incentives for them to do so such as a real property tax credit for grocery stores. I will help communities establish community gardens where fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables can be made accessible to local communities.

Disparities in life expectancy: I am committed to working with the Baltimore City Health Department to create a position within the agency of Health and Fitness Coordinator to work with private, corporate, and community organizations, public and private schools, communities of faith, hospitals, health systems, health clubs and gyms, pharmaceuticals, medical outlets, local, state and federal government agencies, non-profit health agencies, and sports teams to form a coalition to promote healthy living and fitness and to combat preventable disease and illness that threaten the lives of our citizens. I will also support Medicare For All at the Federal level to support the creation of a single-payer, national health insurance program to provide citizens with comprehensive health care coverage, free at the point of service.

The effects of trauma and violence: I am committed to implementing Councilman Cohen's Baltimore City Trauma-Responsive Care Act by participating in the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, holding agencies accountable for training their staff in trauma-informed care and delivering services in a manner consistent with best practices in trauma-informed care, reviewing annual reports and working with the Office of Children, Youth, and Families to prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of services.

Lead in water and housing: I am committed to working with the Baltimore Department of Health, the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, the Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works and the Maryland Department of the Environment to protect our children and create healthier lead safe affordable housing and examining the safety of Baltimore's drinking water.

8. How will you improve economic opportunities for all residents of Baltimore? What programs would you create or reform to improve access to well paying jobs?

When I was with the Office of Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke we successfully moved legislation through the City Council to increase the minimum wage which was later vetoed by the Mayor. I will work to improve economic opportunities for all Baltimore City residents by working with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) to coordinate and direct workforce development initiatives responsive to the needs of Baltimore City employers and job seekers in order to enhance and promote the local economy. I will fight for additional funding for the City's Youth Works Program to ensure our young people have opportunities for Summer employment. I will work with the administration to restructure the small haulers program to allow Baltimore City residents to start their own businesses that will not only help clean the City but allow them to achieve financial independence.

9. What reforms to the structure and functioning of city government would you implement?

I will support and advocate for the adoption of the following pending Charter amendments; Vetoes for the purpose of modifying the vote by which the Council may override a mayoral veto, Removal of Elected Officials for the purpose of providing for the removal from office by the City Council of certain City elected officials, City Administrator for the purpose of establishing the position of City Administrator as the Chief Administrative Officer of Baltimore City, Charter Review Commission for the purpose of requiring a Charter Review Commission to be appointed at least once every 10 years to review and make recommendations for necessary deletions, additions, or revisions to the City Charter, Vetoes Timing of Override for the purpose of modifying and clarifying the time within which the Council may consider to override a mayoral veto and Exercise of Legislative Powers for the purpose of modifying and clarifying the City Council's authority to legislate certain powers and duties of all units of the Executive Branch.

10. How will you improve the quality of life for city residents? Some things to consider:

- a. Community art; I will support the work of the Public Arts Commission
- b. Community centers and recreation; I will fight for additional funding for the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks.
- c. Illegal dumping; I will support the efforts of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development to persecute illegal dumpers.
- d. Beautification of streets and neighborhoods; I will support funding of various grants to communities seeking to clean and green their neighborhoods such as the Bmore Beautiful Program and the Love your Block Grant.
- e. Improving infrastructure; I will make sure the Baltimore City Department of Public Works is accountable for meeting goals set forth in the consent decree for the sewer collection system.
- f. Trash pickup and recycling. I will advocate for the distribution of free recycling cans for all City residents and propose a food compost collection program

11. How will you address the needs of immigrants, both documented and undocumented?
Will you ensure the safety of our undocumented neighbors?

I will work to ensure that Baltimore remains a sanctuary City.

12. How will you address the need for equitable and affordable housing?

See question 3

13. How will you balance providing services, including water, to all citizens while planning and paying for infrastructure upgrades/repair and replacement?

I will make sure all Baltimore City residents know about the HomeServe program to make sure they have protections for untimely repairs.

14. Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

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