

# Our Revolution Baltimore City/County

## *Baltimore City Endorsement Questionnaire*

Candidate Name: Rikki Vaughn

Office and District Running For: Baltimore City Mayor

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

Our campaign wants to create trust, mutual respect, and a shared understanding between our law enforcement agencies and the people of Baltimore. We want law enforcement to be accountable, but we also want community members to be engaged with tackling crime and creating safer neighborhoods across the City. We will encourage every resident, business, and church to install security cameras on their property. We need to fight crime in the City by also providing second chances to returning citizens through workforce training and employment opportunities. We want a safer Baltimore for All!

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?

All of Baltimore's children, in every neighborhood, should have access to a quality education. As Mayor, I will lead the effort to ensure our schools are fully funded, our buildings are comfortable and safe, and our teachers are given the tools they need to be successful in the classroom. It is critical that our children are prepared for their future. I want to push for Mandatory STEM Education for early learners to increase preparedness to elementary school and beyond.

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

I want to increase home ownership in Baltimore. I also want to revitalize our abandoned communities. Our administration will reintroduce the \$1 house-buying program and work with contractors to rebuild our dilapidating houses.

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

Our mission is to empower the residents of Baltimore with sustainable economic opportunities that improve the lives of our families and communities. We accomplish this by first raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and implementing attractive incentives for businesses to come to Baltimore or expand in our City. We need to give the Private sector a platform that makes investing in Baltimore and its people a win-win for all. Our economy will also grow as we continue to commit substantial resources to public education, housing, and infrastructure. As Mayor, I will create jobs and increase the wealth of our City. We will cut job-killing regulations, introduce tax reform to City Hall, and create innovative public/private partnerships with the sole purpose of making life better for ALL of Baltimore's residents.

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?

Traffic in Baltimore City can be quite congested, while also dangerous for many commuters. In addition, parking is often limited and expensive for commuters in the City. My vision for the City is to see a prolific change in how we commute, and how we make the appropriate accommodations for a new means of commuting in the City. In the area by Johns Hopkins East Baltimore campus, provisions have been made to section off a portion of the street for bicyclists and there are various stations throughout the campus for bicyclists to park. We need to expand these accommodations throughout the City, while also investing more in public transportation by expanding the light rail system. To encourage the use of public transportation, I want to offer a tax credit to City residents on how to use our expanding services in public transportation. With this initiative, it is important to have public safety present to ensure the safety of all commuters.

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?

We need to rebuild and modernize our City. The Greatest City in America should also be the Most Beautiful City in America! My administration will prioritize critical infrastructure needs, from potholes in our roads to outdated and crumbling buildings. We will restore the pride in our communities. Improving City transportation, offering tax incentives and credits to businesses

who develop wellness programs, that include carpool and public transit vouchers, and working with leading public health advisors on where we can reduce emissions throughout the City.

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: We should not have and will not have lead in our water/especially in our schools. We will have trauma centers throughout our city and services in our schools and senior buildings. No zip code will have food deserts in a city that sits on as much real estate as Baltimore has. We must improve the quality of air from the pollution in our city and create more green areas in our city.

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?

We need re-entry programs, expanded vocational and trade opportunities, partnerships with the private sector, working with Baltimore's residing colleges and universities to prepare our youth with the skills they need, and lowering taxes to encourage homeownership, business development, more take-home pay for Baltimore residents. We need to let the world know that Baltimore is open for Business and ensure equity in all neighborhoods throughout the City.

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

We would change the structure of the Board of Estimates. We should not have individuals not elected by taxpayers deciding how to spend taxpayers money. I would bring a youth mayor on my administration.

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

We would improve time frames on current and proposed infrastructure within our streets and roads. Our projects are taking too long to complete, vehicles are being damaged and traffic delays. We will provide resources to our recreation centers ensuring centers have curriculums, sport equipment, computers, tutoring programs and family resources and team building programs. We would identify the hot spots of illegal dumping and prosecute to full extension of law. This is a simple and quick fix. We know the areas. I would make our schools priority regardless of election season. Our teachers need increases in pay, resources so they are not paying for supplies out of pocket, students need curriculums for 21st century jobs, we would make our

schools safe, and institute home economics, woodshop etc. We would go back to twice a week trash pick-up.

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

I would ensure the safety for all in Baltimore City as Mayor. Those undocumented would need to go through the process of becoming legal.

12. How will you address the need for equitable and affordable housing? Reinstigate \$1 homes. We would assist with land purchase to families to assist with generation wealth.

13. How will you balance providing services, including water, to all citizens while planning and paying for infrastructure upgrades/repair and replacement? I would first complete a full audit and remain transparent and on-going. Baltimore City has money, we are just poorly managed.

14. Is there anything else you'd like us to know? As a CEO, I understand how to manage and lead billion dollar businesses. I understand accountability and surrounding myself with exceptional leaders. I understand how it feels and what it takes to fall down and get back up again. We fell down as a city due to those in elected office with private agendas and not the agenda of the People of Baltimore. This will change under my administration.

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