

Our Revolution Baltimore City/County

Baltimore City Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate Name: **Mary Miller**

Office and District Running For: **Mayor, Baltimore City**

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

I recently released my public safety plan to make Baltimore a safe city for everyone. My plan has three main points:

1. I'll provide our commissioner with the support to scale proven crime reduction strategies. We'll scale programs like Roca and Safe Streets to deescalate violence, and support anti-crime strategies like focused deterrence to reduce crime in the city's high-violence areas. We are short hundreds of the officers that we need to effectively reduce crime. I will focus on our recruiting and training efforts, provide more incentives for officers to choose Baltimore for work, and in the short term move sworn officers out of administrative roles into patrol.

2. We'll make our policing just. The Department of Justice found that the police department routinely violated citizens' rights and was overly aggressive. We need to repair police-community relations, and to do that, we need to make sure the Consent Decree is implemented fully and swiftly. Baltimore needs more diversion programs so youth and people with substance abuse disorders or mental health issues can get the help they need. Our police force needs to reflect the community it serves, as well as receive Consent Decree-mandated training for modern community-oriented policing practices.

3. We'll grow economic opportunity and address structural racism and inequity. We have an opportunity problem in Baltimore, not just a crime problem. Structural racism has led to decades of disinvestment in some neighborhoods. Too many residents become stuck in generational poverty and violence. Addressing the opportunity gap in vulnerable neighborhoods will be a top priority as Mayor.

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 will take more responsibility, be accountable for the quality of our school system, and forge a closer working partnership with the Baltimore City Schools CEO. My budget will reflect a city that values and supports high-quality education. As Mayor, it is my responsibility to fully fund the Kirwan Commission recommendations. The Commission's recommendations are sweeping, but they

are what it takes to make sure that Baltimore public schools are the first choice for our families. I want to strengthen early childhood education in Baltimore, recruit highly qualified educators, and better prepare students for 21st century work in Baltimore. I also want to make our transit system more accessible and efficient so parents can take full advantage.

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

As Mayor I will address blight by providing more and consistent support for the Vacants to Value program, enforce code violations by absentee landlords, use public resources to leverage more significant private investment, and focus on the priority areas identified by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Gentrification should be addressed by protecting existing residents' interests through engagement at the community level in planning for development. I also support Community Land Trusts as a way to ensure Baltimoreans are empowered to maintain affordable housing in neighborhoods and make homeownership accessible to more people.

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

My plan for economic development, what I call "inclusive growth," will make sure no community is left behind. As Mayor I will create a Deputy Mayor for Economic Development who will focus on small business development and investments that create living wage jobs. I will partner with workforce development providers in Baltimore to create opportunities for those that have been left behind,

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?

We need a bold vision for the future of transit in the Baltimore region, including consideration of a regional transit authority with strong financial support. A report on our area's transit systems pointed out that we're one of the few systems in the country that is operated by the state rather than a regional authority. People in Annapolis shouldn't be making all of the important, local transit decisions that affect whether or not Baltimoreans will get to work on time.

The Governor's cancellation of the Red Line was a devastating blow, but we need to do what we can on the local level to address that loss. For one, that means better and faster East-West routes. I support more bus ways and I'd also task the Baltimore Department of Transportation to look into the creation of bus-only streets, similar to how other cities have done. The Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland will provide recommendations for improving congested corridors, which is vitally needed in our city.

Furthermore, I support the Complete Streets initiative and I look forward to seeing the first report when it is released later this year. Leaders of a future-thinking city

must recognize that we shouldn't be planning around automobiles, rather we should make low carbon transit a higher priority. I support a safe, cohesive, and connected bike and pedestrian network that will allow Baltimoreans to enjoy the city, whether it's by bike, scooter, or walking.

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?

Climate change will affect Baltimore and its residents in myriad ways, from exacerbating existing health disparities to damaging the Port of Baltimore, a vital economic resource for the city. Our most recent Climate Action Plan was created in 2015, so I will direct the Office of Sustainability to create a new Climate Action Plan, bringing together a coalition of researchers, community groups, business owners, and other stakeholders in the city. The Office will also spearhead my administration's efforts to make communities more resilient in the face of climate change.

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:
 - a. The high asthma rate;
 - b. Food insecurity and food deserts;
 - c. Disparities in life expectancy;
 - d. The effects of trauma and violence.
 - e. Lead in water and housing.

The health disparities from neighborhood to neighborhood are glaring and unacceptable. By doing community needs assessments and collecting data, the health department has laid the groundwork for tackling disparities and improving health overall. As we are implementing our inclusive growth and development plans, we should focus on food deserts and to provide access to affordable and healthy food options to reduce the prevalence of chronic disease in vulnerable communities. We should hold landlords accountable for the presence of lead paint in rental properties. We also need to conduct more outreach and ensure that we're testing as many vulnerable children as possible for blood lead levels. About half of Baltimore City youth have been exposed to a traumatic event. I support City agencies incorporating trauma-informed approaches so children are given the attention and care needed to heal and thrive in schools and 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?

As Mayor I would restore funding to the Office of Employment Development to coordinate with over 30 workforce development organizations across the city to prepare our youth and unemployed adults for living wage jobs. We don't do enough to create internships, apprenticeships and adult education opportunities to arm our most vulnerable citizens with the skills to work. I would also create a more robust Small Business Resource Center with one stop assistance for business development and access to capital for job creating businesses.

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

As Mayor I would create strong deputy mayor positions with clear authority and accountability for the equitable delivery of city services to every neighborhood, economic development in our underserved communities, stronger relationships with our state and federal government partners, all within a context of equity and inclusion. The city government must serve its citizens well to restore trust in government. As we work to reduce crime in the city, I will commit to monthly town halls to engage directly with residents to listen to their needs.

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

- a. Community art;
- b. Community centers and recreation;
- c. Illegal dumping;
- d. Beautification of streets and neighborhoods;
- e. Improving infrastructure;
- f. Trash pickup and recycling.

As Mayor I would focus on equitable and efficient delivery of city services to improve the quality of life in the City. It's clear that City services aren't distributed evenly, and the 311-service backlog is backed up into the thousands. Illegal dumping is an example of a problem that the City doesn't respond to effectively. I'll make sure the City responds swiftly to citizens' calls, while also working to alleviate underlying issues that lead to disrepair. As a long-time member of the "Y," I understand the important role that community centers play in neighborhoods, providing services for both youth and adults. I'll ensure that when the City provides funding for street beautification or community art, it isn't concentrated in the same neighborhoods again and again.

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

Our country was built by immigrants and we must recognize the role they play in our local economy. Every immigrant, whether documented or undocumented, deserves the protection of our police department and equal access to city services. I support language access programs to make sure that our services are accessible.

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

As Mayor I will oversee the use of the new Affordable Housing Trust Fund, a flexible tool to provide good housing options for Baltimore's lowest income residents. Stable housing can make everything easier for those trying to find jobs, education and better health care. We should also leverage the Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund, and work with non-profit and for-profit lenders to build affordable rental units and increase access to mortgage credit for those who have been shut out of the financial system.

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

It's the Mayor's job to make sure that our city budget reflects the priorities of delivering critical city services to all of our citizens, along with making the capital investments we need to maintain our quality of life in Baltimore. We must strengthen our billing and collection for services to make sure that everyone is paying their fair share and that we are able to pay for the investments we need to make. We also need to have a bigger vision of what we want this city to be for future generations, with the investments we make today in sustainable growth.

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

In 2010, President Obama appointed Mary to lead our country's recovery from the Great Recession. As the first woman to serve as the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance at the U.S. Treasury Department, Mary oversaw the entire U.S. economy. She worked closely with cities across the country that face many of the same challenges that Baltimore faces.

Mary left the Obama administration determined to help strengthen her hometown. She now works closely with women and people of color to start their own businesses through Baltimore Community Lending. She also partners with community leaders to revitalize historically neglected areas through the Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund.

Mary is not a career politician. She spent 26 years working her way up at T. Rowe Price, becoming the first woman to lead a major investment division and to serve on the company's management committee.

Mary grew up the second of six children and graduated from public high school in upstate New York. She studied government at Cornell and received a graduate degree in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Mary has two adult sons with her husband of nearly 40 years.

Baltimore's neighborhoods are suffering from skyrocketing violence. As Mayor, Mary will take full responsibility for our city's crime problem. She will give Commissioner Harrison the support and resources he needs to implement proven strategies and make Baltimore safe for everyone.

Mary also knows that we cannot arrest our way out of the crime problem. Community trust in the police is badly broken. Mary will carry out the reforms recommended by the Department of Justice to ensure that our policing is fair.

Mary believes Baltimore doesn't just have a crime problem. Baltimore also has an opportunity problem. A black child born into poverty in Baltimore is less likely to move into the middle class than a child in nearly any other city. Mary believes that we must address both inequality and crime if we are going to solve either problem.

As Mayor, Mary will fight to ensure every Baltimorean has the opportunity to fulfill their potential. She will make living-wage job growth a priority. She will end the inequity in how certain neighborhoods are serviced by the City. Mary will also fight for the Kirwan Commission recommendations to transform public education in Baltimore.

Mary will lead our city with integrity. To serve President Obama, Mary went through two rigorous U.S. Senate confirmation hearings. She was also vetted by U.S. intelligence agencies and received the highest level of security clearance.

Your website: electmarymiller.com

Twitter: [@electmarymiller](https://twitter.com/electmarymiller)

Facebook: [@electmarymiller](https://www.facebook.com/electmarymiller)

Instagram: [@electmarymiller](https://www.instagram.com/electmarymiller)