



2022 Endorsement Questionnaire - Prince George's County Council  
[All Responses Will be Made Public]

Candidate Name: Belinda Queen  
Contact Email: Belindaq9@aol.com  
Council Seat Sought: County Council District 6

1. How does your life experience qualify you for the office you seek? My previous experience on the board of education has me ready to serve, act and vote. I have been elected by the people of Prince George's County for 2 different elected position. On the Democratic Central Committee and the BOE. I walked each of my schools yearly and personally answered each Email or citizen concerns. I have shown continuous boots on the ground in and around my District and keep community members informed through monthly meetings, emails, outreach, and social media platforms.

I have worked tirelessly and volunteer my service to and for the community in many partnerships. Including with other elected leaders on behalf of the District 6 constituents already. I have been a voice for the people for so many District 6 project to the Capitol Blvd, Morgan Blvd Ritchie Road and BJ's Shopping Center, Woodmore Town Center, Westphalia, Hampton Mall, Shady Glen Fire Station and so many more. I was appointed as the Capitol Height's Ambassador for Envision Prince George's by M-NCPPC, Appointed to serve on the Park and Recreation Advisory Board by our past CE Baker. Other position that residence of Prince George's County has elected and voted me to serve includes the District 3 & 8 Coffee Circle and the Central Coalition of PGC. I retired after 28 years in the Communication Field from VERIZON and am a Maryland State Notary Public. I have a proven resume of working hard to be "Leadership you can Trust". As you can see from all my community service, working and volunteer experience that I'm not trying to build my resume on the back of taxpayer. **My choice as a leader has always been to not just show people how much I know but to show them how much I care. For I do Care about every residence in district 6.**

2. What have the primary sources of your campaign's fundraising been, both in this campaign and past campaigns? *Myself, family, friends and community members.*

3. In 2018, the Prince George's County Council approved a small-donor public financing program for Council and Executive races to come into effect for the 2026 election. As yet, the Fair Election Fund Commission has not been set up and no funding has been allocated to the program. Do you support the small donor public financing program? If elected to the Council, will you work to ensure the program is funded each year leading up to the full funding needed for the 2026 election? *Definitely, I was blessed to have the funds but it was easy and gave up a lot for what I believe in. Many caring candidate for the people may not have the funds and it will be so helpful.*

4. In 1992, through a citizen-driven referendum, a two-term limit was placed on council members which the council repeatedly attempted to repeal over the years and repeatedly failed. As a result of the addition of two at-large seats on the council in 2016, the two-term limit has been diluted with council members allowed to jump from at-large to district seats and back without limit. Do you think district membership on the council is significantly different from at-large membership? *I watch this past term the pros and cons. The pros of an experience member and the cons of trying to figure how to get around the policy the people are not in agreement with. Would you support or oppose the reinstatement of strict two-term limits? I would support it if the needs of the majority of our resident wants it. Especially in District 6. My vote would be of what my constituents has felt is best suited for the voters.*

4. What is your position on the Maryland MAGLEV train proposal? *Against. I have stated it publicly as the school board represented and maintain it as many of our residents don't see a benefit in it and don't want our underground foundations shaken.*

5. There is a great shortage of affordable housing in Prince George's County. What role can the County government have in creating policies that will provide affordable housing for residents at all income levels? *Make it a good percentage requirement for all new development. Help with low interest rate loans. Government tax credits and grant incentives programs. How will you engage on this issue? Look for ways to improve and add to the current legislative. Think outside the box and partner with hotels and churches to help accomplish and achieve affordability for all.*

6. As part of the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 (HB670-2021), the Maryland General Assembly requires each county to set up a Police Accountability Board (PAB). Prince George's County Council must pass legislation to fulfill this State mandate.

- a. Do you support incorporating the functions of the existing Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel in the PAB? *No, I think it would be better if they come together if a need arises.*
- b. How would you ensure that the composition of the PAB reflects the community? *By community members being a major part as members on the board*
- c. Do you support a PAB with subpoena powers and paid investigators to effectively review complaints of police misconduct filed by members of the public? *Yes*
- d. Do you support adequate funding to staff the PAB to investigate the number of complaints filed, including budgeting for independent legal counsel? *Yes*

7. The County Council approved a councilmanic district map that was very different from the map created by the independent Redistricting Commission appointed by the council. The map was found illegal by two separate levels of our judicial system. Please share your thoughts on the Council's map, public opposition to the map, and the judicial finding. I was upset and disappointed. We elected them to represent the voice of the people. They made it personal. They not only did not listen to the people but wasted money and time for a commission they did not accept their advice. My vote is as your elected leader will always be for the people.

8. The County has a massive backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion, which former Board Chair and education stalwart, Dr. Alvin Thornton, has attributed in large part to 20 years of historical racial discrimination towards Prince George's students.

- a. The County's solution to part of this problem has been to engage in a Public-Private Partnership for the construction and maintenance of six middle schools - the first county in the entire country to engage in a P3 for school construction. Do you think that using private capital with significantly higher interest rates that places the burden on Prince George's taxpayers is a viable model to address historical racial discrimination or should the State make Prince George's schools whole through State funding. As one of the board members who voted for P3 let me say that we either pay now or we will pay later. As we are doing with the 20 years of backlog. We cannot let this get further behind. I believe the maintenance and upkeep of the P3 schools by the Private-Public Partnership we be a saving in itself. It would be even better if the State made our school system whole.
- b. What is the solution to fixing the huge remaining backlog in school maintenance, renovation, replacement, and expansion? I worked hard in my last 2 years to get Central Renovated. As beautiful as it is more is need for the outdoor field and to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We have many beautiful building with stable foundations that can be Modernized and renovated. We must find was to invest and advocate to keep our school update and well maintained. Never should there be a 20 year backlog of repairs or maintained again. Bi-yearly safety and educational learning environment inspection should be required at all schools. The State needs to invest and insure the county is monitoring.
- c. What actions do you think the County should take to ensure that school capacity matches current and future demand? Implement a fair ratio for school capacity in communities and when development is build make sure these number are accounted for and if need small educational hubs included as part of the development.

9. Should the Prince George's School Board be restored to a fully elected body? Why or why not? Yes, as a previously elected board member my accountability was to the residence and the people. The vote show if you watch the elected member verse the appointed, how all appointed members vote.

10. Through legislation and through zoning and land use decisions, the Council plays a decisive role in county planning, and that planning drives transportation demand, demand for services and facilities, environmental and public health impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, and many other

impacts. The Zoning Ordinance Rewrite eliminates the requirement that developers file Conceptual Site Plans (CSPs) for certain kinds of projects. CSPs provide critical opportunities for public review and comment on land use proposals early in the development process. Will you commit to working to restore the requirement for CSPs as soon as possible? **Yes, for sure. As the vice president of the central coalition I know firsthand that this has help up stay engaged and empowered to speak out and speak up for development coming to our communities.**

11. The County Council often uses Zoning Text Amendment bills to rewrite the Zoning Ordinance on the fly and to help developers advance certain projects without going through the normal public review process. ZTAs weaken the Zoning Ordinance and undermine the public's right to know and to have a meaningful say on development proposals. Will you commit to working to end or severely curtail the use of ZTAs and to ensuring that:

- a. Any ZTA bill filed includes a list and map of all of the potentially affected properties, as well as analysis of the potential impacts on communities, the environment, agricultural lands, and demand on public services and facilities? **Yes**
- b. For each potentially affected property, the Council notifies all adjoining property owners, local community associations and watershed organizations, and local municipalities, by first-class mail and no less than 60 days prior to any public hearing on the ZTA? **Yes**

12. In May of 2021, the County Council unanimously passed CR-027-2021 in support of a single payer Medicare for All system at the federal level, becoming the first county in Maryland to support the federal legislative initiative. The resolution cited the increase in racial health disparities due to the pandemic that only a single-payer system could address. The resolution also pointed out that Medicare for All “would reduce County spending on healthcare and enable local governments across our state to invest additional dollars into education, environmental protection, housing assistance, and other critical services.” Will you join the County Council in calling on our Congressional delegation to support and enact federal legislation for a single-payer system? **Definitely yes. Our Health is Our Wealth.**