

Our Revolution Questionnaire

Ernest Canlas

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Prince George's County Council District 9

- 1) Much of my life experience qualifies me for this office. This office is about serving the people of District 9 and not the special interests. I have served in the US Navy which taught me discipline and gave me courage to survive in difficult situations. It gave me honor to serve others. Being a college graduate that earned a BSBA has also qualified me for this office. I believe it takes more than just a standard high school diploma to represent people in such a high office as Council. Being a college graduate allowed me to earn the intellect necessary to represent a large body of people. But most of all my being a father of five children and the unfortunate tragedy I had to ordeal of losing my second son. That has qualified me for this office in the fact that I realize just how important it is to perform today not just for today. But for the future of those that follow.
- 2) So, although in 2018 I ran for the Democratic Central Committee Legislative District 25 in which my term is finished December 2022. I did not have to raise money to do so. And this campaign for Council is really my first experience in having to do so. And just like my grassroots campaign. My primary source of raising campaign funds have been grassroots everyday people that I meet and speak to. Along with my usual circle of family and friends.
- 3) I absolutely do support the small donor public financing program. It is the best way to make it elections fair. And put a dent into removing the developers from controlling elections to meet their needs. And yes, if I am fortunate to be elected, I will work to ensure the program is not just funded but adequately funded each year leading up to the 2026 election.
- 4) I think the MAGLEV train is the future. If you visit Europe for example you will understand. But currently as proposed, the route needs to be reexamined. In fact, the whole project needs to be reexamined from start to finish including the funding for it. If done properly, it can suit the needs of travelers. So currently my position is that I am not for nor against it. But if done correctly, it is the future of transportation.
- 5) It is my belief that many of the abandoned buildings throughout the County can be made into affordable housing by the County. But again, if done properly by doing it where it is economically feasible and not wastefully.
- 6) First of all, I am Pro police and fully support them as a department. I have worked for many years as a civilian supporting my Division V police station. And I've worked for four different station Commanders in doing so. But the PGPD has been allowed to function rogue for many years. Well before the current administration. And that problem comes from the top in the CEx, States Attorney, and Chief of Police.
 - a) Yes, I do support incorporating the functions of the existing CCOP in the PAB.
 - b) Simple, it needs to involve the community.

- c) Absolutely, I support a PAB with subpoena powers and paid investigators to effectively review complaints of police misconduct filed by the public.
- d) Yes, without adequate funding the PAB is useless. Without staff to run it, its useless. And if I am fortunate to be elected. I would fight for funding the PAB.
- 7) It was very shameful what the six of them did in regards to the redistricting fiasco. Not to mention another example of wasteless spending to our taxes in fighting it in court on two levels. I sat on the Democratic Central Committee hearing and voted on five candidates whose names were sent to the Council to select three to serve on the Redistricting Commission. So that too is included in the waste. It was just a shameful act of six self-serving individuals. And it was equally as shameful as when the eight of them attempted to raise out taxes in June 2020 in the middle of a pandemic.
- 8) a) Absolutely not, I do not agree with using private capital with higher interest rates is a viable way to address racial discrimination. I am in support of State funding. If the Senators and Delegates in the Districts they represent can give millions of dollars each session to private schools withing the County. Then they should be more than eager to fight for funding our public schools.
- b) They need to stop squandering funds. And hire adequately vetted contractors to perform the maintenance, renovations, and upgrades.
- c) Build smart schools and expand current schools with smart upgrades and expansions. An example of smart is to use green environmentally friendly material for the new schools. And slowly incorporate the older schools with the green stamp.
- 9) It's fact that the PGCPs Board has been fully elected and hybrid. And it still experienced turmoil. So, I am not in favor of either fully elected, all appointed, or hybrid. But what I am in favor of is allowing the members of the Board to select their own Chair and Vice Chair freely. And I think that could be the beginning of a harmonious relationship for the Board of Education.
- 10) What a shame this Zoning Rewrite was. It was so bad that the Council couldn't even vote on it cause the majority of them have accepted developer money. Again, CSP's are another example how developers control the County by using the weak Council as their tools. So, Yes I will commit to working to restore the requirement for CSP's asap.
- 11) Let me begin by saying I am not anti-development. But rather, I am pro smart development. And these ZTA's have been weapons of mass destruction in our County. I will commit to the working to end or cripple the use of ZTA's by
- a) Yes
- b) Yes
- 12) Yes, I absolutely would if I'm fortunate to be elected to call on Congress to support and enact federal legislation for a single payer Medicare for all system.